



FY24-25 PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

ON RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP





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Letter from President VINCE BOUDREAU

Dear Friends and Supporters of City College,

I'm excited to deliver into your hands the annual report on college activities for the academic year 2024-25. The report describes what I take to be significant progress in the life of our institution, described both in representative portraits of one or another project, and in more comprehensive statistical terms. You'll see news of the College reported in sections devoted to specific academic divisions and schools, but also covering the accomplishments of our students, the research and creative activity of our faculty, our efforts to engage and contribute to our community, and the fine work of our staff. Taken together, the various threads of our story describe an institution rising to meet the challenges of the day in ways that would be familiar to our founders: harnessing the talents of the whole people, giving voice to ideas and experiences neglected elsewhere, and making sure that we help strengthen the foundational elements of our society and our democracy.

During the long months of the COVID-19 pandemic, I had occasion to reflect on the relationship between our mission and the needs of our society. I thought then, and often said, that CCNY was a necessary institution precisely because when we faced real challenges, society could not afford to waste the creativity and talent of any one of our number. These reflections seem as appropriate to the current moment as they were several years ago. In a variety of ways, the prospect of educating the whole people has come under challenge. Young people, as never before, are questioning the value of higher

education—and it is incumbent on us to demonstrate that value, and then live up to that demonstration in and out of the classroom.

As our society has more frequently questioned the value of higher education, we strengthened the empirical foundations of the case we make for ourselves. You'll see, in this connection, news of our latest economic impact study, which put CCNY's annual contribution to the economy of our closest 10 New York area counties at \$3.2 billion annually. We have seen the support for research and creative activity come under harsh challenge—but have responded by more closely linking our research to specific and often unanswered needs in the City and beyond. We have begun to track the post-graduation trajectories of our students more closely and linked curricular innovation to the evolving needs of the workplace. In all these ways and more, CCNY meets this moment as an emphatically necessary and successful institution.

The year has also brought more than the usual internal tensions on this campus, as on others across the country. Anyone paying attention to college presidents explaining their response to campus unrest will doubtless have heard many express their thoughts of protest as integral to college traditions of open expression and debate. That's undeniably true, but what does it mean for the current moment? In practical terms, it means that colleges—most especially public colleges and universities—are bound by two imperatives, existing in what seems to be irreconcilable tension. We are constitutionally prohibited from infringing on free speech. We are also required to ensure an environment

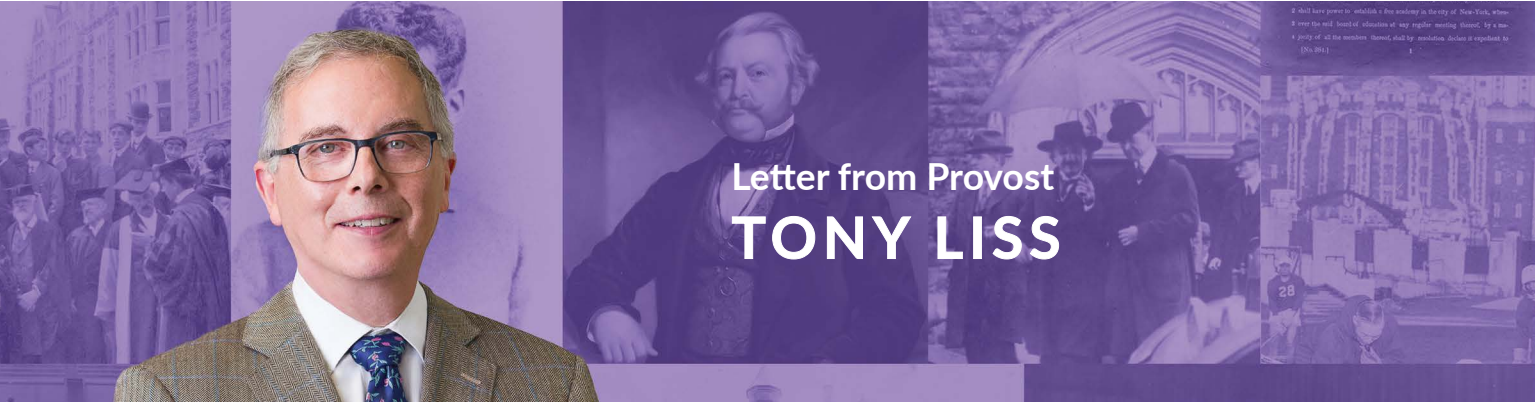
in which no student feels hampered from accessing the full range of college resources and opportunities. But how to respond when free speech itself seems to create a hostile environment for some students?

It's a dilemma that nobody believes is easy, and we have worked hard to resolve. We have done so by promoting programs that encourage fair, if difficult, conversations among student groups, that establish parameters for free speech consistent with protecting the access and experience of all students, and, yes, exercising our disciplinary processes when clearly stated rules are violated. It's an effort that requires constant attention and balancing—but it is necessary to preserve the academic climate that benefitted generations at CCNY, students who graduated the stronger for the debates that animated the classrooms and the halls. I'm committed to keeping these traditions alive.

I also hope that as you read these pages, you'll see both a continuity in our traditions, and the kind of innovation that befits a campus preparing a new generation of leaders for a rapidly evolving world. I hope, as well, that in viewing our work, you feel validated in the support you've given the campus, and that you'll take this report, and my letter, as an open invitation to come visit and get a closer look at what we're up to.

With my warmest regards,

Vince Boudreau
President



Letter from Provost
TONY LISS

Dear Friends and
Supporters of City College,

With the joy of Commencement behind us, thousands of new City College graduates are out in the world making their way, and we at the College are getting ready for the coming fall semester and all the excitement that the new school year brings. Meanwhile, the campus is alive with a very robust summer session for undergrads (enrollment up 11 percent over last year’s robust summer session!) and a number of summer programs we run for high school students that provide skill-building and experiential learning and give us a chance to show off our beautiful campus.

Last year in this space I wrote that we were in the final stages of creating a new major in Digital Game Design. I am happy to report the new major was approved by the Board of Trustees last fall and the new B.S. degree attached to the major was approved by the New York State Education Department in April of this year. We are off and running and already have 70 Digital Game Design majors in the program. We look forward to strong growth in the coming years.

The College’s enrollment remains strong and is a testament to the hard work we have done as a campus on a few fronts. The new director of admissions, Joanna Kucharski, whom we hired about three years ago, has continued to remake our admissions process. In March and April this year we held two highly successful admitted student events in the Great Hall. The first was for freshman and the second for new transfer students. Hundreds of families showed up for these events and were

treated to an introduction to CCNY from President Boudreau, campus tours, current-student panels and a parallel special session just for the parents. We are now at the part of the admissions cycle where we reach out to admitted students who have not yet enrolled and it’s all hands on deck in the Enrollment Management offices, calling admitted students to answer questions and encourage them to register for classes. I am grateful to the Foundation for again supporting the hiring of ten new student advisors. Three years ago, the Foundation approved the first batch of ten advisors which brought the student-to-advisor ratio to about 400 to 1 around campus. The ten additional advisors that we will now hire will bring us to 300 to 1, which is the ratio recommended by the National Institute for Student Success. Advisors are a key to student retention and graduation, keeping students on a productive academic path, helping them solve problems and often just being a friendly face and a sympathetic ear. We have seen the effect of the original cohort of 10 in our retention numbers and we expect further improvement with the addition of 10 more.

The improvements in enrollment over the past couple of years have put the College on a much-improved financial footing and allowed us to begin to rebuild full-time faculty numbers, which have dropped significantly over the years when the College struggled financially. This year, in addition to replacing faculty who have left in the past year, we hope to add 10 new positions strategically allocated in growth areas of the College.

The end of the spring 2025 semester brought the departure of two of our deans. Susan Perkins, Martin and Michele Cohen Dean of Science, left

the College to become provost at her alma mater, SUNY Potsdam. Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean Andrew Rich of the Colin Powell School, left the College to take a position as president of Franklin & Marshall College. Rich began his deanship in 2019 and Perkins hers in 2020. It has been a pleasure to work closely with them over the past almost six years, and I wish them the best in their new positions. Interim deans in the two divisions are Kevin Foster, professor of economics and business in the Colin Powell School who had been serving as associate dean, and Stephen O’Brien, Louis J. Curtman Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry who had been serving as department chair in the Division of Science. I look forward to working with them. A search for a permanent dean in the Colin Powell School is well under way, and a search for a permanent Dean of Science began at the start of the fall semester.

Every year, writing this letter gives me an opportunity to reflect on how grateful I am to work at this wonderful institution. I am continually inspired by our students, our faculty and our staff. Anyone who questions the value of a college education has not observed the transformation of a student between the time they arrive at the College as a freshman and when they graduate four (or more) years later, prepared to go out into the world and make a difference.

Really, what better line of work is there? Your continued support for the mission of City College helps to make sure we continue to transform lives. Thank you.

Tony Liss
Provost



Letter from Senior Vice President
and Executive Director
DEE DEE MOZELESKI

Dear City College Friends
and Partners,

Last year, as I drafted my welcome message to you, I was reminded of why I was so excited to come to City College more than a decade ago: I was inspired to join a team of people who were working to solve some of the world’s most intractable issues, and who wanted to bring that work out far beyond the boundaries of our campus community.

Now, as I write this year’s letter, I understand that we are doing this work at a tremendous time of change: Change that is both personal to each of us, and that impacts the nation (and world) as a whole. The ability to grow and inspire within the language of democracy is something the world has come to expect from the United States. That same ability to shape democracy is why City College was founded in the first place. The experiment of our founding was meant to inspire others by showing that when you bring together seemingly different communities, you create a better, more resolute nation, one committed to the “whole people.” The answer to the question “Is this possible” has always been a resounding “yes.”

Each day, City College grows in ways not imagined in 1847 and we do this work with one goal in mind: The betterment of society. That betterment includes supporting our students as they develop their own sense of leadership; to encourage them to think beyond their homes and our campus, and to imagine themselves in every corner of the world where work for the common good is a shared goal—and, to be honest, especially in those corners where it is still not an assured right.

The work of our staff and faculty has always been meant to extend beyond the classroom. Science and creative scholarship means the most when it reaches all of us. The research and teaching happening on campus now will continue to reverberate across generations of people.

The Foundation for City College sits at a tremendously important intersection; the work we do in support of the College happens because you choose to partner with us. Through your philanthropic support and your commitment to our work, you are one of the truest testaments of what it means to bring one person together with the many to create something magical.

At a time when colleges across the country are facing challenges beyond what we experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that there is one constant truth: Your dedication makes us better and stronger.

This year, we were able to launch new programs, like the new B.S. in Digital Game Development, the first U.S. hub of the United Nations University, a new Health Leadership Institute, an increase in mentoring programs, and more cities added to our “City in Your City” initiative.

We support students with more than \$9.4 million in scholarships, fellowships and emergency support awards—awards that ensure students finish their studies, help them leave a threatening situation or simply help cover unexpected emergency expenses. We bring the work of the classroom out into communities—far beyond the five boroughs—and make an impact on student success through the hiring of

new advisors, and wellness and mental health teams. We welcomed back thousands of you to campus for public events in every academic discipline. We also welcomed new Foundation Board members Fatemeh Hosseini and Jenna Bryan-Krug and have begun planning for our 180th celebrations in 2027 (we can’t believe we’re going to be 180 already either)!

We continue to be the place where democracy grows and is made sustainable for students who might otherwise miss out on the opportunities a college education can provide. We’re also deeply proud of the economic impact we have on New York state, providing more than \$3.2 billion in revenue across the 10 counties closest to campus. By knowing our impact, we are also able to more clearly express our needs.

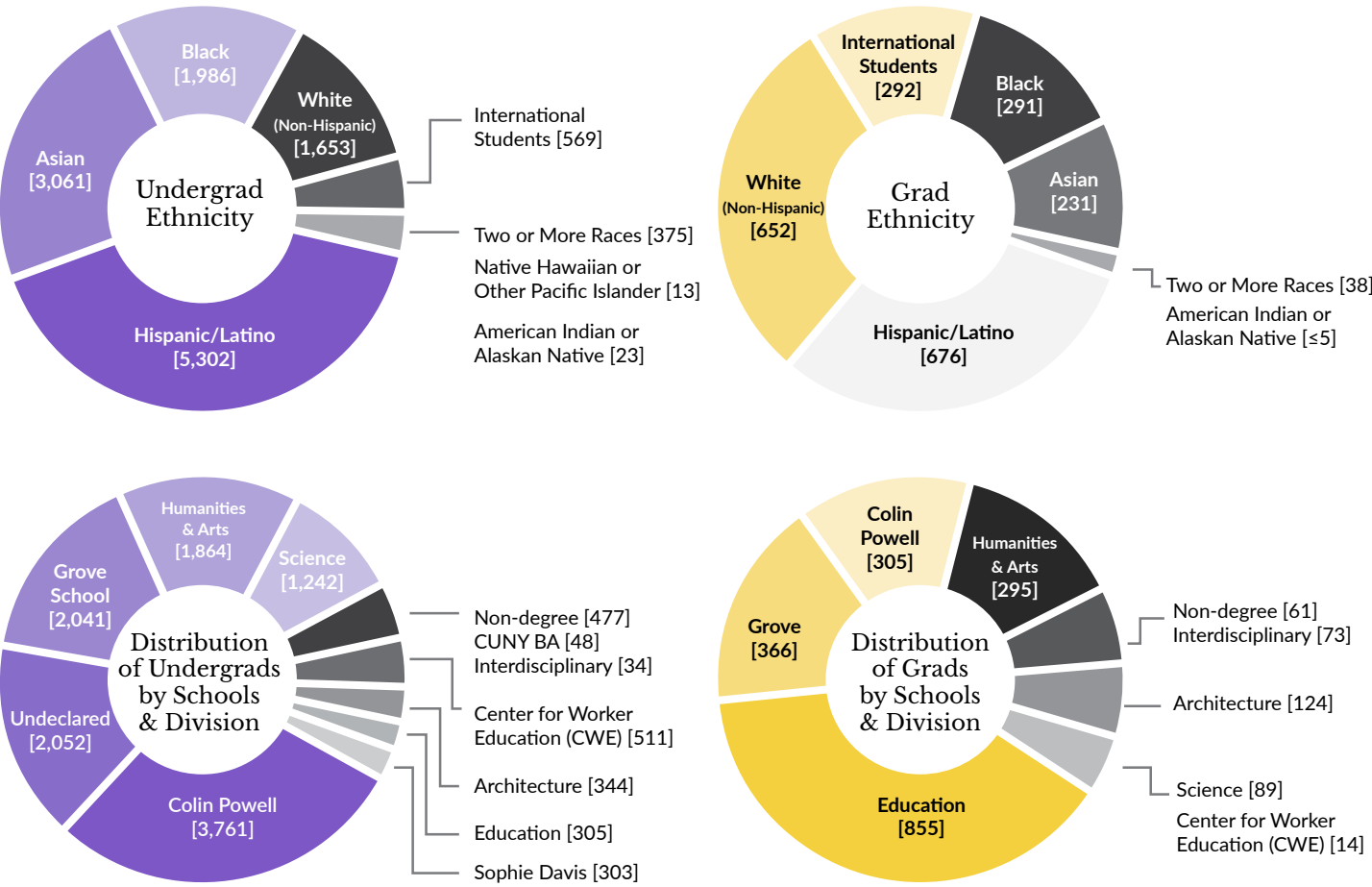
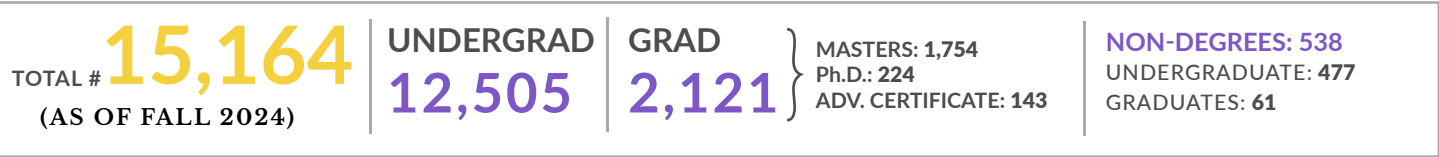
We are grateful to each of you for your guidance, your shared vision for what building democracy continues to look like and for your support of the City College mission.

On behalf of the College and the Foundation for City College: Thank you!

Sincerely,

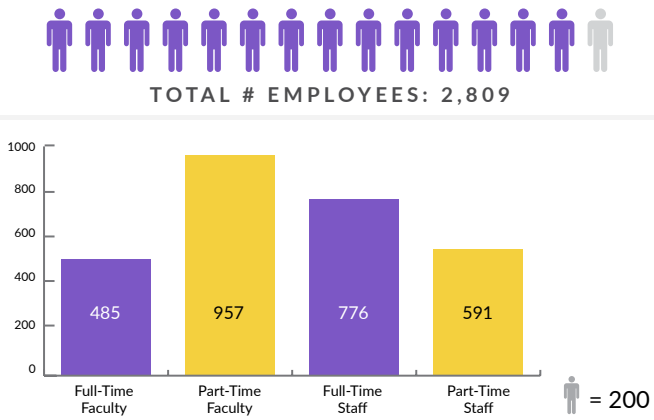
Dee Dee Mozeleski
Senior Vice President, Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications, and External Relations
Senior Advisor to the President & Executive Director, The Foundation for City College

STUDENT BODY



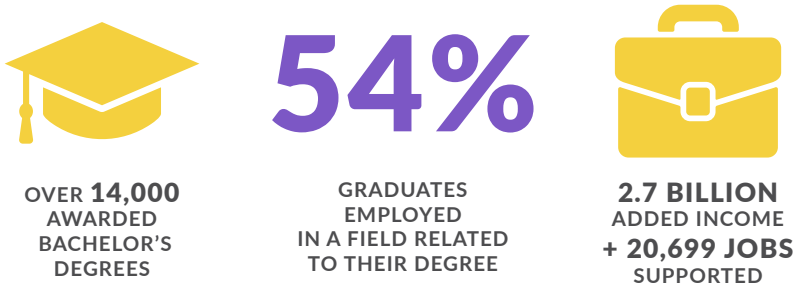
Source: CUNY Census data. Headcount represents all students enrolled in the fall 2024 semester (both degree and non-degree seeking)

EMPLOYEE BREAKDOWN



Source: Data are from the IPEDS Human Resources Submission and include faculty and staff active as of Nov. 1 of the given year.

ALUMNI FACTS



*Data represent graduation counts since 2018
Source: Lightcase Data's on CCNY Economic Impact Study 2024: <https://www.ccny.ccny.edu/news/lightcast-report>



2024 Marks CCNY's Fourth Year as a Fulbright HSI Leader

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs has, once again, recognized The City College of New York as a Fulbright HSI (Hispanic-Serving Institution) Leader, a status conferred since 2021. The announcement was made during the International Plenary Session of the annual conference of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities. CCNY was selected as an HSI for its strong engagement with the Fulbright Program, the U.S. government's flagship international academic exchange program.

Fulbright HSI Leaders demonstrate noteworthy support for Fulbright exchange participants and encourage administrators, faculty, and students at HSIs to engage with Fulbright on campus. The Fulbright HSI Leaders Initiative also highlights the strength of HSIs as destinations for international students and scholars.

"City College students come from around the world to live in New York and study on our campus. This makes them extraordinary representatives and global citizens when they travel the world as Fulbrighters. We're tremendously proud of our students and know how deeply they will benefit from this program as Fulbrighters have for generations," said President Vince Boudreau.

Scott Weinhold, senior bureau official for the ECA, commended the 2024 Leaders for their support. "Fulbrighters from HSIs contribute to the program's goal of reflecting the full diversity, perspectives, and talents of the American people," he said.

Since its founding in 1946, the Fulbright Program has provided over 400,000 talented and accomplished students, scholars, teachers, artists, and professionals of all backgrounds and in all fields with the opportunity to study, teach, and conduct research abroad. Fulbrighters exchange ideas, build people-to-people connections, and work to address complex global challenges.

- Recent Fulbrighters at CCNY have included:
- Patricia Reilly, communication and journalism, Fulbright Specialist Roster, Class of 2026;
 - Hans-Joerg Moderegger, Arts, Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program, Class of 2025;
 - Social historian Margo Groenewoud, scholar-in-residence, 2022-23, from the University of Curaçao; and
 - Katherine J. Scardino, B.A. psychology, Class of 2022.

The Wall Street Journal Ranks CCNY #4 for Best Value in 2025

The City College of New York is one of *The Wall Street Journal's* and College Pulse's 2025 Best Colleges in the U.S. and also ranked #4 in best value. The Best College rankings rate the top 500 universities in the country and was developed in collaboration with WSJ research partners College Pulse and Statista.

The rankings also include

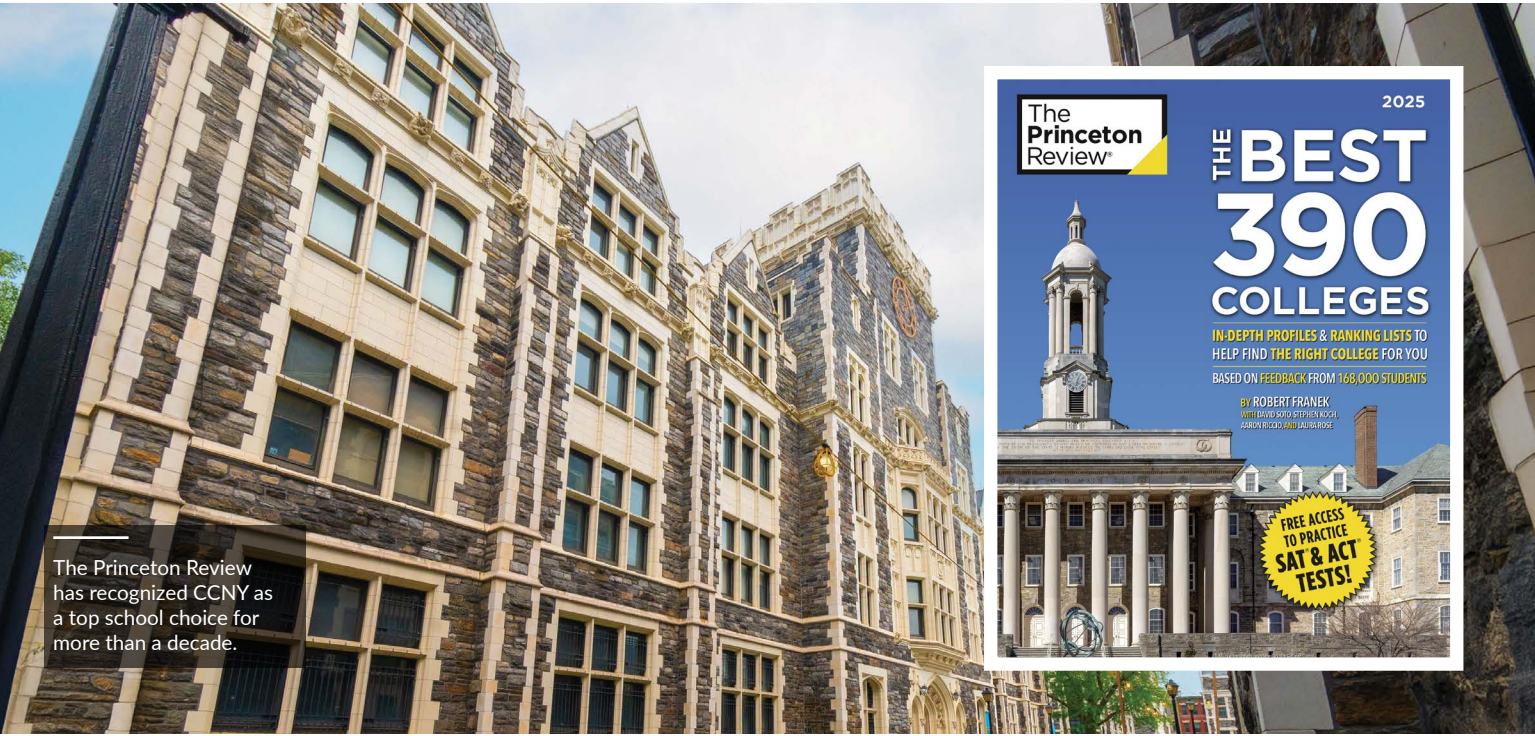
#21 in social mobility

#163 in student experience

#187 in best salaries

City College ranked #225 in the best college category. The ranking aims to guide prospective students across the nation while recognizing the colleges doing an outstanding job in higher education and is based on two pillars: student and alumni survey and student outcomes metrics.

The best value ranking lists schools in order of how quickly the difference between their graduates' salaries and those of comparable high school graduates pays back the average net price of four years of study-what they call "years to pay off net price."



The Princeton Review Includes CCNY in Best Colleges Guide 2025 and Best Value College List

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 390 Colleges: 2025 Edition*. CCNY was also included in The Princeton Review's 209 schools for its 2025 "Best Value Colleges" list.

For the Best College Guide, only about 15 percent of America's 2,600 four-year colleges are profiled in the book. The Princeton Review chose the colleges for the book based on data it collects from surveys of 2,000 college administrators about their institutions' annually academic offerings. The company also reviews data from its surveys of college students attending the schools who report on their experiences at their institutions.

"We salute The City College of New York for its outstanding academics, and many other impressive offerings. We 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 390 Colleges*.

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."

For the Best Value College list, the selections were primarily based on data from the company's surveys of administrators at more than 650 colleges in 2024–2025. Criteria covered everything from academics, cost, and financial aid to graduation rates, and student debt.

Franek also said: "We congratulate The City College of New York along with all of the other exceptional institutions that made

our 'Best Value Colleges for 2025' list. They offer outstanding academics and excellent career services, and they demonstrate extraordinary commitments to affordability via generous financial aid and/or comparatively low sticker prices. For all of those reasons—and more—we recommend them highly to college applicants."

The company factored in data from its surveys of students attending the schools as well as data from PayScale.com's surveys of alumni of the schools about their starting and mid-career salaries and job satisfaction. In all, The Princeton Review crunched more than 40 data points to tally return on investment ratings of the colleges. Those ratings were the primary bases for the company's selection of schools as Best Value Colleges.

The Princeton Review gave CCNY an ROI rating score of 88/99. Students surveyed cited the College's "quality and challenging education," "commitment to provid[e] opportunities to all...students no matter [their] race or background" and "broad curriculum." Students also noted that their instructors are good at fostering "discussion and engagement" and "will help you in any way they can to achieve your goals, going "above and beyond for their students in terms of making time and really listening."

The Princeton Review does not rank the colleges hierarchically, from 1 to 390, in either the book or the list. However, there are categories of ranking lists. The rankings are entirely based on The Princeton Review's surveys of students at the schools.

CCNY is also listed at #13 in Princeton's Top 20 Best Schools for Making an Impact (Public Schools). Last year, the College was #18.

The rankings are based on in-depth analyses that use a wide variety of data points.

American Council on Education and Carnegie Foundation Designate CCNY a Top U.S. Research Institute



CCNY retains its nationally-recognized R2 research designation.

The City College of New York remains one of the leading research institutions in the U.S., according to the latest Carnegie Classifications of Institutions of Higher Education. The influential classifications are administered by the American Council on Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Under the new criteria for research activity designations, City College maintains its classification as a Research 2 institution, a doctoral university with high research activity. It's among 139 institutions nationally awarded R2 designation.

The criteria for R2 classification are at least \$5 million in research expenditures and awarding at least 20 doctorates. CCNY's annual expenditures averaged \$62 million in fiscal years 2021-23 and the college awarded 30 doctoral degrees.

One example of the research done at CCNY is structural biologists developing a drug-testing technique that led to approval of a new treatment for specific forms of kidney, pancreatic and retinal cancers.

The Carnegie Classifications, which have been the principal framework for categorizing the nation's colleges and universities since 1973, were updated for this year's lists with new methodology that "better reflect the public purpose, mission, focus, and impact of higher education," according to the organization.

U.S. News & World Report Ranks CCNY #10 for Social Mobility

The City College of New York's excellence for social mobility continues to earn recognition nationally. In the 2025 *U.S. News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings, CCNY earned the rank of #10 for social mobility in the National Universities category.

Overall, CCNY ranked #121 out of 436 National Universities. Schools are ranked according to their performance across a set of widely accepted indicators of excellence.

CCNY earned multiple spots on the badge-eligible list of 2025 Best Colleges because of its other high rankings:

#61	#79	#117	#113 Undergraduate Engineering Programs (Doctorate)
TOP PUBLIC SCHOOLS	BEST COLLEGES FOR VETERANS	2025 BEST VALUE SCHOOLS	#146 Best Undergraduate Psychology
			#177 Best Undergraduate Computer Science
			#198 Best Undergraduate Economic Program



GIFTS
OVER
\$50,000

The Leonard and Sophie Davis Foundation Inc. \$18,743,587.48	The New York Presbyterian Hospital \$399,531.00	The Teagle Foundation \$200,000.00	Asian Office of Aerospace Research and Development (AOARD) \$75,000.00
James A. Cunningham and Vicky Cunningham \$1,050,000.00	Jewish Communal Fund \$340,869.20	Anonymous \$199,779.30	The Jerome J. Levy Foundation \$70,879.60
Estate of R. Beatrice McCalman \$1,050,000.00	Estate of Walter Mankoff \$314,391.24	Vivien C. Tartter \$177,500.00	Robert Sterling Clark Foundation \$65,000.00
Barbara Pine Living Trust \$972,585.99	The Ford Foundation \$300,000.00	The Simons Foundation \$169,762.00	Theodore L. Cross Family Charitable Foundation \$65,000.00
DAFgiving360 \$929,825.00	Heising-Simons Foundation \$300,000.00	American Council of Learned Societies \$164,000.00	Student Aid Association of City College \$65,000.00
Estate of Stephen Landau \$855,358.92	Ruth Kowalsky \$300,000.00	Estate of Shirley Leopold \$160,917.32	The Ben-Veniste Grell Family Foundation \$63,975.00
Wellspring Philanthropic Fund \$850,000.00	The Winston Foundation \$300,000.00	AccountAbility \$150,000.00	Michael E. Green \$57,000.00
Open Society Foundations \$750,000.00	Stuart and Ellen Levy \$286,000.00	Greater Washington Community Foundation \$150,000.00	Melvin S. Litoff \$55,000.00
Gerstner Philanthropies \$600,000.00	Standard Chartered Bank \$280,000.00	The Grove Foundation \$150,000.00	Kaman A. Ng \$55,000.00
Daniel Berg \$586,483.49	Columbia Business School \$270,000.00	Innoveering \$149,035.00	The San Francisco Foundation \$52,500.00
Leonard Litz Foundation \$545,000.00	Anonymous \$259,049.80	Michael Mattis \$133,100.00	America Online Giving Foundation \$52,249.31
Estate of Michael Greene \$530,000.00	Shelby Fischer \$259,006.55	Viola Foundation \$130,000.00	José Briones \$50,000.00
Santander Bank, N.A. \$529,000.00	Melvin J. Klugman \$256,012.00	BASF Corporation \$115,100.00	Howard V. Campbell \$50,000.00
Jeff Goshay \$523,700.00	University of Houston \$245,000.00	The Cheryl R. Buxbaum Special Needs Trust \$112,000.00	Kyndryl Foundation \$50,000.00
Bridgespan \$500,000.00	The Robert H. Levine 2023 Trust \$244,161.10	The Psychological Center \$111,049.41	Tony Liss \$50,000.00
Mother Cabrini Health Foundation \$500,000.00	Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund \$233,450.00	Estate of Moredecai Richlin \$110,000.00	Henry and Lucy Moses Fund Inc. \$50,000.00
The Tow Foundation \$500,000.00	Lucian Caste Charitable Foundation \$230,000.00	The Achelis and Bodman Foundation \$100,000.00	William S. Paley Foundation, Inc. \$50,000.00
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation \$499,408.00	Anonymous \$225,000.00	Kenneth Babits \$100,000.00	PNC Fund for Charitable Giving \$50,000.00
The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation \$425,014.00	The Alfred Harcourt Foundation \$222,045.00	Brooklyn.Org \$100,000.00	The Rudin Foundations, Inc. \$50,000.00
	LCU Fund for Women's Education \$207,501.00	Jeanette V. Emmarco \$100,000.00	
	Democracy Fund \$200,000.00	Anonymous \$97,700.00	
	Pathways to a Better Future \$200,000.00	Reinhardt Family Foundation Trust \$84,000.00	
	P&G: The Gillette Company, LLC \$200,000.00	Estate of Gregory Stein \$83,577.51	

GIFTS FROM
\$10,000
TO \$49,000

Estate of Kathleen McCahill RVOC Living Trust \$45,207.20	Cengage Group \$25,325.00	Maestro Cares Foundation \$16,000.00
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP \$40,000.00	Susan Konig \$25,113.00	Daffy Charitable Fund \$15,000.00
IO Intelligence Inc. \$38,000.00	Dorothea Cappadona \$25,100.00	Diana Granat \$15,000.00
Concrete Masonry Products Board \$36,000.00	Shahara Ahmad-Llewellyn \$25,000.00	Mark Halperin \$15,000.00
The New York Community Trust \$36,000.00	California Community Foundation \$25,000.00	Andrea S. Paladino \$15,000.00
Life Science Cares Foundation \$35,700.00	Dooher Institute of Physics & Energy \$25,000.00	Bernard S. Strauss \$15,000.00
David M. Bendich \$35,000.00	Lynn Kapiloff \$25,000.00	DFI Educational Trust \$15,000.00
PNC Financial Services Group \$35,000.00	Lois S. Koral \$25,000.00	West Harlem Development Corporation \$15,000.00
Robert F. Lirtzman \$32,000.00	Marc and Laura H. Salganik \$25,000.00	Jacob Zabara Family Foundation \$14,800.00
Ferdinand J. Carillo \$30,574.00	Moody's \$25,000.00	Dean Modroukas \$14,000.00
Informa UK \$30,301.00	Allen Taylor \$25,000.00	George A. Simpson \$13,500.00
Ernest F. Businelli \$30,300.00	Barbara and Richard von Zerneck \$25,000.00	The Center for Architecture, Inc. \$12,500.00
Yick M. Lee \$30,000.00	Gabrielle Ruth Arents Trust \$20,000.00	Professional Women in Construction \$12,500.00
Aaron Rand \$30,000.00	Vince G. Boudreau \$20,000.00	Rita V. Hirsch \$12,377.82
Dow Jones & Co \$30,000.00	Central Indiana Community Foundation \$20,000.00	Pfau Cochran Vertetis Amala Attorneys at Law \$12,300.00
Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. \$30,000.00	Alan Du \$20,000.00	St. George's Society of New York \$11,150.00
The Gambrell Foundation \$30,000.00	The Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation \$20,000.00	Carol Bahoric \$11,028.19
Theresa Krell \$30,000.00	Hernan Makse \$20,000.00	Peter C. Compo \$11,000.00
Upcycle Solutions, LLC \$29,675.00	Milbank LLP \$20,000.00	FXCollaborative Foundation \$11,000.00
Peter Scola \$28,406.62	Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP \$20,000.00	The Helene Foundation \$11,000.00
Graduate Center \$28,000.00	Judith Rodriguez \$20,000.00	Gabriella de Beer \$10,842.61
Artech Holdings Limited DBA On the Stage \$26,551.32	Ropes & Gray LLP \$20,000.00	Jerry A. Gelbwachs \$10,169.40
Renaissance Charitable Foundation Inc. \$26,000.00	May & Samuel Rudin Family Foundation Inc. \$20,000.00	Ariel De \$10,000.00
Margaret F. Mudd \$25,375.00	Susan Seliger \$20,000.00	ASME \$10,000.00
	Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP \$20,000.00	Anne C. Baker \$10,000.00
	The Blackburn Giving Fund \$17,379.48	Iris Geva-May and Joseph Berechman \$10,000.00

Joan N. and Norman Bluestone Foundation, Inc. \$10,000.00	Brewster Family Foundation \$10,000.00	Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Local \$10,000.00
	Fay J. Chu \$10,000.00	Columbia University \$10,000.00
	Community Board 9 \$10,000.00	Valerian J. Derlega \$10,000.00
	Nina C. Diamond \$10,000.00	Matthew DiNardo \$10,000.00
	Helen Epstein \$10,000.00	Lillian Feder Foundation, Inc. \$10,000.00
	Carl Feldbaum \$10,000.00	Paul Fenster \$10,000.00
	Graham Foundation \$10,000.00	Graham Foundation for the Advanced Study of Fine Arts \$10,000.00
	Steven Hess \$10,000.00	Leonard and Stella Kleinrock \$10,000.00
	Daniel J. Kornstein \$10,000.00	Bertram J. Lewitt \$10,000.00
	George Malin \$10,000.00	Al Malnik \$10,000.00
	Noel J. McDonald \$10,000.00	Fredric D. Olefson \$10,000.00
	Greg Page \$10,000.00	Penguin Random House, LLC \$10,000.00
	Joanne Rochon \$10,000.00	Robin Villa \$10,000.00
	Peter G. Weiner \$10,000.00	

GIFTS FROM
\$9,999 TO \$1,000

Diane L. Abeloff	Child Mind Institute
Lillia Abron	Margaret H. Cifrino
Adirondack Foundation	Howard Cohen
Robert C. Adler	Richard Cohen
AIA New York Chapter	Sybil Cohen
Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC	Kim Cole
Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society	Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.
Lewis J. Altfest	The Cousins' Charitable Foundation
The American Society of Plumbing Engineers	Covanta Energy Corp.
Helena P. Andreyko	Michael A. Colucci
Art J. Antin	Joan Copjec
The David Aronow Foundation, Inc.	Ronald J. Davis
Joel L. Arougheti	Leonard Daykin
Associated Brick Mason Contractors of Greater New York	Alfonso S. D'Elia
Axe-Houghton Foundation	Robert J. Demas
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Alvin H. Bachman	Eric Dezenhall
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Joanne Bario	Joseph D. Digiacomo
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Donna Basile	Gwendolyn Dixon
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Gail A. Bedoukian	Edward Dunlap
Anthony V. Belli	Kathleen R. Early
Ben & Jerry's Foundation	Samuel E. Ebbesen
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Paulette Benson	Perry H. Edelstein
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Orest and Lidia Bilous Family Foundation	Richard Elrauch
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Estate of Eric Bloch	Barbara R. Evans
Michael Blumenstein	ExxonMobil Foundation
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Fergus M. Bordewich	Rochelle A. Feinstein
Siva K. Prasad Borra	Mary M. Fenton
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Central Florida Jobs with Justice	Howard Goldfine
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National Grid
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Charles Grunfeld Foundation Inc.
GS Donor Advised Philanthropy Fund for Wealth Management
Marta Gutman
Bernard Haber
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Harry J. Heinkele
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Raymond James Charitable
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Adina L. Kalet
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Karen F. Kerner
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Jerry J. Kolaitis
Harold S. Koletsky
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Estate of Daniel James Leary/Carolyn K. Foley
Toby Lee Linder
Tommy W. Lee
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Virginia Letourneau
Kin K. Leung
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Laurie J. Levinson
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Bruce L. Levy
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Arthur M. Loewenthal

May F. Louie
LSLK Fund
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Helen McMahon
Michael R. McQueen
David Mechanic
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Ivan Mikhelkin
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Madhu Patel
Pediatrics 2000 II P C
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Lawrence F. Shackman
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Rebecca C. Swan
Robert Sylvor
Teachers' Retirement System of New York
Teal Pond Foundation
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Michael Tobias

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Judith Traum
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The University of Illinois at Chicago
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Saul Unter
Steve S. Urkowitz
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Cherith Velez
Angela Veloudios
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Israel E. Wachs
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William Welk
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Elizabeth A. Wilson-Anstey
Jill Wine-Banks
Walters Kraus LLP
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Wayne State University
We Energies Foundation
We the People
The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company
Claude L. Winfield
David B. Wittenberg
Martin P. Wolpin
Hanson Wong
Suk M. Wong
Scott Woodruff
Alexandra Woods
Jun Wu
WX, Inc.
WXY architecture + urban design
Alan C. Yao
Jean E. Young
Len I. Zane
Carlo M. Zaskorski
Andreas A. Zavitsas
Mitchell H. Zimmerman

Each year, we work to create a comprehensive list of giving to the College. We are grateful to all of our supporters and work to ensure that our annual gifts list is accurate. If you see any errors, or would like a correction made to a future issue of this Report, please feel free to email us: give@ccny.cuny.edu

The list is for gifts received from 7/1/2024-6/30/2025.

CCNY to Boost Stakeholder Engagement with Innovative, Autonomous Fundraising Partnership



CCNY and The Foundation for City College are among the fourth cohort of institutions partnering with autonomous fundraising technology platform Givzey | Version2.ai.

By partnering with Givzey | Version2.ai, CCNY will deploy a virtual engagement officer, or VEO, allowing the College to engage with its stakeholders in a more expansive manner that reflects the trust, alignment and long-term belief in the College's mission. By providing real-time engagement, the College can share all of the work happening across campus with its stakeholders.

Too often, especially for those who live outside the New York metropolitan area, alumni contact with the College may be limited to receiving the President's Annual Report, the monthly City Beat newsletter, or through the College's social media channels. Autonomous Fundraising creates opportunities for an in-depth conversation that can determine if a hand-off to a gift officer for a one-to-one engagement is needed and is more appropriate.

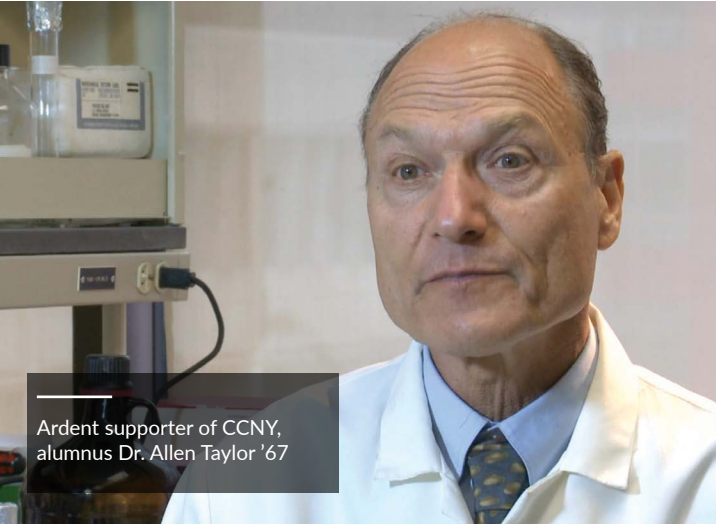
Expanding the team with trusted digital labor allows the VEO to prioritize donors who may have given in prior years but, for many reasons, may not be actively engaged with the College and wish to be. CCNY's VEO, Benita (a play on "Benny," the College's mascot),

has been assigned 1,000 of these existing alumni and supporters, including those who have attended President Boudreau's "City In..." events in the past two and a half years.

"Givzey | Version2.ai is honored to work with innovative institutions like The City College of New York and the Foundation for City College, and leaders such as Dee Dee Mozeleski, who understand that by addressing fundraising's long-standing labor shortage with Autonomous Fundraising and trusted digital labor, we open opportunities to deeply connect more donors to the organizations and missions that move them to give," said Givzey | Version2.ai Vice President of Customer Success Emily Groccia.

"The City College of New York and the Foundation for City College believe in the powerful role philanthropy plays in shaping the future of a democratic society," said Senior Vice President Mozeleski, who is also executive director of The Foundation for City College and senior advisor to President Boudreau. "Through our partnership with Givzey | Version2.ai, we look to engage with our donors and alumni in ways that bridge technology and the important interpersonal relationships we create in support of our students, faculty, staff and our entire City College community."

Alumnus, Researcher Allen Taylor Funds Mentor Program



With limited funds and an overwhelming desire to pursue a college education, Allen Taylor had few options outside The City College of New York with its free but highly competitive admission policy. Decades later, the Class of 1967 alumnus and Professor Emeritus of Nutrition, Ophthalmology, and Developmental, Molecular and Chemical Biology at Tufts University, is giving back to his alma mater in a big way.

He’s funding CCNY’s new Allen Taylor Academic Promise Awards for Undergraduates and Ph.D.-student-Mentors of undergraduates in Chemistry & Biochemistry in the Division of Science. The Allen Taylor Awards, colloquially, will be awarded to promising undergraduates with financial need to encourage academic excellence in chemistry and biochemistry. The yearly award program selected its first recipients in fall 2025. Each undergraduate is paired with a Ph.D.-level mentor and co-awardee. These partners will meet at two-week intervals to discuss academic issues that could range from coursework challenges to career preparation, summarizing their experiences in brief reports at the conclusion of each semester.

“The City College of New York is extremely grateful to Dr. Taylor for this support to our students, which will be so critical as they continue along their educational path and focus on post-graduate career pathways,” said Barbara Evans, associate executive director, Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations/Foundation for City College.

This award program continues Taylor’s long-time support for scholarship and mentorship programs at CCNY. Taylor, who earned a B.S. in chemistry, has a good reason for his philanthropy.

“Gratitude,” he said. “I was grateful for the opportunities that I’ve had in my life. I got a free, wonderful education at City College. And from City College I went to Rutgers, from Rutgers to Berkeley where I had a fabulous six years and then a brief stop at Williams College for a few years, and then to Harvard and Tufts. “And so it’s been a wonderful career and I think all the opportunities that came along with it wouldn’t have ever been possible had I not gone to college and City College was the only school I could go to. I didn’t have the money to go anywhere else.”

Taylor went on to a distinguished career in science, that included directing the Vision Research Labs in Tufts University’s Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging for 40 years. His research focused on the pathophysiology of—and ways to ameliorate or delay the progress of—age-related eye diseases, specifically age-related macular degeneration and cataract.

He received the Townsend Harris Medal in 2022 for outstanding postgraduate achievement in his field from CCNY’s Alumni Association.

Historic Harlem-based Theatre Group Donates Archives to CCNY



Voza Rivers

The oldest Black nonprofit theater in New York state, New Heritage Theatre Group, marked its 60th anniversary with a gift to the Foundation for City College: the donation of its extensive archives to CCNY’s Libraries Archives and Special Collections Division.

A mainstay in the community since its 1964 founding as New Heritage Repertory Theatre by playwright, set designer, actor and lecturer Roger Furman, NHTG has spawned productions, workshops, and presentations that reflect the historical, social and political experiences of African and Latino descendants in America and abroad. NHTG counts luminaries such as Ruby Dee, Ossie Davis, Sidney Poitier, Harry Belafonte, Gertrude Jeanette, Rosetta Lenoir and Alice Childress among its many alumni.

In 1983, award-winning music and theater producer Voza Rivers took over the company as executive producer, reorganizing it under the name New Heritage Theatre Group. Rivers expanded the mission to provide training, experience and international exposure to veteran and emerging performing artists.

“City College has always been special to me,” said Rivers. He noted that when the company had to vacate its space in Harlem following Furman’s death that year, “CCNY welcomed us with open arms,” providing Aaron Davis Hall for productions that had been brought over from London. The College “not only accepted us, but gave us a residency,” he said. He also brought the cast of the musical *Sarafina!*, then running at Lincoln Center’s Mitzi Newhouse Theater, to Davis Hall in 1987.

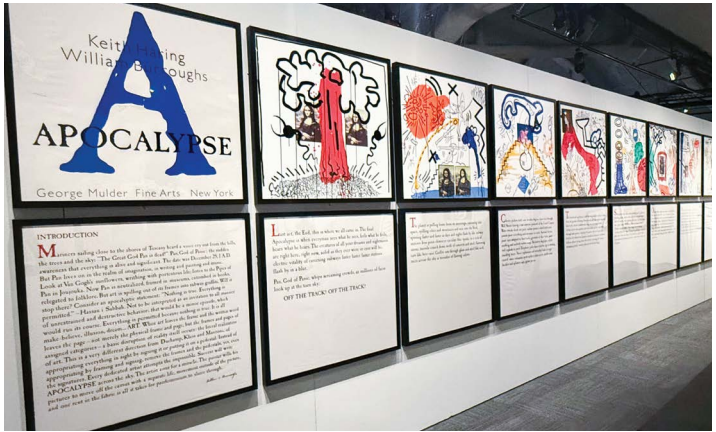
In 1997, Voza and Executive Artistic Director Jamal Joseph —an award-winning writer, director, documentary film maker and educator in his own right—formed IMPACT Repertory Theatre, the company’s performing arts division. Once again, CCNY provided space for the fledgling enterprise, which now boasts more than 1,000 alumni.

Rivers and NHTG co-founded the Harlem Arts Alliance in 2001. It has since grown from a founding membership of 12 to more than 400 arts and culture members representing all disciplines and areas of the arts.

The donation to CCNY includes documents and materials from New Heritage Theatre Group’s affiliate divisions including: Committed Artists | South African Theatre Company (1983);

Community Works (1989); Community Works Harlem Is... (1990); Harlem Shakespeare Festival (1991); Harlemwood Film Festival (1997); Harlemwood Records (1997); New Heritage Films (1997); and IMPACT Repertory Theatre (1997).

Keith Haring’s Apocalypse Series Donated to CCNY



Keith Haring’s Apocalypse series, including 30 distinct pieces of art, has been donated by the Leonard-Litz LGBTQ+ Foundation, an organization that helps LGBTQ+ people fulfill their potential. Haring created “Apocalypse” in 1988, at the height of the AIDS pandemic and after his own diagnosis. The screen prints are accompanied by captions composed by his series collaborator, William S. Burroughs.

The complete set, including the captions, are to be displayed in campus spaces to inspire discussion among students, faculty, staff, and alumni, especially members of the CCNY and CUNY LGBTQ+ communities. The art will also be available for loaning to other CUNY campuses for display, particularly but not exclusively, in their respective LGBTQ+ student centers and campus art museums.

“The Apocalypse series is an important marker in a critical moment in the nation’s history,” said President Vince Boudreau. “We are honored to receive this extraordinary donation from the Leonard-Litz LGBTQ+ Foundation.”

“It is very important to us that CCNY and CUNY LGBTQ+ students have the opportunity to experience Haring’s Apocalypse series,” said Elliot Leonard, founding trustee of the Leonard-Litz LGBTQ+ Foundation. “This an extraordinary series and an artifact of the pain, loss, and activism that characterized the height of the AIDS crisis. We hope it will inform discussion and debate on campus, and that the series will serve as inspiration to generations of students, especially members of the LGBTQ+ community.”

The official opening of the exhibit took place March 4, 2025 and featured a discussion of the series, and the art and on activism of the 1980s in New York City.

“This donation of Keith Haring’s Apocalypse is a tremendous addition to our collections. As we already have an important Haring painting, it builds on an existing strength to expand our

holdings of Haring’s work greatly,” said Associate Professor of Art History Ellen Handy, the director of the CCNY art collection.

The Leonard-Litz Foundation’s mission is to fund organizations which advance the interests and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community through advocacy, programs, and services that meet the needs of LGBTQ+ people.

Support for Helping Hands Increased by \$600K Thanks to Gerstner Philanthropies

Gerstner Philanthropies increased its commitment to supporting the Helping Hands Student Emergency Fund with an additional \$600,000 over two years.



Helping Hands provides one-time cash grants to college students facing one-time unforeseen emergencies to allow them to continue their studies. Gerstner Philanthropies previously gave \$166,667 to start CCNY’s Helping Hands in 2023, and donated an additional \$100,000 in 2024 as a response to potential challenges faced by students in the post-COVID-19 era.

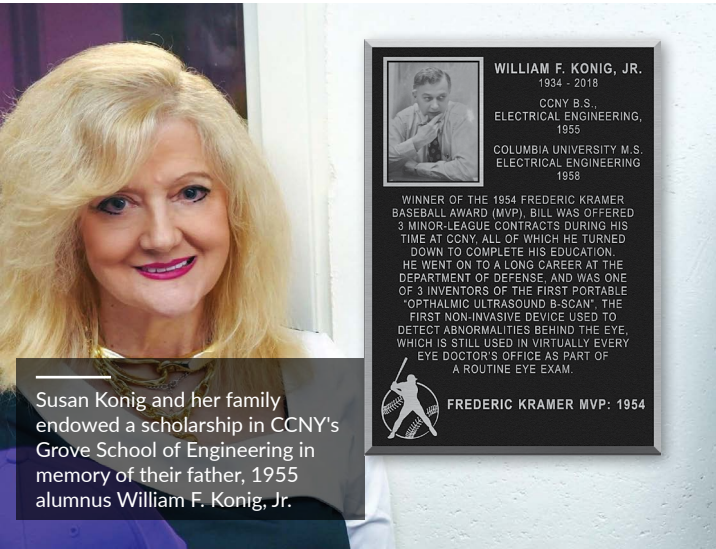
“We are tremendously grateful for this continued support, as many of our students qualify as coming from low-income households, they are the first in their families to enroll at college, and are first-generation Americans,” said CCNY Senior Vice President Dee Dee Mozeleski, the executive director of The Foundation for City College. “Gerstner Philanthropies’ generous gifts to date have proved to be a lifeline for many of our students. Some may experience precarious financial circumstances at any time for any reason, and this additional funding is sure to prove beneficial. It allows many of them to stay enrolled, complete their studies, and go on to make their respective marks on the world.”

To qualify for Helping Hands assistance, the emergency must be acute, not chronic, and can be solved with a one-time grant when no other sources of funds are readily available, such as loss of job or income; medical, dental and safety emergencies; imminent homelessness or threat of eviction; overdue utility bills or a turn-off notice; lost clothes, personal items or furniture because of theft, a fire in living quarters, or a natural disaster; or victimization by domestic violence.

Applicants are required to submit a statement describing the emergency, accompanied by supporting documentation. The maximum award is \$3,000.

Grants from Helping Hands reached 3,440 students and households in greater New York City in 2024. Helping Hands distributed nearly \$7.7 million in emergency cash via 6,135 grants last year, a 16 percent increase in funding from 2023.

Konig Family Establishes Endowed Grove School Engineering Scholarship Honoring Patriarch



The family of William F. Konig, Jr. (1934–2018), an outstanding scholar-athlete from the Class of 1955 who went on to pursue a successful career as an engineer and inventor, announces an endowed scholarship in his memory in the Grove School of Engineering.

The William F. Konig, Jr. Scholarship will support a student in the Grove School's Department of Electrical Engineering. A standout pitcher and the 1954 Frederic Kramer Baseball Award MVP at CCNY, Konig had been offered three contracts by minor league clubs before earning his B.S. in E.E. from the Grove School. He rejected all the contract offers on the advice of his parents, neither of whom had attended college but who strongly believed in the value of education.

Konig then attended Columbia University, where he received his master's in E.E. before going to work for the U.S. Department of Defense designing radar and sonar systems. In the mid-1970s, he was one of three inventors of the first portable "Ophthalmic Ultrasound B-Scan," a pioneering non-invasive device used to detect abnormalities behind the eye. It uses sound waves to measure and produce detailed images of the human eye. Today, the device is routinely used in most optical exams.

The endowment is the family's second gift to the College in Konig's memory in two years. In 2023, his daughter Susan Konig donated \$25,000 to CCNY's baseball program for equipment, uniforms, and transportation.

"He had a lot to thank City College for, including the exciting time that he had with baseball there," said Ms. Konig. "It was a very important part of his life. He had success with the invention and he had success with the baseball, and it was just an exciting time in his life.

"The new endowment honors our father and, hopefully, it will help other engineering students and/or, baseball-playing students get relief from some of the tuition bills because he was one of them once."

In addition, the endowment, according to Konig, is designed to highlight the transformative powers of a CCNY education. "I want students to see how he went from a very poor beginning and through City College, our father was able to transform his life with a lot of hard work."

Summing up her father's twin passions, Konig said: "he'd always wanted to be an engineer. It was kind of in his blood and he was building things as a child. And he was a baseball fanatic as well, not only watching but playing, too."

Reinhardt Family Foundation Trust Makes Additional Commitment to CCNY



In December 2024, the Reinhardt Family Foundation Trust established an annual fellowship program to support a high-achieving, first-generation City College of New York student who demonstrates a commitment to social justice. Six months later, in July, the Trust increased its commitment.

The initial Reinhardt Family Fellowship provided the recipients with full tuition plus expenses for a total of \$42,000 over three years. The latest pledge will provide a second grant of \$42,000 over three years.

The Reinhardt Family Foundation has made donations to a variety of institutions that serve those in need of financial assistance to continue their academic careers. "I was impressed with the mission of CCNY, which seems to me to be attempting to reach people who might have difficulties attending school," said its chairman, Mark Reinhardt, adding that he was able to attend college and law school through room, board and tuition scholarships. "I never would have done any of that without scholarships. I did well and there is not much reason to wait until I'm dead to pass it along to help others."

Reinhardt, who grew up in Rutherford, N.J., did not attend CCNY, but he remembers seeing subway advertisements for the College.

"I always was impressed that they were trying to reach people who were riding the subways," he said. "You don't see many ads there for Ivy League schools or schools that I went to, so it seems to me that's the demographic that we're trying to help."

"We are deeply grateful to the Reinhardt family for establishing

this scholarship, which was inspired by their recognition of our economic impact and mission, leading them to choose CCNY as the recipient of their generous support," said Annika Lüdke, the director of corporate relations and foundation grants at The Foundation for City College.

"The generosity and enthusiasm of people such as Mark Reinhardt are not just greatly appreciated, but stand as testaments to College's ongoing commitment to ensure that cost is not a barrier to education," said Senior Vice President of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations, Executive Director of the Foundation for City College, and Senior Advisor to the President Dee Dee Mozeleski. "This new gift is especially gratifying in that Mark is not an alumnus, but he found CCNY to be worthy of his support."

The first scholarships will be awarded for the Fall 2025 semester.

Reinhardt is a founding partner of Reinhardt Wendorf & Blanchfield, where he is currently of counsel, Prior to forming the firm, Reinhardt co-founded Reinhardt & Anderson in 1979. He is a graduate of Columbus School of Law (Catholic University of America), and was the recipient of the Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellowship, the only government funded program that has ever existed to train, support and deploy social justice attorneys, in 1971 and again in 1972. The "Reggie" Fellowship allowed Reinhardt to work in the area of significant class action litigation. He is admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Minnesota and is a member of the bars of the United States Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeals for the Second, Third, Fourth, Sixth, Eighth and Ninth Circuits of the District of Minnesota, the Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

Six-figure Gift to Colin Powell School Funds Students, Research and Mentoring



A \$146,500 gift to the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership supported the establishment of three funds to aid the school's most vulnerable students and to support faculty mentorship of student research.

The donor, who prefers to remain anonymous, is a long-time Colin Powell School professor moved by the School's mission and by its success in serving disadvantaged students.

For its pilot academic year, 2024-25, the gift had three elements: the \$50,000 Precarious Student Support Fund to provide grants to economically precarious students, including those who are undocumented and therefore ineligible for other forms of aid; the \$72,000 Faculty/Student Support Fund to support junior faculty and students who work together on research; and the \$24,000 WELCOME Program Student Support Fund to support certain students participating in the U.S. Department of Education-funded WELCOME program at CCNY.

The Precarious Student Support Fund awards qualifying Colin Powell School undergraduates grants of up to \$5,000. Preference will be given to students who are undocumented and/or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients.

The Faculty/Student Support Fund funds five junior faculty members and their thesis students. Faculty and students will together submit a proposal for the research; the faculty member will then be selected as a research mentoring fellow. Over the course of a year, each fellow will mentor and support between one and three undergraduate and/or graduate students conducting their own research projects and/or participating in faculty research.

Faculty fellows are awarded a \$5,000 stipend and will distribute \$2,500 to each student they mentor. Up to an additional \$2,000 per project will be available for supplies, equipment, or to support the presentation of research at conferences.

The WELCOME Program Student Support Fund provides financial support, not to exceed \$500 per student, to be made available to undergraduate students who are chosen to participate in the new WELCOME program for incoming freshmen, but who are not eligible to receive direct financial support from the grant. This includes participants in the WELCOME program who are not U.S. citizens.

Colin Powell School Receives \$2.5 Million Gift from the Friedman Family

A new \$2,500,000 five-year gift by the Friedman family established a fund to support the Colin Powell Career Fellows program and the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership's new Social Mobility Lab.

The Colin Powell Career Fellows program, established in 2022, provides students with stipends for unpaid and underpaid internships as well as with workshops, training, career coaching, and professional development in order to prepare them for internships. Each internship stipend provides support of up to \$5,500 for a Colin Powell student. Internship stipends may cover all of the internship, or can also be used as a supplement for low-paying internships, depending upon an individual internship's compensation offer and length.

The Social Mobility Lab, launched in April 2024, aims to advance understanding of how higher education in the United States—and particularly public higher education—expands and accelerates opportunities for students, their families, and the communities from which they come. The fund will support the staff, research, student projects, programs, and public events associated with the new Social Mobility Lab. The Lab's mission is

(Continued on the next page)

to discover new ways to accelerate and expand opportunity for students and the communities they represent. The Lab recently announced its inaugural cohort of research grantees.

“The Friedman family has a deep commitment to CUNY,” said a representative of the family. “Internships not only give students vital job skills and deeper networks, they also help build self-confidence, the sense that a student belongs. With this support, we are pleased to make it possible for more Colin Powell School students to have meaningful internships that lead to career-starting jobs. Alongside that, the work of the Social Mobility Lab informs all that the School does to support student success, career development, and progress toward equity and economic justice.”

“The research is overwhelming about how important internships have become to the career prospects for young people; and funding for unpaid and underpaid internships has been a game changer for our students. We are so grateful to be able to support more to fulfill their ambitions,” said Dean Andrew Rich, former Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean.

Landscape Architecture Firm
MVVA Gifts Spitzer School \$30K
for Fellowship

Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. (MVVA), a landscape architecture firm, gifted \$30,000 to the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture for establishment of The MVVA Fellowship Program for students in the Master of Landscape Architecture program.

The MVVA Fellowship seeks to support rising individuals in the field of landscape architecture who come from backgrounds that are currently and have been historically underrepresented in the field. The goal of this fellowship is to strengthen the pool of resources for emerging design professionals and to foster a more complete, better rounded, and better-informed landscape architecture community.

Each year, one student entering their first year of the Spitzer School’s Master of Landscape Architecture program will be selected for the MVVA Fellowship. The recipient will receive an annual award of \$5,000 for the duration of their three years in the program. Each recipient will be offered a summer internship at Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Inc. the summer prior to the third and final year of their education.

As a landscape architecture firm, MVVA has been committed to delivering meaningful spaces that shape and foster more healthy communities creating more livable cities through small gardens, large public parks and regional master plans. Collaborating with leaders in various other fields has driven MVVA to design more ecological, resilient, and diverse green spaces creating additional habitat for local fauna and access to natural refuge to improve the lives of urban dwellers.



Gift of \$22.5K to the Spitzer School
Establishes New M Arch Landscape
Scholarship



Valmira Gashi M Arch '20 and Julien Legeard have donated \$22,500 to the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture to establish the Valmira Gashi & Julien Legeard Scholarship in support of a student enrolled in the M Arch program.

The donors have contributed \$7,500 for the Spring 2024 semester, with the remainder of \$15,000 to be disbursed throughout the 2024-25 academic year.

In addition to the scholarship money, recipients of the award spend a summer interning at the Legeard Studio, under the close supervision of the principals.

“We grow with them and they grow with us,” said Gashi. “We want this to be a mentorship.”

“I had an amazing experience and I loved my professors,” said Gashi. “I had full scholarships for two of my three years. Spitzer helped me to be a designer and I want to have that level of impact and passion. I always wanted to give back, and a scholarship seemed to be the logical way to do that.”

“It is so wonderful that Valmira is already in a position to give back to her alma mater in such a meaningful way,” said Spitzer School Dean Marta Gutman.

Gashi and Legeard have created space for the interns, who may have the opportunity to join the firm as employees when they graduate.



Perparim Morina

The Summer 2024 Legeard Scholar, Perparim Morina M Arch '24, recently accepted a job with the firm as a junior architect.

“The opportunity to gain knowledge from visionary designers and gain first-hand exposure to crafting impactful designs aligned perfectly with my career aspirations,” said Morina. “This internship not only boosted my academic knowledge but

also provided real-world exposure crucial to my growth as an architect.”



Tyler Hernton

The Summer 2025 Legeard Scholar is Tyler Hernton M Arch '25. A property manager for a Brooklyn real estate company for the past decade, Hernton won the Spitzer School's Joyce and Irving Goldman Family Scholarship for academic excellence last year.

Spitzer School Alumnus Aaron Rand
'65 Gifts \$30K Scholarship Fund in
Memory of His Grandson

Aaron Rand '65, an alumnus of The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, gifted the college \$30,000 to help students in the Spitzer School's Bachelor of Architecture program. A total of \$25,000 of the gift will be used to establish The Elan Ganeles Endowed Scholarship Fund, and \$5,000 will be used as an annual award for a student to receive The Elan Ganeles Annual Scholarship Award.



Elan Ganeles

Ganeles was born and raised in West Hartford, Connecticut and double majored in sustainable development and neuroscience and behavior at Columbia University graduating in 2022 on the dean's list. He was 26 when he was killed on Feb. 27, 2023 on his way to a friend's wedding in Jerusalem. To honor and keep Ganeles's legacy alive, Rand created the scholarships.

The Elan Ganeles Endowed Scholarship Fund will be given to a first-generation junior or senior in the B Arch degree program who shows financial need.

“When I was a student at CCNY, I was a resident of Rockland County and drove to school parking behind Shepard Hall. I had to pay tuition for undergraduate and graduate courses and had to work at least 15 to 20 hours a week to pay my expenses. I was not able to spend as much time on my coursework as I would have liked and had to prioritize my time on courses that were most meaningful to me,” said Rand. “I want this scholarship to allow the students who receive this award to be able to focus on his or her coursework without being burdened to seek employment and spend their time so that they can succeed in all their coursework.”

“We are grateful to Aaron Rand for empowering our students to pursue their dreams with the same genuine goodness and intellectual curiosity that characterized his late grandson, Elan,” said Annika Lüdke, director of corporate relations and foundation grants in the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications, and External Relations. “Mr. Rand's commitment to lift our students' financial burden will support future architects to make the world a better place.”

GRANTS
OVER \$250,000

City Sponsorship

Michael Bobker - Institute, CUNY for Urban Systems, Grove School of Engineering
Energy Data Lab
\$11,132,003

Sustainability Help Center FY24
\$599,969

Training For DOB Staff
\$39,621

John Fillos - Civil Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Research And Development Projects To Optimize Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations
\$2,180,000

Ramona Hernandez - CUNY Dominican Studies Institute, Colin Powell School
Dominican Studies Institute
\$1,010,000

Federal Sponsorship

Teresa Badosz - Chemistry, Division of Science
Engagement of Highly Porous Carbon Surfaces In An Effective PFAS Separation Involving Surface Chemistry
\$515,000

Mark Biscoe - Chemistry, Division of Science
Stereospecific Cross-Coupling Reactions as a Tool for Three-Dimensional Molecular Diversification
\$326,560

James Booth - Earth & Environment Science, Grove School of Engineering
The Climate Lighthouse: DOE-CCNY Urban Climate Hazard Resilience Center
\$896,889

Peter Brass - Computer Science, Grove School of Engineering
Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment
\$284,473

Hazel Carter - Learning, Leadership, & Culture, School of Education
CCNY TRIO Education Talent Search
\$288,470

TRIO - Upward Bound
\$394,010

Doris Cintron-Nabi - Operations, Office the Provost
CiPASS-ExL: City College Initiative to Promote the Academic Success of Students - Experimental Learning and Industry Engagement for Workforce Readiness
\$599,962

City College Initiative to Promote the Academic Success of STEM Students - Experiential Learning & Career Engagement Initiative (CiPASS-ExLCEI)
\$1,021,952

Career Awareness and Pathways At City College (CAPACity)
\$596,570

Naresh Devineni - Civil Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Resilience to Growing Extreme Natural Hazards: Developing a Northeast Hazards Workforce
\$830,334

Pouyan Ghaemi - Physics, Division of Science
Collaborative Research: Fractional Quantum Hall Effect on Noisy Quantum Computers
\$279,013

Ranajeet Ghose - Chemistry, Division of Science
Mechanisms of Bacterial Tyrosine Kinase Activation and Regulation
\$1,117,922

Michel Ghosn - Civil Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Reliability Analysis of Structures Considering the Effects of Climate Change
\$291,476

Marilyn Gunner - Physics, Division of Science
Studies of Photosynthetic Reaction Center and Biomimetic Systems
\$331,306

Ouafaa Hmaddi - Economics, Colin Powell School
Collaborative Research: A Multi-faceted Analysis of Small Business Lending Dynamics
\$243,419

Karen Hubbard - Biology, Division of Science
1/2 CCNY-MSKCC Partnership for Cancer Research, Education and Community Outreach
\$1,334,500

Camille Kamga - Institute, Transportation, Grove School of Engineering
University Transportation Research Center
\$2,947,770

Alexander Khanikaev - Electrical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Symmetry Engineered Photonic Quantum Nano-Materials for Generation and Control of Classical and Quantum Light
\$999,359

Junghoon Kim - Physiology & Pharmacology, Colin Powell School
Transcranial Photobiomodulation in Older Adults with Traumatic Brain Injury: Effects on Cerebral Blood Flow and Cognition
\$2,217,454

Ronald Koder - Physics, Division of Science
A facility at The City College of New York for protein production
\$799,692

Angelo Lampousis - Earth & Environment Science, Grove School of Engineering
CCNY Brownfields Job Training
\$500,000

Angelo Lampousis - Earth & Environment Science, Grove School of Engineering & Dee Dee Mozeleski - The Foundation for City College
The Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative
\$1,500,000

Maria Lima - Community Health & Social Med, Colin Powell School
NYCenter for Minority Health, Equity and Social Justice
\$7,940,154

Yang Liu - Mechanical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Fundamental Study of the Dynamic and Thermal Behaviors of Supercold Droplet Interacting with Plasma Discharge
\$266,468

Prabodhika Mallikaratchy - Molecular, Cellular Sciences, Division of Science
Discovery and Development of Artificial Nucleic Acid Ligands to Probe Cellular Interactions
\$352,142

Robert Melara - Psychology, Grove School of Engineering
Bridges to the Baccalaureate Research Training Program (T34) for Racial/ Ethnic Minorities at the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) and the City College of New York (CCNY)
\$350,862

Carlos Meriles - Physics, Division of Science
Magnetism and Magneto-Optics in Two-Dimensional Materials
\$999,998

Ahmed Mohamed - Electrical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
IUCRC Phase 1: The City College of New York: Center for Building Energy Smart Technologies (BEST)
\$256,352

Jeffery Morris - Levich Institute, Grove School of Engineering
Collaborative Research: Analysis of Dense Suspension Properties and Dynamics by Network Methods
\$273,720

Fred Moshary - Electrical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
NOAA Cooperative Science Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies-II
\$4,893,249

Dee Dee Mozeleski - Senior Vice President, Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications, and External Relations
Child Care Access Means Parents in School
\$385,652

Parameswaran Nair - Physics, Division of Science
Collaborative Research: Geometry, Entanglement and the Dynamics of Fields, Strings and Gravity
\$254,999

Steven Nicoll - Operations, Office of the Provost
Collaborative Research: GCR: Infection-Resisting Resorbable Scaffolds for Engineering Human Tissue
\$405,000

Lucas Parra - Biomedical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Machine Learning for Risk-Adjusted Breast MRI Screening
\$596,618

Interaction of Motor Learning with Transcranial Direct Current - Efficacy and Mechanisms
\$489,315

Te Pei - Civil Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
CAIG: Unifying Landslide Domain Knowledge and AI to Understand Landslide Causality
\$674,291

Jasmin Salcedo, Office of Student Health Services
Gender-Based Violence Awareness and Prevention Alliance: Strengthening Intersectional and Comprehensive Services at The City College of New York
\$500,000

Inigo Sanz-Pena - Mechanical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
A Collaborative Research Hub for Advancing Solier Performance: Equipment for the Fabrication and Evaluation of Lightweight Wearable Assistive Robots with Embedded Sensing Capabilities
\$376,005

Mitchell Schaffler - Biomedical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Renewed Bone Remodeling after Pausing Long-term Bisphosphonate Use: Does it Replace Regions of Impaired Bone Quality and Restore Mechanical Integrity?
\$456,674

Amr Soliman - Community Health & Social Med, Colin Powell School
Cancer Epidemiology Education in Special Populations (CEESP)
\$409,531

Ruth Stark - Chemistry, Division of Science
Molecular Drivers of FABP - Mediated Endocannabinoid Signaling for Appetite Regulation
\$375,254

Nancy Stern - Education, School of Education
Building Secondary English Learner Educator and Administrator Leadership (B-SEAL)
\$599,234

Raymond Tu - Chemical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Spinning-Induced Phase Transitions of Silk-Based Water-Responsive Fibers
\$1,000,000

Ioana Voiculescu - Mechanical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Collaborative Research: Stem Cell Maturity Evaluation and Promotion with an Intelligent Lab-on-Chip Framework
\$467,202

Ryan Williams - Biomedical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Integrating Real-Time Multi-System Cytokine Signaling in Chronic Disease
\$392,500

Jun Yoshioka - Molecular, Cellular Sciences, Division of Science
Arrestin Domain-Containing Protein 4 as a Novel Regulator of Glucose Metabolism in the Ischemic Heart
\$384,650

Hyperglycemia-induced Regulatory Mechanism of ER Stress by Arresting Domain-containing Protein 4 in Diabetic Cardiomyopathy
\$392,500

Private Sponsorship

Marom Bikson - Biomedical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
Non-Invasive Vagal Nerve Stimulation in Patients with Opioid Use Disorders
\$146,753

Transcranial Electrical Stimulation in Stroke Early After Onset Clinical Trial-2 (TESSERACT 2)
\$15,598

Research Funds for Marom Bikson Lab
\$100,000

HRV-Guided tDCS: Integrating a Biomarker for Clinical Utility
\$164,850

James Booth - Earth & Environment Science, Grove School of Engineering
CISESS: CUNY BIL Probable Maximum Precipitation for the Greater NYC Region: Understanding its Relation to Climate Change and Developing Risk Mitigation and Assessment
\$245,638

Laura Brandt - Psychology, Grove School of Engineering
Towards a Framework for Algorithmic Bias and Fairness in Predicting Treatment Outcome for Opioid Use Disorder
\$406,608

Alison Conway - Institute, CUNY for Urban Systems, Grove School of Engineering
National Center for the Future of Travel Behavior and Demand (TBD Center) \$392,045

Alexander Couzis - Chemical Engineering, Grove School of Engineering
GSOE Dean of Engineering Dedicated for Faculty Startup and Teaching Lab Equipments \$500,000

Kevin R Foster - Economics, Colin Powell School
Skadden Honors Program in Legal Studies \$165,396

Ranajeet Ghose - Chemistry, Division of Science
Regulation of eEF-2K an Energy and Nutrient Sensor \$345,389

Expanding the NORDP Consultants Program to Sixteen Minority Serving Institutions
\$150,000

Karen Hubbard - Biology, Division of Science
DISRUPT: Diversity & Inclusion in Scientific Research Underpinning Prevention & Therapeutic Trials \$261,832

George John - Chemistry, Division of Science
NSF Convergence Accelerator Track J Phase 2: AquaSteady - Balancing Soil Moisture, A Seaweed-Based Hydrogel for Sustainable Agriculture \$302,955

Ronald Koder - Physics, Division of Science
TELLUS Program \$547,114

Reza Khanbilvardi - NOAA CREST Center, Grove School of Engineering
CISESS: CUNY IRA Climate Hub for Analytical Research and Monitoring (CHARM) \$1,387,869

Lia Krusin-Elbaum - Physics, Division of Science
Columbia University MRSEC on Precision-Assembled Quantum Materials \$256,135

Edwin Lamboy - Dean of Education, School of Education
School of Education Foundation Support \$374,086

Angelo Lampousis - Earth & Environment Science, Grove School of Engineering
Miscellaneous Training Revenue \$311,350

Vinod Menon - Physics, Division of Science
Exploring Correlated Polaritons and Polariton Condensates in Optical Cavities \$373,945

Carlos Meriles - Physics, Division of Science
Co-Design Center for Quantum Advantage (C2QA) \$241,000

Issac Moradi - NOAA CREST Center, Grove School of Engineering
CUNY Assimilation of Observations From the Earth-Care Cloud Profiling Radar in the NOAA NWP Model \$386,000

Prashanthan Naidu - Anthropology, Grove School of Engineering
SUSTAIN-NYC: Storytelling for Urban Sustainability and Transformation in New York City \$490,000

Omrana Pasha-Razzak - Community Health & Social Med, CUNY School of Medicine
Making Safer Choices: Research and Practical Toolkit Development for Businesses and Disadvantaged Communities to Use Safer and More Sustainable Cleaning Products \$280,684

Ruth Stark - Chemistry, Division of Science
Fatty Acid Lipid Transport in the Intestine \$109,000

The Biology of Cryptococcus Neoformans Melanization
\$215,741

Jie Wei - Computer Science, Division of Science
Efficient and High-Performance Analysis for Sparse 3D Point Cloud Data via Deep Learning, Multimodal Data Fusion and Mathematical Analysis \$250,000

State Sponsorship

Michael Bobker - Institute, CUNY for Urban Systems, Grove School of Engineering
Green Jobs Workforce Development Program \$6,000,000

Hazel Carter - Learning, Leadership, & Culture, School of Education
Liberty Partnership Program \$348,576

Doris Cintron-Nabi - Operations, Office the Provost
Science and Technology Entry Program \$580,500

Tatyana Kleyn - Elementary/Early Childhood Education, School of Education
CUNY Initiative on Immigration and Education (CUNY- IIE) \$322,817

Angelo Lampousis - Earth & Environment Science, Grove School of Engineering & Dee Dee Mozeleski - The Foundation for City College
The Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative \$1,500,000

John Martin - Molecular, Cellular Sciences, Division of Science
PART and IDEA in Spinal Cord Injury Research (Round 5) \$330,000

Millicent Roth - CCAPP, Division of Science
City College Academy for Professional Preparation \$465,880

Dear CCNY Friends and Supporters,



As the new associate provost in the Office of Research at CCNY, I am excited to share news from our office. Formerly a faculty member at a liberal arts institution, I was drawn to this position by the City College mission to serve the people of New York and called to strengthen and grow its already-high instructional research activity. I took over the position in January 2025 from the very capable hands of interim Associate Provost Ranajeet Ghose.

Since January, executive orders and general uncertainty around federal grants administration have created a tumultuous time in the Office of Research. Many of our most active researchers experienced funding cuts or award terminations due to the changing priorities of federal granting agencies like the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, and Department of Energy. It's been a sobering situation for the CCNY research community. Our biggest concerns have been around our ability to continue supporting students, early-career faculty members, and others most reliant on grant funding.

With help from supporters like you, City College—in conjunction with CUNY—has been able to provide bridge funding to our researchers whose funding was terminated. One such faculty member is Assistant Professor Ouafaa Hmaddi, who was leading an NSF-funded project to improve local economies by building new tools to help small businesses and entrepreneurs find community-minded lenders attuned to their needs.

CCNY also lost a \$9 million Department of Transportation award to create and support equitable transportation through the Center for Social & Economic Mobility for People & Communities through Transportation (SEMPACT). Many of our faculty members involved in SEMPACT lost research funding, including Assistant Professor Yiqiao Li, who was studying how congestion pricing impacts northern Manhattan neighborhoods. Bridge funding from CCNY and CUNY is allowing Professors Li and Hmaddi to continue their important work for our community.

Several awards for training undergraduate and graduate students in STEM were also terminated. Students from biology, psychology, and other departments lost their stipends at a critical juncture in their careers, just as they were ready to access the next level of their educational and professional journeys. The Office of Research worked with their faculty mentors to appeal those decisions, and some of the terminated funding has been reinstated.

Aside from the federal funding fiasco (as one of our colleagues has labeled it), we have experienced some recent notable successes at CCNY. The Grants and Sponsored Programs office has been very busy, with more than 200 faculty and staff members submitting 460 proposals just in the past year! These proposals led to more than 125 active awards across the campus, involving faculty from all divisions and institutes. Particularly exciting was the Guggenheim Fellowship awarded to George Tibaldi, CCNY film professor, in recognition of both his career achievements to date and those yet to come.

Many of our larger awards have been targeted at building a trained workforce in a wide range of areas, including cancer research, energy storage, and wastewater treatment. The Office of Research remains committed to furthering these investments in our future by facilitating funding opportunities around the campus, promoting access, supporting students, and building partnerships across the city, state, and country. We would not be able to do this important work without your unwavering support. We are grateful for our community and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Ishita Mukerji
Associate Provost
Office of Research

CCNY Awards Affected by Federal Funding Changes



ANIL K. AGRAWAL
Professor of Civil Engineering and Member of UTRC

TERMINATED AWARD
Impacted by loss of U.S. DOT funding

GOAL
Development of modeling approaches to improve bridge design and prevent bridge disasters, such as Baltimore Key Bridge



RAMONA HERNÁNDEZ
Professor of Sociology and Director of the Dominican Studies Institute

TERMINATED AWARD
HSI-Hubs: Intersectionality as Inquiry & Praxis: Race, Class, Gender & Ethnicity for Student Success in STEM

GOAL
Use of intersectionality to advance equity and remove systemic barriers to education



OUAFAA HMADDI
Assistant Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship

TERMINATED AWARD
A Multi-Faceted Analysis of Small Business Lending Dynamics

GOAL
Assist small-businesses identify community-minded lenders



RONALD KODER
Professor of Physics

TERMINATED AWARD
DARPA TELLUS Program

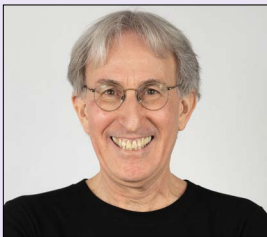
INDUSTRY PARTNER
Battelle



YIQIAO LI
Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering, member of SEMPACT

TERMINATED AWARD
Impacted by loss of U.S. DOT funding

GOAL
Development of a network model to evaluate effect of congestion pricing on northern Manhattan neighborhoods
Improve urban vehicle characterization through drive by sensing development



ROBERT MELARA
Professor and Chair of Psychology

TERMINATED AWARD
CAUSE: CUNY Advancement in Undergraduate STEM Education

GOAL
To increase the number of low income, minoritized students from either community colleges or 4-year colleges continue to graduate school and/or research careers in psychology



RUTH STARK
Professor and Director of CUNY Institute for Macromolecular Assemblies, Director of CCNY Graduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement

TERMINATED AWARD
Graduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement (G-RISE)

GOAL
Support training of Ph.D. students in STEM fields with stipends, research training, research funds and professional development



ROSEMARIE WESSON, MARITSA POROS, IRINA CARLOTA SILBER, MC BINZ-SCHARF, KAREN HUBBARD AND CHRISTINE LI (FROM TOP LEFT)

TERMINATED AWARD
ADVANCE Adaptation: Advancing Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity in STEM (AIDE-STEM)

GOAL
Increase the promotion, retention, and mentoring of women and BIPOC STEM faculty, improve workload equity and foster an inclusive environment



CAMILLE KAMGA
Professor of Civil Engineering and Director of University Transportation Research Center

ALISON CONWAY
Professor of Civil Engineering and Deputy Director, University Transportation Research Center

TERMINATED AWARD
The Center for Social & Economic Mobility for & Communities (SEMPACT)

GOAL
Providing equitable transportation solutions for communities

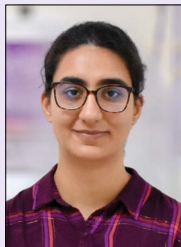


GRADUATE STUDENTS AFFECTED BY THE G-RISE AWARD TERMINATION



MAKAYLA BRAUNLIN
Biology

RESEARCH TOPIC
Elucidating the role of an inner membrane protein in the maintenance of E. coli cell envelope integrity



ZOYA SHIFQUE
Electrical Engineering

RESEARCH TOPIC
Segmentation in Medical images; understanding landslide causality by unifying physics



ALLEN SUN
Biochemistry

RESEARCH TOPIC
Structural biology of ligand-modulated protein-protein interactions in pain and inflammation



Scientist Jimmy Booth Wins \$1M DOE Grant for Innovative Climate Project

The Climate Lighthouse Project, an interdisciplinary venture led by CCNY atmospheric scientist Jimmy Booth, is the recipient of a three-year \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to help communities bearing the brunt of climate change.



Jimmy Booth

The funding is part of a \$10 million DOE largesse to 10 innovative Climate Resilience Centers in 10 different states. These university-led research teams will leverage the world class modeling, data and research capabilities from DOE national laboratories customized for their local regions with a focus on climate prediction of weather hazard risks to better prepare communities. The CRCs are part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s Justice40 Initiative and are designed to ensure that all Americans benefit from scientific research.

CCNY’s Climate Lighthouse project would be a partnership with two DOE laboratories, Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The project is designed to help residents better prepare for extreme heat with the focus on translating DOE climate data into usable tools to improve the resilience of New York City residents. Information would be communicated to the public through community partnerships. The team would work closely with community partners to co-develop tools that could provide actionable knowledge among the public.

“This project will leverage existing DOE data, make new observations, and bring together a multi-disciplinary team,” said Booth. “We are excited and grateful to have the opportunity to pursue this project.”

- The Climate Lighthouse Project team members include:
- Zihao Zhang, CCNY’s Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture;
 - Yana Kucheva, CCNY’s Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership;
 - Prathap Ramamurthy and Naresh Devineni, both CCNY Grove School of Engineering;
 - Spencer Hill, CCNY Division of Science; and
 - Rachael Piltch-Loeb, CUNY School of Public Health.

The project has two collaborators: Katia Lamer at Brookhaven National Laboratory, and Bryce Harrop at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory or PNNL.

“Every pocket of the country has experienced the impact of extreme weather events that are exacerbated by climate change, and disadvantaged communities often feel the brunt of that impact,” said U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm. “The projects (selected) will leverage the world class expertise and scientific research capacities of DOE’s national laboratories to develop the tools communities will need to inform future decisions for building resiliency.”

Other CRCs funded are located at: Saint Louis University in Missouri; South Dakota School of Mines and Technology; University of Texas-Arlington in partnership with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi; Central State University in partnership

with Ohio State University and PNNL; University of Alaska Fairbanks; Florida Institute of Technology, Central Michigan University; University of Massachusetts Lowell; and Lehigh University in partnership with PNNL.

The CRCs would help form a nucleus for a diverse group of young scientists, engineers, and technicians to further their scientific research and work on scientific teams. The CRCs would also foster capacity at the regional and local level by connecting with affected communities and stakeholders to enable them to translate basic research into actionable science to enhance climate resilience, as well as to identify potential future research opportunities.

UTRC and NYC DOT Partner on Mobility Innovation Projects



The University Transportation Research Center partnered with the New York City Department of Transportation on two transformative transportation initiatives that could revolutionize urban mobility and infrastructure management through advanced artificial intelligence and smart technology solutions. Federal funding was to be \$11.6 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Congestion Relief Grant Program.

NYC DOT was one of seven recipients nationwide to receive funding. "Integrating ITS Systems and Video Analytics for Arterial Traffic Management in Northern Manhattan" is a project that would deploy state-of-the-art traffic management technologies to transform mobility across northern Manhattan's vital arterial routes. It is an innovative system that combines AI-powered video analytics with next-generation traffic signal controllers to create a responsive, intelligent traffic management network that would significantly reduce congestion and enhance safety for all road users.

An additional \$4.4 million in federal funding to NYC DOT was from the Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN) program to pioneer an automated roadway inspection system. This groundbreaking program would integrate dashcam and aerial data with sophisticated artificial intelligence to revolutionize street maintenance, enabling unprecedented efficiency in identifying and addressing infrastructure needs.

"These projects represent a significant step forward in leveraging artificial intelligence and data analytics to address urban transportation challenges," said Camille Kamga, UTRC director and professor in the Grove School of Engineering. "By partnering with NYC DOT on these innovative initiatives, we are not only helping to reduce congestion and improve infrastructure maintenance but also creating a model for smart city solutions that can be replicated across the country. The integration of AI technology

with traditional transportation infrastructure promises to revolutionize how we manage urban mobility and maintain our roadways."

Chair Matthew W. Daus, UTRC Transportation Technology, added: "This is the dawn of a new age, with electric eyes on the street to assist government in doing more with less, and to more quickly address traffic flow and critical repairs."

As one of the earliest University Transportation Centers established by Congress, UTRC has maintained a strong legacy of collaboration with local agencies and industry partners throughout Region 2, with NYC DOT being a particularly vital partner in advancing transportation innovation. UTRC's recognized expertise in data modeling and simulation, combined with its comprehensive educational platform, has been instrumental in driving research, education, and workforce development initiatives that strengthen the transportation sector across our region. This latest collaboration builds upon decades of successful partnership in developing smart transportation solutions for New York City.

NSF \$1M Grant Enables Pipeline for Hispanic and Minority Research-minded Psychologists

The Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership and the Office of Experiential Learning were awarded a three-year, nearly \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation to increase the pipeline of minority psychology researchers.



Robert Melara

The \$986,270 grant program, CUNY Advancement in Undergraduate STEM Education (CAUSE), is a CCNY and Borough of Manhattan Community College initiative. Focused on the field of clinical and translational psychology, CAUSE aims to increase the number of Hispanic, low-income, and other minority students in the fields of clinical and translational psychology.

Psychology is the largest undergraduate major at CCNY, a Hispanic Serving Institution, yet the field remains overwhelmingly White; only eight percent of psychologists in the U.S. workforce were Hispanic, five percent were Black or African-American, and three percent were Asian, the American Psychological Association reported in 2021.

CAUSE would create a pipeline of programs for these populations by expanding its existing partnership with BMCC. That program, Bridges to Baccalaureate, is a two-year scholarship that allows aspiring biomedical and behavioral sciences students to progress to CCNY, where they are able to earn an undergraduate degree in a STEM field. “The general goal is to expose students to research, to retain them, and to build their research identity,” said Chair and Professor of Psychology Robert Melara, who is the grant director and principal investigator of Bridges to Baccalaureate. “This program is designed to reach them earlier in the pipeline so that

they can attain research self-efficacy.”

Each year, 200 students (100 from each of CCNY and BMCC) could participate in a semester-long Learning Community course. Focused on career exploration, the course would include lab visits, an introduction to research culture and processes, and career/soft skills development. The program would be integrated into existing academic offerings as a three-credit course at CCNY, and a one-credit elective at BMCC.

Eighty students, 40 from each institution, would participate in an introduction to research course (Research in Psychology at BMCC and Experimental Psychology at CCNY). Five from each institution would be selected as summer research interns with CCNY faculty.

CAUSE would engage 350 students over four years.

DOE Awards \$2M for RENEW Project to Train Scientists in Extreme Natural

Professor of Civil Engineering Naresh Devineni, a water systems and hydroclimate expert received a \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to develop a holistic research and training program for its RENEW (Reaching a New Energy Sciences Workforce) initiative. The outcome will be to prepare a workforce that can respond to extreme natural hazards.



Naresh Devineni

From the Grove School of Engineering, Devineni will lead the three-year project. Other faculty from CCNY include Te Pei and Hansong Tang from civil engineering, Shakila Merchant from CUNY CREST Institute, Prathap Ramamurthy from mechanical engineering, and James Booth from Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Faculty from Stony Brook University, and scientists from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory are partners. This multidisciplinary group comprises researchers, civil, environmental, and electrical engineers; climate, atmospheric, and ecosystem science experts, as well as specialists in data science, education and workforce training.

The team's goal is a research and training program that will provide CCNY students and early career scientists with opportunities to gain in-depth experience in understanding extreme natural hazards and solving the associated and expanding societal challenges caused by these events.

“The project aims to improve the knowledge of extreme natural hazards by quantifying and understanding the properties of floods, landslides, heatwaves, and multi-hazard impacts in the Greater New York metropolitan area,” said Devineni, noting that it is one of the densest urban regions in the country and home to nearly 25 million people.

“A synergistic approach that blends Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning with traditional computational methods will be used to create more robust, scalable, and dynamic climate-

(Continued on the next page)

informed natural hazard risk management tools for the next generation of energy science workforce,” Devineni added.

The project aims to prepare well-trained graduates and postdoctoral scientists who will become part of the next generation in government, industry, and academia. The trainees will gain the skillsets necessary to immediately contribute to ongoing resilience and adaptation projects in a cost and schedule-driven environment and an increasingly AI-driven workplace.

\$500K Mellon Grant Enables Platform for Stories of South Bronx Environmental Issues



CCNY received a \$490,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to establish a new project at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, “SUSTAIN-NYC: Storytelling for Urban Sustainability and Transformation in New York City.”

This project, a partnership with local environmental justice organization South Bronx Unite, aims to undertake various media projects that document, analyze, and publicize ongoing issues of environmental injustice in the communities of Mott Haven and Port Morris. These communities have been affected disproportionately by these injustices, which include “last-mile” delivery warehouses and associated industrial activities that produce heavy vehicular traffic, as well as the siting of waste management facilities that cause high rates of asthma and other respiratory diseases due to the poor air quality.

The multidisciplinary research team consists of the project’s principal investigator, Assistant Professor of Anthropology Prash Naidu, an expert on environmental justice and community-based participatory action, and two co-principal investigators: Colin Powell School Director of Fellowship Programs and Office of Student Success Deborah Cheng; and Associate Professor of Sociology Yana Kucheva, who researches housing and environmental inequality.

An outgrowth of the project’s efforts will be to imagine a better path forward in both the affected communities and in New York City as a whole. One component is the development of a student fellowship program aimed at nurturing emerging scholars in the environmental humanities. This fellowship is planned to launch in fall 2025, with recruitment of the first cohort to be completed by the end of the spring 2025 semester. These undergraduate research fellowships aim to nurture a stronger and broader cohort of future scholars in the environmental humanities and humanistic social sciences. The project will also entail the co-creation of an interactive digital platform with SBU that will amplify community voices and serve as a resource for advocacy and education. A portal that will allow for

community members’ contributions of their own experiences and their visions of a more just future is one part of the project’s effort to democratize environmental justice knowledge and to empower the next generation of leaders committed to social equity.

The funding for the project commenced on Dec. 1, 2024 and continues through the end of 2027. This formal partnership between CCNY and SBU, the first of its kind, was established by SBU Clean Air Organizer Leslie Vasquez, a 2022 graduate of the Colin Powell School.

Colin Powell School’s Santander Finance Fellowship Extended to 2028



The Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership’s Santander Finance Fellowship has been extended for an additional three years, through 2028, with a grant of \$450,000, a 50 percent increase from the initial three-year grant of \$300,000 in 2021.

This Fellowship was developed to dismantle barriers and level the playing field for students from underrepresented backgrounds who are pursuing careers in banking and financial services. The program equips students with the skills, knowledge, and industry connections needed to thrive in this industry; they receive hands-on financial training, professional mentorship, and networking opportunities with top employers.

Since its inception, the program has grown in size and impact. The grant supports a Finance Bootcamp course, open to all students, which equips them with entry-level finance skills. This course has supported more than 200 students each year for the past three years and serves as a pathway into a special fellowship for outstanding students. The first fellowship cohort supported 12 students, the second supported 14, and the third supported 15. With this renewal, the fellowship will now support 20 students annually, significantly expanding its reach. The \$450,000 grant will be allocated toward student stipends, instruction, and administrative support, providing fellows with all the necessary resources to excel.

Each fellow benefits from a \$5,000 stipend, which allows them to focus on their education and career development. In addition to credit-bearing courses taught by industry experts, students gain access to workshops on professional development and corporate visits, which broaden their career prospects in finance.

Within six months of joining the program, fellows report increased awareness of finance career opportunities, completing essential job application materials, and developing skills vital for entry-level financial analyst roles. Graduates of the program have secured positions at leading firms such as JPMorgan Chase, Accenture, Bank of America, and BNY Mellon, earning competitive salaries and embarking on promising careers in finance.

“The renewal of the Santander Finance Fellowship demonstrates

Santander Bank’s unwavering commitment to fostering access to finance careers for underrepresented students, ultimately helping to build a more inclusive and equitable financial sector,” said Marco Antonio Achón, global head of corporate banking at Santander Corporate & Investment Banking, and a member of the Colin Powell School’s Board of Visitors.

Half Million-dollar Grant Paves Pathway to STEM Graduate Education with CUNY STARS

A three-year, \$500,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation’s Exemplary Pathways to STEM Graduate Program created a CCNY-based program to guide CUNY community college students to CUNY STEM graduate education. The program will be known as “CUNY STEM And Research Scholars Bridge Program,” or CUNY STARS.

The brainchild of Karin A. Block-Cora, professor of Earth and Atmospheric Science in CCNY’s Division of Science, CUNY STARS will be incorporated under the City College Fellowships Program, which is directed by Professor of Iberian and Latin American Cultures Isabel M. Estrada. CCFELL, as it is known, aims to support and retain these students in the STEM pathway to graduate school, and to achieve enduring procedural, institutional, and cultural change. The program will be evaluated for its impact on student career trajectories and self-perception in STEM, as well as cultural change in faculty.

To support the fellows throughout the duration of their involvement, CUNY STARS will provide mentoring by peers, alumni, faculty, and program coordinators. Fellows will have access to a wide network of alumni who are either current CUNY doctoral students or those who hold faculty positions elsewhere in the U.S.

Students will participate in cohort activities for community support, professional development and networking sessions. They will also conduct research-focused curriculum at community colleges before and after transferring to four-year colleges.

Recruitment and selection of the first three cohorts of 10 student fellows (five each from Borough of Manhattan Community College and Queensborough Community College) for September 2025 commenced in April 2025.

“This program would integrate community college students into growth-oriented multi-institutional pathways within the CUNY system to foster their access to graduate education, and to effect systemic change,” said Estrada. “This robust bridge program, designed to support students starting in the last year of community college through their completion at CCNY, should result in at least half of the fellows transferring to CCNY, and at least one quarter enrolling in graduate degree programs.”

“Our community college students come in with the incredible social capital that is very important and contributes a lot to our community,” said Block-Cora. “We need to harness that talent, not just because it’s the right thing, but also because it’s a huge source of our diversity and our identity as CUNY.”

Mother Cabrini \$500K Grant to Incubate Health Leadership Institute

A \$500,000 planning grant awarded by the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation allows The City College of New York to incubate a Health and Opportunity Leadership Institute. HOLI, as it is known, aspires to cultivate a new generation of leaders in public health, medicine, health policy, and public affairs drawn from diverse and historically marginalized communities. This initiative is a response to what residents of these communities witness and experience every day: poor leadership costs lives and livelihoods, while effective leadership enables human flourishing.

In tandem with developing this new generation of leadership, HOLI aims to conceive and advance solutions for some of our most entrenched challenges, such as healthcare affordability, homelessness, child poverty, and racial inequities.



Dave A. Chokshi

HOLI’s founding director is Dr. Dave A. Chokshi, the Sternberg Family Professor of Leadership at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. Chokshi, who served as commissioner of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene at the height of the COVID pandemic, is also senior scholar at the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy.

The first six-month planning phase of the project entails developing a sound business plan through consultation with external experts. The plan will assess the necessary programmatic leadership and operational capacity needed to run the Institute, the staging of its growth, potential partners and funders, and the management of its program financing over time. The remaining grant period will be dedicated to pilot execution of HOLI’s three goals: supporting current health leaders now in thinking big about equity and opportunity; incubating new projects with transformative potential; and developing the next generation of leaders in health for opportunity.

Key to the third goal is anticipated collaboration with the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy, and the CUNY School of Medicine, to strengthen the health professions pipeline.

The initiative will also interface with a new health justice minor and a health justice certificate program based at the Colin Powell School. These programs, available to all CCNY students, build on and complement the Colin Powell School’s other cohort-based public service and leadership development fellowship programs. Prospective opportunities for students include paid internship placements, year-long HOLI fellowships, special courses designed in consultation with HOLI, and intensive mentorship and career advising.

ARCH @ 60 Symposium Made Possible by Grants



The symposium ARCH @ 60: “Bridging Past Visions and Present Realities” celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Architects’ Renewal Committee in Harlem at CCNY’s J Max Bond Center for Urban Futures, Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. The event, which was made possible by grants, took place on Nov. 15-16 at Aaron Davis Hall. It examined the shifts and relative causes in the physical and cultural transformations of Harlem and New York City.

ARCH, established in 1964 by C. Richard Hatch, is recognized as one of the first community design centers in the U.S. ARCH was instrumental in opposing urban renewal projects that threatened to dismantle communities in Harlem. The organization’s interdisciplinary approach, involving architects, planners, advocates, organizers, and educators, was pivotal in addressing the diverse needs of Harlem residents and community-based organizations.

The keynote lecture, "Race, Gentrification and the Financialization of Housing," was given by Seumalu Elora Lee Raymond, assistant professor and director of the Ph.D. program in City & Regional Planning at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

The keynote was co-sponsored by the New York Chapter of the National Organization of Minority Architects; AIANY Diversity and Inclusion Committee was this year’s AIANY J Max Bond, Jr. Lecture.

Three panels were given: “Community Design in Harlem, Then and Now,” “Housing Harlem,” and “125th Street & the Shift of the Private Sector.” J Max Bond Center Director Shawn Rickenbacker moderated.

The symposium served as a forum for critical information and knowledge exchange on community development, gentrification, housing financialization, and the impact of highly evolved market forces. Attending were representatives of Kean University, Swarthmore College, Cornell University, New York University, Bryant Mitchell Architects, Roberta Washington Architects, Community Board 12, Met Council on Housing, APRSNA, Harlem Community Development Corporation, the New York City Planning Commission, Trinity Church Wall Street, Community League of the Heights, and Monadnock Development. They explored the relevance of the nonprofit community design center

model in today’s context, the market forces that shape Harlem’s development, and the roles of policy and activism in supporting the production of affordable housing.

Spitzer School of Architecture Nets Five Independent Projects Grants



Four faculty members and one alumna of the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture received Independent Projects grants from the New York State Council on the Arts in conjunction with the Architectural League of New York.

Each \$10,000 award was granted for a self-generated yearlong project in design practice and research that sought to answer the question of where design can go next. In the 2024 cycle, 25 proposals were selected out of 120 applications by a panel of 10 designers and educators.

The CCNY grant recipients are:

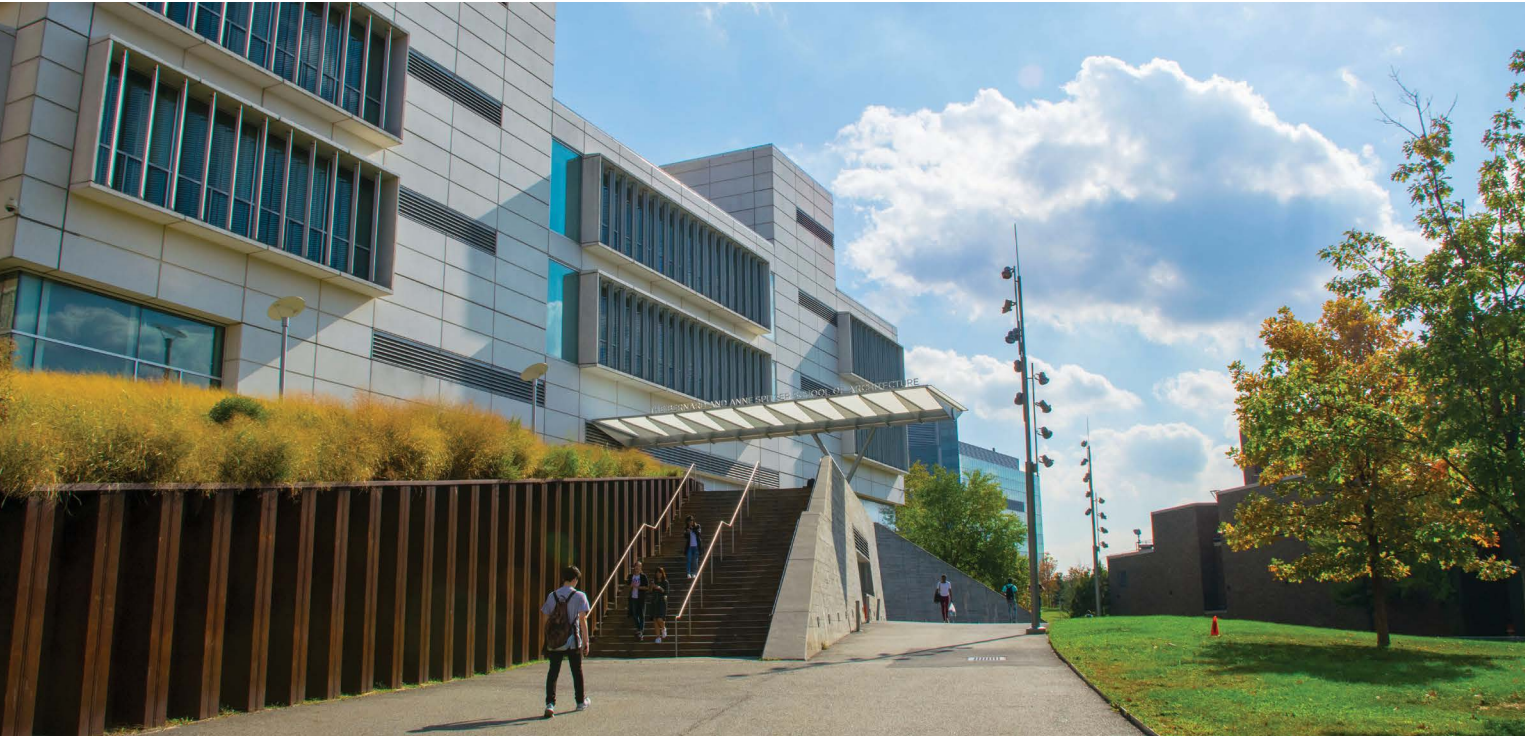
- Assistant Professor and Master of Landscape Architecture Program Director Zihao Zhang, with Shurui Zhang, for “Chinatown is Chinatown; Flushing is China: Defining Chinese Diasporic Urbanism in Emerging Chinatowns”;
- Distinguished Lecturer Cassim Shepard, with Carsten Rodin, for “Self-Help Housing: An Atlas of Agency”;
- Adjunct Associate Professor Suzan Wines, with James Wines and Phillip Denny, for “What Else Could It Mean? Writings and Drawings with James Wines”;
- Adjunct Associate Professor Kaja Kuehl for “The Northeast Biobased Material Atlas.”

In addition to the faculty winners, Christine Facella MLA ’17, an assistant professor of product and industrial design at the Parsons School of Design, received a grant for “Warm, Fuzzy, Toxic: Milkweed Softgoods for the Nomadic New Yorker.”

“This is Spitzer’s best showing in recent memory,” said Dean Marta Gutman. “Winning this grant is a huge honor, a very competitive process.”

BERNARD AND ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

Former Governor Spitzer Named Honorary Chair of Architecture School Board



Eliot Spitzer

Eliot Spitzer, one-time governor and twice-elected attorney general of New York, has been given an honorary chair to the Dean’s Advisory Council of the Architecture School bearing his parents’ names.

“I am delighted to welcome Eliot Spitzer to my Advisory Council,” said Marta Gutman, Spitzer School dean. “Like his parents, he brings a lifelong commitment to public education. As Mr. Spitzer told me, ‘Few things are more important than providing a public, low-cost education to those who want to learn, work, and move all of society forward.’”

Spitzer was born and raised in New York. He graduated from the Horace Mann School, Princeton University, and Harvard Law School, where he was an editor of the “Harvard Law Review.” After clerking for Federal District Court Judge Robert W. Sweet, Spitzer practiced at Paul, Weiss and then joined the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office. While there, he rose to serve as chief of the Labor Racketeering Unit and successfully prosecuted some of the most senior members of the Gambino organized crime family.

After several years in private practice, he was elected attorney general of New York in 1998 and was re-elected in 2002. His prosecutions in the areas of financial fraud, environmental protection and civil rights set a new standard for law enforcement, and in 2002 *Time Magazine* named him “Crusader of the Year.” *60 Minutes* dubbed him the “Sheriff of Wall Street,” and the *Financial Times* named him “Man of the Year.”

He was elected governor of New York in 2006. His administration restructured New York’s educational and healthcare finance systems. Since 2008, he has served as an anchor on CNN’s prime time show *In the Arena*, hosted *Viewpoint with Eliot Spitzer* on Current TV, taught as a professor at CCNY and been a regular contributor to *Slate Magazine*. He now runs Spitzer Enterprises, a real estate development firm founded by his father.

THE BERNARD AND ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE DEAN’S ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Eliot Spitzer, Honorary Chair
- Joseph Fleischer, B.S. ’65, B Arch ’66, co-chair
- Carlos Cardoso, B.S. ’92, co-chair
- Venesa Alicea-Chuqui, B Arch ’05
- John Cetra, B Arch ’76
- Alan Hantman, B.S. ’65, B Arch ’66, MUP ’79
- Edmund Hollander
- Joan Krevlin
- Carol Kurth, B Arch ’81
- Fern Lan Siew, MLA ’15
- Jonathan Marvel
- Nancy Ruddy
- Frank Sciame, B.S. ’74
- Adi Shamir-Baron
- Charles Shorter
- Claire Weiss

Architect Jerome Haferd Receives Major Honors, Launches PMCI Exhibition



Jerome Haferd

Professor and architect Jerome Haferd received two honors, a fellowship from United States Artists and selection by the 2025 U.S. Pavilion to participate in the upcoming Venice Biennale.

The United States Artists fellowship includes 50 artists and collectives in the 2025 USA Fellow cohort. Awardees were chosen based on their groundbreaking artistic visions and unique perspectives within their field. The fellowship is awarded

through a year-long peer-led selection process in the disciplines of Architecture & Design, Craft, Dance, Film, Media, Music, Theater & Performance, Traditional Arts, Visual Art, and Writing. Each awardee receives a \$50,000 unrestricted cash award. Additionally, the Fellows receive access to a variety of professional services and field resources allowing for a deepened impact on their practice and supporting their essential roles in society. Deeply rooted in notions of origin and belonging, the 2025 cohort examines a breadth of lived experiences and cultural histories, engaging their communities in dialogues both past and present while charting paths for their collective futures.

Haferd is founder of Jerome Haferd Studio, an award-winning Harlem-based architecture and design office. Haferd's community-driven practice designs projects nationwide including public artworks and cultural infrastructure. Haferd is one of only 2% of Black licensed architects in the U.S.

In addition to the fellowship, his studio was one of 52 selected to participate in the 2025 U.S. Pavilion at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia. The theme of this year's U.S. pavilion was "Porch: An Architecture of Generosity" which complements the Biennale's theme "Intelligens: Natural. Artificial. Collective." American finalists, individuals and practices from around the country, installed a "window" of a giant porch-like installation around the pavilion in the Giardini at the Biennale. Faculty adjunct member Pedro Cruz Cruz, current B Arch student Gabriel Moyer Perez, and B Arch alumni Violet Greenberg assisted in the Venice installation, which included a series of interviews and a physical installation for the porch "window."

Haferd co-directs the Harlem Place, Memory & Culture Incubator (PMCI) at the Spitzer School. PMCI launched its debut exhibition, "Generative Histories Harlem," in the School's first-floor corridor gallery from Feb.18 to April 10. "Generative Histories Harlem" was designed by Haferd and built and installed by Spitzer students. It showcased student work from PMCI-affiliated design studios and seminars. Woven throughout the exhibit are documents, clips, and other ephemera that index the collaborative relationship with a growing ecosystem of Harlem community partners and interlocutors. Supported by the Mellon Foundation, the PMCI launched in Fall 2023 with the aim to engage culture, history, aesthetics, imagination, and place in Harlem and develop and celebrate interdisciplinary stakeholder collaboration.

Professor Laura Wainer Publishes Collaborative Research, Receives Fellowship



Laura Wainer

In September, the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture published *PATHWAYS TO HOME: Design Solutions for Immigrant-Centered Housing*, which addresses issues of immigration and housing justice in New York City by focusing on the polyglot Jackson Heights section of Queens.

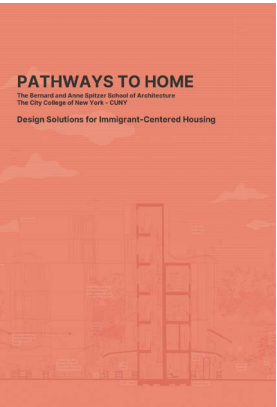
Written by Assistant Professor of Architecture and Urbanism Laura Sara Wainer, recent graduates Valeska Abarca and Lorraine Colbert,

and fifth-year student Juan Jimenez Giraldo, *PATHWAYS TO HOME* is a collection of student projects, research, international case studies, and reflections. It is the result of a two-year collaboration between the Spitzer School and Make The Road New York (MRNY), an immigrant advocacy organization.

Funding was received from CCNY's Experiential Learning Office to produce a publication to serve as an advocacy tool for MRNY to establish a Social Housing Program.

Throughout the two years of observation and study, the CCNY students and faculty, alongside MRNY staff and members, analyzed neighborhood living conditions and housing challenges faced by immigrants, and studied international models and local approaches in detail. These efforts resulted in a series of architectural, urban, and housing projects, innovative proposals for alternative models of affordability, densification, collective action, and production.

The core of the approach taken by the authors is the conviction that design and architecture can generate innovative solutions to address financial, social, and organizational needs and problems, as expressed through three principles: correlating housing justice with spatial justice; promoting an intellectual shift in knowledge by architecture schools; and understanding that outcomes of design thinking possess powerful political narratives.



"*PATHWAYS TO HOME* serves as both an advocacy tool and a call to action, reimagining how an inclusive city might look through the lens of innovative design solutions—ranging from densification, cooperative and co-living models, to intergenerational living, financing strategies, and equitable land access," said Wainer. "The publication argues that housing justice must be intrinsically tied to spatial justice. It asserts that the outcomes of design thinking can carry powerful political narratives, contributing to broader conversations about social equity. We hope to inspire significant political debates within our city, with Spitzer School of Architecture continuing to serve its constituents through a socially engaged practice."

Wainer is the recipient of a fellowship from the newly created

Urban Design Forum Global Exchange. The fellowship, themed "Big Swings," will build bridges between leaders in New York and other cities taking "big swings" at their housing crises.

Born in Argentina, she is known for her academic work on the intersection between housing policy, design politics, and urban governance. She concentrates on housing inequality among migrants in New York City and the nine-month fellowship dovetailed perfectly with her work.

The fellowship included 40 professionals across design, development, policy, law, advocacy and journalism liaising between New York City and peer cities, seeking out cutting-edge projects for inspiration to hard-won lessons.

Wainer developed a seed project, "Mi Casa, Mi Futuro," a collaboration with MRNY. As part of the wider initiative, the fellowship helped Wainer develop a model of community engagement in architecture by integrating local knowledge and bridging the gap between academia, communities, and architectural practice; building capacity for civic leadership by strengthening the skills and abilities of future architects engaged in social well-being and housing justice; and consolidating a research agenda by amplifying the immigrant perspective in public housing debates and reshaping the discourse on housing equity.

Wainer holds a Ph.D. in Urban Sociology from the School of Architecture and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she was a fellow in the Special Program for Urban and Regional Studies in 2016. She earned a master's degree through a Fulbright Scholarship in International Development from The New School and holds a dual B.A. in Architecture and Urbanism from the University of Buenos Aires. She taught at MIT for seven years and has also taught at Harvard and The New School.

Marina Correia Honors Her Mentor, the Late Michael Sorkin



Marina Correia

Adjunct Assistant Professor Marina Correia B Arch '06 is the inaugural Michael Sorkin Visiting Distinguished Lecturer at the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture.

Made possible by an initial gift by Mark A. Willis and Carol A. Willis, the position allows a distinguished senior designer or scholar with expertise in urbanism to spend a semester at the Spitzer School to teach a seminar or studio. The lectureship

is in keeping with the vision of Sorkin (1948-2020), distinguished professor and director emeritus of Spitzer's graduate urban design program, and is intended to encourage conversations about the history of urbanism, and the current problems and potentials of urban environments and architecture.

A practicing architect, activist and scholar in the history and theory of architecture and urbanism, Correia was selected by a committee consisting of Spitzer School Dean Marta Gutman,

Chair and Associate Professor Sean Weiss, and Professor Julio Salcedo-Fernandez, director of the graduate program in urban design.

"She fulfills the mandate of the endowment—to bring a colleague to Spitzer who will introduce new perspectives and diverse talents in keeping with the times and changing demographic of our field," said Gutman. "She is eager to bring her perspective on cities, social justice, and equity to bear on urban design at Spitzer; she is also dedicated to keeping Michael's spirit alive at Spitzer."

Correia first encountered Sorkin in 2006, when she was a fourth-year undergraduate student at the Spitzer School and he was leading an initiative on New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

In the spring 2025 semester, Correia taught a course entitled "Topics in the History of Architecture and the City" offering an overview of foundational urban design topics from the 20th and 21st centuries with a focus on the relationship between urban form and culture. Using Sorkin's seminal essay "The End(s) of Urban Design" as a starting point, Correia led students through a review of authors most strongly associated with Sorkin's viewpoints.

After completing her B Arch at CCNY, Correia earned her master's degree in architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and her doctorate in the history and fundamentals of architecture and urbanism from the University of Sao Paulo. She is the co-founder of Atelier Architecture and Urban Design, and has taught at Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Pratt Institute, and the Rhode Island School of Design.

Seaside Prize Honors Director of Graduate Architecture June Williamson



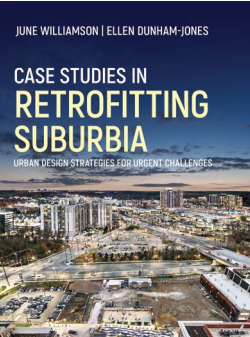
June Williamson

The Seaside Institute presented the 2025 Seaside Prize upon architect and Professor June Williamson and her writing and research partner Professor Ellen Dunham-Jones on Feb. 8. Williamson is director of Graduate Architecture at the Spitzer School of Architecture and Dunham-Jones is director of the master's in urban design at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

The award attests to the tremendous impact the duo have had on the built environment. Co-authors of the groundbreaking "Retrofitting Suburbia" books, for over 20 years they have documented and advocated for successful redevelopment, reinhabitation, and regreening of dead shopping malls, aging office parks and other parking-lot-dominated real estate into more resilient, just, and community-serving places.

Their book, *Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Solutions for Redesigning Suburbs*, won the Association of American Publishers

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a Better Burb, which contextualizes and documents an innovative urban design ideas competition for re-envisioning suburban areas of Long Island.

Their work has been widely featured, including in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, NPR, PBS, and TED. Williamson also serves on the board of directors of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.

Williamson and Dunham-Jones continue to inspire architects, planners, urban designers, developers, and community leaders to retrofit aging, underperforming suburban properties to address urgent challenges, disrupt automobile dependence, improve public health, support an aging society, leverage social capital for equity, compete for jobs, and add water and energy resilience.

The Seaside Prize is an annual award presented by the Seaside Institute to individuals who have made significant contributions to the fields of architecture, urban planning, and community development. The Seaside Institute was founded in 1982 as a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the ideas of community, education, and design. Its roots lay in the iconic town of Seaside, Florida, birthplace of new urbanism, and serves as a collaborative hub for architects, urban planners, and community leaders.

Mumford and Sciamé Lecture Series Tackle Pressing but Thorny Societal Issues



Aimi Hamraie

Aimi Hamraie, the renowned designer, researcher and disability justice organizer, delivered the Lewis Mumford Lecture on March 13. The talk was entitled "Rethinking Livability." Hamraie is associate professor of Medicine, Health, & Society at Vanderbilt University, and director of the Critical Design Lab, an international collaborative of disabled designers, artists, and researchers. Hamraie's scholarship focuses on design, architecture, and urbanism, critical disability studies, and science and technology studies. They are the author of *Building Access: Universal Design and the Politics of Disability*. Hamraie is also presidential appointee to the U.S. Access Board and a 2022 United States Artists Fellow in Media. Hamraie's

PROSE Award for best architecture and planning book of the year. Their second book, *Case Studies in Retrofitting Suburbia: Urban Design Strategies for Urgent Challenges*, won a Great Places Book Award from the Environmental Design Research Association.

Williamson is also the author of *Designing Suburban Futures: New Models from Build*

"Crip Mobility Justice: Ableism and Active Transportation Debates" (International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, 2021) was the basis of the lecture.

"Livability" is often invoked by urbanists and architects in the pursuit of more healthy, sustainable, and economically robust cities. Related to these goals are the imperatives of urban "activation," mobility, and beautification in shaping the "urban good life." But underlying these common sense goals are normative ideas of life itself, particularly what types of embodiment, movement, and activity the built environment ought to promote. Drawn from Hamraie's forthcoming book, *Enlivened City*, the lecture traced ideologies of livability from 20th century urban renewal efforts through contemporary New Urbanism, with a specific focus on what Hamraie terms "urban ableism," an infrastructural preference for ablebodiedness that pervades the imperatives of health, sustainability, and economy. Offering alternatives, Hamraie drew on urban speculative fiction and the work of disabled artists and designers to imagine alterlivability, or conceptions of the "urban good life" grounded in radical forms of accessibility, hospitality, and interdependence.

The talk was part of the spring 2025 Sciamé Lecture Series, "Still Making Space for Gender," featuring trailblazing women and LGBTQIA+ design practitioners, scholars and activists in discussion about the built environment. In the series of lectures, a wide range of topics from aesthetics to health and wellbeing, and from partying to revolution, were discussed by architects, landscape architects, and urban designers who insist that gender must remain in sharp focus if we are to shape equitable and just built environments. Buildings, cities, and landscapes are not only where battles over gender unfurl, but these spaces also foster identities and incite change. While the discourse framing gender morphs and gender identities broadens and becomes more intersectional, the predicament remains the same: the exploitation of and fight for equal rights and equity of opportunities at home and abroad. Achievements are hard-won. In the face of misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and other ingrained expressions of exclusion, they are even rolled back.

During the fall term, the 2024 Sciamé Lecture Series focused on "Design Matters: The Housing Question Revisited," which examined innovative solutions to the global housing crisis. The series situated the contemporary dilemma in the powerful arguments made by Friedrich Engels in the late 1800s. In his revolutionary text, "The Housing Question," Engels argued that the dearth of adequate shelter was an inevitable consequence of the Industrial Revolution. As a result of working-class exploitation endemic to capitalist modernity, the housing crisis was resolvable only by a revolutionary reconstruction of workers' power that would result in the collective ownership of land and the means of production. "Design Matters" inverted Engels's argument, putting design, architecture, and planning first. It expanded his geographic, cultural, and temporal frame to include cities outside of Western Europe, and it probed places damaged by the devastating consequences of war, the climate emergency, and other catastrophes.

All lectures were free, open to the public and held in the Sciamé Auditorium. The Mumford Lecture was initiated by the late Professor Michael Sorkin. The fall and spring Sciamé lecture series are supported by the Spitzer Architecture Fund and the generosity of Frank Sciamé '74, CEO of Sciamé Construction.

Spitzer School Competition Yields Insights Into Design-build



The display pad, which the entire class designed and helped to create. Photo by Fion Li.

A \$51,000 grant to the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture created a competition that provided select fourth- and fifth-year architecture students the opportunity to see a design project through from conception through construction.

The competition, "The Beauty of Block," was sponsored by: Concrete Masonry Checkoff, the industry-funded association of block producers across the United States, which gave \$36,000; Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 1 NY & Long Island & Labor Management Committee, which gave \$10,000; and Associated Brick Mason Contractors of Greater New York, which gave \$5,000. The course, "The Artefactory Lab - Green Wall: Design-Build Concrete Masonry Investigation," was co-taught by Associate Professor Christian Volkmann, the project's manager, and Adjunct Professor Steve Preston.

"I start with a quote from the Austrian architect Adolf Loos: 'The architect is a mason who has learned Latin,'" said Volkmann. "Latin is, of course, aesthetics and design. But an architect cannot do aesthetics and design without knowing about the craft. So, what we are trying to do here is reconnecting the rules of the craft with the rules of design."

Throughout the semester, the fourteen students enrolled in the course followed a curriculum model of a design-build studio involving masonry construction. Each project was reviewed

for constructability by contractors, masons and architects, and revised according to their recommendations.

After six weeks, the most promising proposals were selected by a jury of masons and architects. Then, larger teams of no more than six students each refined the system, producing drawings and mockups for proof of concept. The top two projects were then realized as the last step of the competition.

Concurrent to the competition, the entire class designed and helped to create the 15-foot by 15-foot display pad for which the final walls are constructed on top. Working side-by-side with Local #1 members throughout the semester, the students became more familiar with masonry construction techniques and methods.

Juan Giraldo, B Arch '25, was a fifth-year student on one of the winning teams. He credits the course for deepening what he called his "understanding of how things are put together." He added that the course was important for fourth- and fifth-year students, such as himself, as they pursue career opportunities in design-build.

"Second- and third-year [architecture] students are still learning how to do drawings," he said. "This reflects real life."

Justice Sotomayor Receives 2025 Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award



United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor is the 2025 recipient of the Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award.

The award recognizes individuals who have reached the highest level in their fields, and who embody the leadership values that General Powell, a 1958 graduate of CCNY, demonstrated throughout his career: integrity, humility, humor, pragmatism, and common sense. These values were articulated most famously in Powell’s Thirteen Rules of Leadership, which culminate with “Perpetual optimism is a force multiplier.” These words are memorialized on the award medallion.

In presenting the award to Sotomayor at a ceremony in New York City in April, Linda Powell, chair of the Colin Powell School’s Board of Visitors and the daughter of General Powell, cited Sotomayor’s life story and her professional accomplishments, and lauded her commitment to justice.

“Justice Sotomayor’s journey—marked by perseverance, determination, and an unwavering commitment to justice—paved the way for countless others to follow,” said Powell. “Much like my father, she leads by example, demonstrating that true leadership is about character, service, and making a lasting impact on the world.”

A Bronx native, Justice Sotomayor graduated summa cum laude from Princeton University. She earned her law degree from Yale Law School, where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal. She served as a New York County assistant district attorney and, after leaving government service, made partner at Pavia & Harcourt. She was appointed to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York by President George H.W. Bush in 1991, and to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit by President William J. Clinton in 1997. President Barack Obama appointed her to the Supreme Court in 2009.

In a discussion with Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Maria Hinojosa, Sotomayor addressed the Colin Powell students and young alumni in the room.

“I have the faith that the General had that you will have the power to make a better world than we have,” she said. “That you will figure out from our mistakes what to do in a different way...you show us that there are still young people interested in changing the world.”

The Distinguished Leader Awards event was conceived by Marco Antonio Achón, co-chair of the Colin Powell School’s Board of Visitors and global head of Corporate Banking, Santander Corporate & Investment Banking. The event was made possible through the generous support of Santander.

“Splendor of Silk and Beyond” Brings International Dress to CCNY



The "Splendor of Silk and Beyond," an exhibition organized by the International Museum of the Saree, the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, and the City College Libraries, among others, brings an intriguing illustration of garments and fashionable accessories that span decades, regions, and cultural identities to the Cohen Library Archives Gallery. The collection includes Asian, South American Caribbean and African apparel.

The curators of the exhibition were: Ashvini Persaud of the International Museum of the Saree; Shama Mital of the Colin Powell School; Randy Brozen of the CCNY School of Education; and CCNY Archivist Sydney Van Nort, who heads the City College Division of Archives and Special Collections.

From the alluring sarees of Banaras, Karnataka and South India to the intricately embroidered bridal wear found in Jackson Heights, Richmond Hill, Bellerose and Long Island shopping centers, each piece told a unique story of heritage and craftsmanship. The display included wedding garments, such as contemporary lehengas, sarees, sherwanis, kurtas and headpieces adorned with symbolic accessories such as safa and floral garlands.

An interesting teaser of vintage and cultural sarees from North India, South India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Africa, South America and the Caribbean brought attention to the legacy of traditional and evolving cultural draping styles, and historic fashion designs with contributions from immigrant and diaspora families who hold deep connections to their culture and ancestral roots. These pieces are only a small sampler of geographically sourced pieces complemented by the kimonos and Haroi from Japan.

Newest Leader-in-Residence Brings International Development Expertise



Longtime United Nations executive, international development expert, and educator Jafar Javan joined the Colin Powell School as a Leader-in-Residence on April 1.

As a Leader-in-Residence, Javan will mentor and advise students enrolled in the master's degree program in international relations, and teach a course on Leadership in Global Justice. Javan will also work closely with Colin Powell School leadership on the Nelson Mandela Project for Social Change, which he conceived and helped to launch during his tenure as director of the United Nations Systems Staff College.

“Jafar and I came to know each other last year, when the Colin Powell School became the higher ed anchor for the UNSSC’s Nelson Mandela Project for Social Change, an innovative and timely endeavor to bridge societal polarization,” said Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean Andrew Rich. “Jafar conceived this program for the United Nations, and he has been directing its launch there. We are thrilled that he will be joining us as a leader-in-residence.”

“One of the thrills of working in the Colin Powell School is the ability to work with world-leading professionals like Jafar,” said Associate Professor of Political Science Nicholas Rush Smith, the director of the M.I.A. program. “Having him teach a leadership course for our students will help the master’s program in international affairs achieve our mission of fostering the next generation of global leaders.”

During his more than three-decade career in the United Nations system, Javan specialized in policy formulation for community development, empowerment and social participation, training, and education, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and recovery.

He retired earlier this year as director of UNSSC, where he was previously deputy director and head of programs. He also served as director of policy support and program development for the Bratislava, Slovakia-based United Nations Development Programme’s Regional Development Centre for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

“I am looking forward to being a member of the Colin Powell School community, and to contributing to building a cadre of young leaders who are committed to change through social and political engagement and activism,” said Javan.

Launched in 2023, the Leaders-in-Residence program brings together leaders in their fields who impart their wisdom and experience to Colin Powell students through teaching and mentoring.

Santander Senior Executive Becomes Board of Visitors Co-Chair



Marco Antonio Achón

Marco Antonio Achón, global head of Corporate Banking, Santander Corporate & Investment Banking, became the co-chair of the Colin Powell School Board of Visitors earlier this year. He joined Linda Powell as co-chair of a Board of Visitors with 26 other distinguished members.

“Since joining the Board of Visitors at my dad’s invitation in 2019, Marco Antonio Achón has become an extraordinary leader at

the Colin Powell School,” said Powell. “He has deepened our partnership with Santander, creating pathways for our students to careers in finance, and he has expanded the School’s reach and impact, especially across the business community in New York City. Marco Antonio conceived of our new tradition, the annual Colin L. Powell Distinguished Leadership Award, and he and Santander have made it a reality. I look forward to working more closely with him as co-chair of our Board of Visitors.”

“The Colin Powell School’s mission is to prepare the nation’s most diverse student body to become tomorrow’s global leaders. Marco Antonio Achón believes in this mission to his core, and he is an exceptional leader on our Board of Visitors,” said Andrew Rich, former Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean. “His vision, enthusiasm, and energy have been transformative for the School during my time as dean, and I am thrilled that he will join Linda Powell as co-chair of our Board of Visitors.”

“When General Powell invited me to join the Board of Visitors in 2019, I said yes without hesitation because of my respect and admiration for him. In the years since, I have come to appreciate the essential role of the Colin Powell School in developing new leaders for New York City and our world,” said Achón. “Our students come from all over the world and from every background with a determination to make a difference, and the school sets them on a firm path to success. It is an honor to join Linda Powell as co-chair of our Board of Visitors.”

“The Colin Powell School has always benefited from strong support by an extremely active board. Marco Antonio Achón represents the very finest example of this support and we are thrilled he will be working alongside Linda Powell to guide the Colin Powell School through its next chapter,” said President Vince Boudreau.

The Colin Powell School’s Board of Visitors helps to support the School’s strategic direction and philanthropic initiatives.

AccountAbility CEO Joins Board of Visitors

AccountAbility Chief Executive Officer Sunil A. (Sunny) Misser



Sunil A. Misser

is the newest member of the Board of Visitors, joining 24 other distinguished Board members.

Prior to joining AccountAbility, a global consulting and standards firm, Misser served as the global managing partner for the Sustainability Advisory Business at PricewaterhouseCoopers, where he led the firm’s sustainability and corporate governance efforts worldwide. Earlier, he held the role of global strategy leader for PwC’s Assurance and Business Advisory Services, which encompassed the firm’s accounting, risk management, and consulting operations. He also led the New York Metro Governance, Risk, and Compliance practice.

“It is a distinguished honor to join the Board of Visitors of the Colin Powell School, an institution that exemplifies excellence, integrity, and leadership,” said Misser. “As someone who believes deeply in the transformative power of education, I am inspired by the School’s mission, its faculty and by the remarkable students who bring it to life.”

Earlier this year, AccountAbility launched a partnership with the Colin Powell School through the AccountAbility Sustainability ‘S’ Lab, “a collaboration grounded in our shared commitment to developing ethical, capable, and resilient leaders,” he said. Launching in fall 2025, the initiative will equip students with the knowledge, tools, and experiences to excel as the next generation of sustainability and business leaders.

“We are grateful to Sunny and to AccountAbility for their vision and partnership in supporting our students to become leaders in ESG and sustainability, and we know that he will bring deep and valuable leadership to our Board,” said Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean Andrew Rich.

“Through the development of the S Lab, we recognized Sunny’s affinity for the Powell School’s mission and his passionate commitment to our students’ success,” said Board of Visitors Co-Chair Linda Powell. “We are thrilled to welcome him as the newest member of the Board.”

“I have known Sunny for many years, and I know that he will greatly enhance our efforts to set Colin Powell School students on a firm path to success as they endeavor to make a positive impact on our society,” said Board of Visitors Co-Chair Marco Antonio Achón.

Misser earned his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from M.S. University and his master’s degree in mechanical engineering from Lehigh University’s College of Engineering and Applied Science (now the P.C. Rossin College of Engineering and Applied Science).

CCNY partners with UN System Staff College on Nelson Mandela Project

CCNY and the United Nations System Staff College agreed to partner on the Nelson Mandela Project for Social Change, a pioneering initiative aimed at bridging social and political divides



Andrew Rich, former Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean with Richard Stengel, and the UNSSC’s Simona Costanzo Sow and Jafar Javan, at the MOU signing ceremony on Sept. 19.

by developing new generations of leaders across the globe. The agreement is a key component of a memorandum of understanding signed by President Boudreau, Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean Andrew Rich, and UNSSC Director Jafar Javan on Sept. 19.

The MOU envisions collaboration between the two institutions on joint research projects, the sharing of knowledge and expertise, and designing globally focused training and learning activities around leadership, as well as leadership development programs, internships, academic exchanges and public forums. The Nelson Mandela Project for Social Change is also being created in collaboration with the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg, a non-profit that is the primary custodian of Mandela’s name and legacy. A member of the Foundation will be on the Project’s advisory board.

The philosophy of the Nelson Mandela Project for Social Change is anchored in Nelson Mandela’s fundamental leadership insights: promoting a culture of values-based and adaptive leadership, resilience, and empathy, and reflecting a determination to create a genuine and safe dialogue space to foster social change.

At CCNY, the project will be based in the Colin Powell School and led by Richard Stengel, the undersecretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs during the Obama Administration, and a former editor of *TIME* magazine. In the 1990s, he collaborated with Mandela on South Africa’s best selling-autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*. That experience was the basis for Stengel’s *New York Times* bestseller, *Mandela’s Way*. The many hours of taped interviews from that time were the foundation of Stengel’s award-winning 10-part audiobook, *Mandela: The Lost Tapes*.

Colin Powell School Establishes Bloomberg Lab

The Economics and Business Department received an investment to establish the Bloomberg Lab at CCNY. The new lab, located in the Tech Center on the first floor in CCNY’s Cohen Library in the North Academic Building, will

feature 12 Bloomberg Terminals©. It is made possible in part by a generous donation by Liz Weikes, a managing director at J.P. Morgan Wealth Management and a member of the Colin Powell School’s Board of Visitors.

“Bloomberg Terminals© are part of the lifeblood of finance and business today,” said Weikes. “Our students’ professional success requires that they become experts in how to use them. I am thrilled to be able to help bring them to our students at the Colin Powell School and CCNY.”



Liz Weikes

In addition to Weikes’s donation, the terminals are supported by educational innovation funds from the City University of New York. The Bloomberg Lab moves CCNY closer to its goal of launching an undergraduate degree in business administration in 2025. The new BBA degree will offer three tracks: finance, management, and entrepreneurship. The finance track’s curriculum will be comparable to what is offered at other CUNY colleges with Bloomberg Labs, including Baruch, Brooklyn, and Lehman.

In the meantime, CCNY continues to develop and expand its finance program, which offered five new finance courses in spring 2023, and hired faculty with experience in both academia and the private sector. Many of the program’s new courses will rely on the Bloomberg Lab to train students.

The Bloomberg Lab is central to the finance program’s ambitions, said its Director Paul D. Clifford, a lecturer in economics and business who previously worked in the financial sector.

“The Bloomberg Terminal© is an integral tool within the finance industry that is used to access, compile and analyze financial information,” he said. “Most of the finance courses which form the new program will entail financial and data analysis and involve experiential learning using Bloomberg Terminals©. Hence, the need to secure a Bloomberg Terminal© Lab to ensure the new degree’s finance track was fit for purpose and able to deliver the optimal pedagogical outcomes for students.”

Neuroscientist Edward Vessel Studies How the Brain Perceives Feeling



Edward Vessel

How the brain feels about the world around it is the subject of a paper published in PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences), co-authored by Eugene Surowitz Assistant Professor of Computational Cognitive Neuroscience Edward A. Vessel of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership.

The study, “The Perceptual Primacy of Feeling: Affectless machine vision models explain a majority of variance in human visually evoked affect,” sought insight into the link between perceptual processes and affective (emotional) responses.

To predict human affective responses to a diverse set of natural images, the researchers employed machine learning models trained to categorize the content of images – “visual machines” that only see and cannot feel, as Vessel explained it. “These systems are tuned to understand the world by mimicking human perception,” he said. “They are good at perception because they are good models for how our brains take in information.”

“When you look at something, your brain compares it to the vast, structured knowledge about the world that each of us accumulate over a lifetime of seeing: Is it familiar? Is it unique? Do I understand it?” the authors wrote. “Since we can’t directly measure a person’s internal visual knowledge, we used machine learning models as stand-ins.”

Their results showed that this perceptual process is enough to predict many of our affective responses, such as whether one finds an object beautiful, positive or negative, or arousing.

“A lot of affect may be less ‘emotional’ than we think it is,” said Vessel, suggesting that perceptual processes, which are built on rich sensory experiences, may shape what we feel about the world around us far more than many psychological theories suggest. Their findings have direct implications for artificial intelligence and machine learning, and could lead to new ideas for how such systems could learn.

Vessel’s research group, the Visual NeuroAesthetics Lab, uses behavior, brain imaging and computation to study the psychological and neural basis of aesthetic experiences, creative insight and curiosity.

Colin Powell School Names Social Mobility Lab Research Grant Recipients

The Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership announced its inaugural cohort of 13 Social Mobility Lab research grantees in September 2024.

The Social Mobility Lab’s mission is to discover new ways to



The 2025 cohort of grantees includes six innovative research projects led by 11 scholars from institutions across the country.

accelerate and expand opportunity for students and the communities they represent. Its approach is to learn more about what is driving social mobility, translate that knowledge into programs and practices to help students move up in life, and to engage the people and communities who can most benefit from this work.

The grantees will explore questions that reflect the lived experience of those the Lab seeks to help in their journey to a better life. They will also explore questions about how higher education delivers on its promise as an engine of social mobility.

Selected following a CUNY-wide competitive call for proposals, the 2024 grant recipients represent an interdisciplinary group of scholars dedicated to advancing social mobility through innovative research.

In addition to their research projects, grant recipients were invited to participate in discussions and activities aimed at enhancing the translational impact of their research. In spring 2025, the grantees shared their findings with students, faculty, administrators and staff in a workshop that considered their potential applications to improving student mobility.



“The Social Mobility Lab is an important new initiative for the Colin Powell School and beautifully aligned with our mission. We are pleased to be able to support the work and voices of faculty and doctoral students across CUNY,” said Richard J. Henley and Susan L. Davis Dean Andrew Rich. “We look forward to promoting the research of our grant recipients, and to the important contributions they will make towards understanding higher education’s role in advancing social mobility in the U.S.”

“We believe the only reason to study social mobility is to create more of it,” said the Lab’s acting director, Bob McKinnon. “We’re so excited by the possibilities of the Lab in general, and specifically the learning that comes from this first round of grants to do just that.”

CUNY DSI’s New Mural Program to Uplift Washington Heights



Ramona Hernández

The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute launched a one-year program to bring new art mural projects to Washington Heights. CUNY DSI aims to create vibrant, visually appealing spaces in areas greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, fostering community pride and contributing to revitalizing the urban environment.

The mural project is funded by a grant of nearly \$400,000 from New York-Presbyterian’s Northern Manhattan Recovery Fund, which was established in 2020 in collaboration with U.S. Rep. Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y.) to help the community recover from the pandemic.

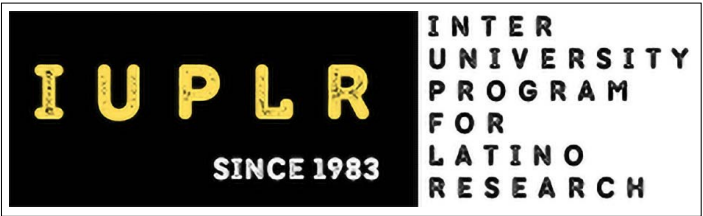
CUNY DSI invited local artists and residents of Washington Heights to take part in the creative process, with the aim of promoting social engagement and strengthening social bonds weakened by prolonged isolation during the pandemic. Artists from the neighborhoods where the murals will be placed or who have a connection to the community are encouraged to participate. The completed murals will provide a platform for diverse cultural narratives, reinforcing community identity and resilience.

“This project is a testament that public art initiatives are not decorative but essential for economic stimulation, social cohesion, and the overall revitalization of our communities,” said CUNY DSI Director Ramona Hernández. “The murals will grace the walls of Washington Heights, a neighborhood that has long been the home of immigrants, in particular the Dominican and the Latino/a/x communities, which have played a central role in the making of New York City since the arrival of Dominican Juan Rodriguez in 1613. The collaboration between CUNY DSI and NewYork-Presbyterian is founded on a deep mutual recognition and commitment to supporting these communities as they move forward.”

Hernández added that such programs are crucial to address the effects of COVID-19 through beautification and social engagement. “I am grateful to NewYork-Presbyterian for supporting our efforts to link the academic work of the Institute with the needs of the community through this innovative community-based program,” she said.

“NewYork-Presbyterian is delighted to support this mural program with the CUNY Dominican Studies Institute to provide uplifting art for community members to enjoy,” said Anne Sperling, vice president of Government and Community Affairs at NewYork-Presbyterian.

CUNY DSI Leads National Latino Research Consortium



The CUNY Dominican Studies Institute is the new headquarters of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research, the first national consortium dedicated to Latino research in the U.S.

Founded in 1983, IUPLR, as it is known, includes 20 member institutions committed to advancing the intellectual presence and scholarship of Latino studies across disciplines and communities. A hub for interdisciplinary collaboration, IUPLR serves as a catalyst for producing and disseminating groundbreaking research and new frameworks in Latino studies.

Member institutions have access to a network of scholars and universities, opportunities to showcase their work on national and international platforms, and the ability to collaborate through interdisciplinary working groups and public initiatives.

Establishing IUPLR’s headquarters in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, where CUNY DSI resides, acknowledges CUNY DSI’s decades of leadership and innovation in research, public scholarship, and academic programming in the field of Latino Studies, said CUNY DSI Director Ramona Hernández.

“IUPLR’s network offers a unique opportunity to expand the reach of CCNY and CUNY’s research initiatives in Latino studies,” said Hernández, who is also the executive director of IUPLR. “We are at a pivotal moment, one that calls for reinvigorating our communities through programs that have proven effective, as well as innovations that will further consolidate the field by emphasizing the integration of methodological and scientific approaches to understanding the histories and present realities of our peoples.”

“The DSI has always provided a venue for an important combination of preservation and archival work, research, and community engagement,” said President Vince Boudreau. “Bringing IUPLR to the Dominican Studies Institute both enhances its research capacity and underscores its existing reputation and resources as a center for serious research. Connecting our expertise in the Dominican experience with that of other centers of Latino research around the country is an important next step for our work, and for the discipline itself.”

Among its core programs, IUPLR supports Siglo XXI, a biennial national forum that brings together faculty, researchers, and graduate students to examine the impact of pressing national issues on Latino/a/x populations. This year’s conference, to be held in October at the University of Nevada, Reno, is dedicated to Gilberto Cárdenas, the co-founder and former executive director of IUPLR.

Esports: a Valuable Platform for Students



Director Nicholas Fortugno has promoted the development of student clubs to increase participation by “gamers” at the college. Currently there are three active clubs: the CCNY esports club, the digital game development student club and a chapter of EGD Collective. In particular, the esports team is an effective marketing tool to attract new students. In recent years, the multi-billion-dollar esports industry has gained increasing popularity in NYC.

In August 2024, the CCNY Esports Team competed in a Valorant tournament against five other CUNY schools at OS NYC, one of the city’s fastest growing esports venues. After competing in several brackets against teams from Hostos Community College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Baruch College, Hunter College, and Brooklyn College, the City College Beavers won the Grand Finals. In-person, the event drew 80 people with over 2,000 views of it streamed live on their Twitch page @CCNYEsports.

New B.S. Degree in Digital Game Development Debuts Fall 2025



Director of the Digital Game Development Program Nicholas Fortugno awards graduate students, from the Urban Arts Program, the “Most Anticipated Game of Unreleased Games Arcade 2025” at the Unreleased Games Arcade (UGA).

The Bachelor of Science in Digital Game Development in the Division of Science will admit its first cohort of students this fall. The new degree program is a collaboration between CCNY, the Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, Urban Arts, and Science Arts Engagement New York’s Harlem Gallery of Science.

“Three years after an announcement was made declaring a \$2 million investment by the City of New York towards the creation of a Digital Games Bachelor degree at CCNY, we are thrilled to say alongside our partners at Urban Arts and Harlem Gallery of Science that the first cohort will be admitted this fall,” said Commissioner of the NYC Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment Pat Swinney Kaufman.

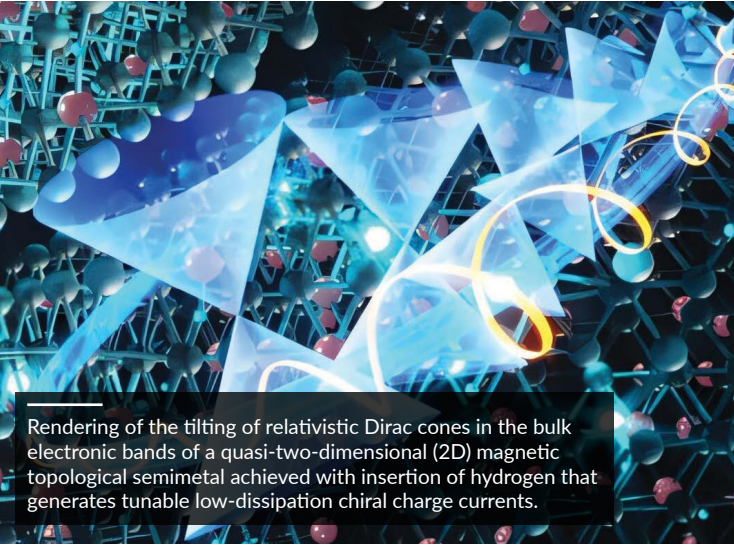
CCNY offered its first two courses in digital game development in 2022. By the spring 2024 semester, 432 unique CCNY/CUNY students had taken one or more digital game development courses, earning over 2,000 college credits. Over 90% of these students were students of color. They expect to begin fall 2025 with between 60-70 majors, a combination of current CCNY students who have already taken courses in the program and incoming freshmen who elect to major in digital game development. Students take courses in game design, game programming, game visual design, and game production techniques.

“The Digital Game Development major provides students with a foundation in the three main disciplines in game development: game design, programming, and digital art production,” said Nicholas Fortugno, director of the Digital Game Development Program, and co-founder of gaming company Playmatics. “With that basis, students join teams to build game projects in studio classes, focusing on the specialization of their choice and learning critical teamwork and producing skills.”

Classrooms are equipped with custom-built Alienware PCs with access to top-performing development tools, like Unity Engine, Unreal Engine, Blender, Maya and Adobe Photoshop, as well as access to more than 50 critically-acclaimed AAA games from mid-sized and major publishers.

High school students in Urban Arts, a program that teaches digital game design as a pathway to college and career, can take approved courses through CCNY’s College Now earning them college credits toward this degree. CCNY is also partnered with Hostos Community College so that students can transfer several credits from their two-year Associate of Applied Science in Game Design to the new degree.

Quantum Breakthrough May Lead to Sustainable Chiral Spintronics



Rendering of the tilting of relativistic Dirac cones in the bulk electronic bands of a quasi-two-dimensional (2D) magnetic topological semimetal achieved with insertion of hydrogen that generates tunable low-dissipation chiral charge currents.

A team of physicists led by Professor Lia Krusin-Elbaum has developed a novel technique that uses hydrogen cations (H+) to manipulate relativistic electronic band structures in a magnetic Weyl semimetal—a topological material where electrons mimic massless particles called Weyl fermions. These particles are distinguished by their chirality or “handedness” linked to their spin and momentum.

In the magnetic material MnSb₂Te₄, researchers unveiled a fascinating ability to “tune” and enhance the chirality of electronic transport by introducing hydrogen ions, reshaping on-demand the energy landscapes—called Weyl nodes—within the material. This finding could open a breadth of new quantum device platforms for harnessing emergent topological states for novel chiral nano-spintronics and fault-tolerant quantum computing. Entitled “Transport chirality generated by a tunable tilt of Weyl nodes in a van der Waals topological magnet,” the study appears in the journal *Nature Communications*.

The tuning of Weyl nodes with H+ heals the system’s (Mn-Te) bond disorder and lowers the internode scattering. In this process—which The City College team tests in the Krusin Lab using angularly-resolved electrical transport—electrical charges move differently when the in-plane magnetic field is rotated clockwise or counterclockwise, generating desirable low-dissipation currents. The reshaped Weyl states feature a doubled Curie temperature and a strong angular transport chirality synchronous with a rare field-antisymmetric longitudinal resistance—a low-field tunable chiral switch that is rooted in the interplay of topological Berry curvature, chiral anomaly and a hydrogen-mediated form of Weyl nodes.

“The major advance of this work is enlarging the breadth of designer topological quantum materials beyond nature’s blueprint. Tunable topological band structures facilitated by hydrogen or other light elements through defect-related pathways expand the availability of accessible platforms for exploring and harnessing topological phases with stunning macroscopic behaviors, opening a path to a potentially disruptive chirality-based implementations in future quantum devices,” said Krusin-Elbaum.

The research in the Krusin Lab centers on exploring novel quantum phenomena. 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. The research is supported in part by the National Science Foundation.

Noted Researcher Jo Handelsman Delivers Cosloy-Blank Lecture



Jo Handelsman

Pioneering microbiologist Jo Handelsman presented the Ninth Annual Sharon Cosloy-Edward Blank Family Distinguished Scientist Lecture on Dec. 4 at the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center on campus. Her talk was entitled “Finding Thor’s Hammer: Multiomics search for the driver of microbiome function.” It was free and open to the public.

Handelsman is the director of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery (WID) and a Vilas Research Professor and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She joined the faculty at UW-Madison in 1985 where she served for 25 years before moving to Yale University in 2010.

From 2014 to 2017, Handelsman served as a science advisor to President Barack Obama in her role as Associate Director for Science in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. After leaving the White House, Handelsman returned to UW-Madison where she continues to work on national policy as well as direct WID and pursue her own research on the soil and human microbiomes. In 2021 Handelsman published *A World Without Soil*, a book that presents the soil erosion crisis and policy recommendations to avert it.

Her research seeks to understand how microorganisms cooperate with and antagonize each other. She is known for pioneering the field of functional metagenomics. Handelsman has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the National Academy of Inventors. She received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring from President Obama in 2011.

The Sharon Cosloy-Edward Blank Distinguished Scientist Lectureship was created by Dr. Sharon Cosloy, a member of the City College biology faculty for 27 years who served as chair of the biology department for six years. She was a beloved mentor, educator, wife and mother and a passionate investigator of life and science. The Lectureship is regarded as the preeminent scientific talk on campus. The City College of New York is grateful to Edward Blank and his family for their generous support.

Former Dean Elected to the American Association for the Advancement of Science



Susan Perkins

Dr. Susan L. Perkins, the former Martin & Michele Cohen Dean of Science, is one of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's 2025 Fellows. Dating back to 1874, the honor is bestowed upon AAAS members

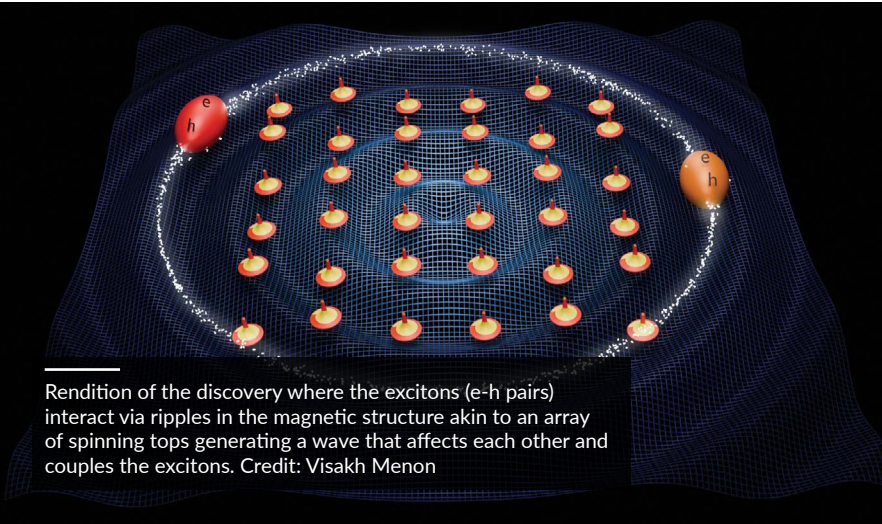
by their peers because of their scientifically or socially distinguished efforts to advance science or its applications. Fellows are deliberately and carefully elected to preserve the honor attached to this recognition. Perkins and the other Fellows were recognized during the annual Fellows Forum June 7 in Washington, D.C.

The AAAS Council cited Perkins "for distinguished scientific contributions in the fields of evolutionary biology and parasitology as well as for advancing scientific knowledge in the public through education, outreach, and administration."

A microbiologist with expertise on protozoan parasites that cause malaria, Perkins became dean in January 2020. Her tenure was marked by her keen focus on student success, commitment to research, and building community. Funded research in the Division of Science grew under her tenure and reached \$100 million. Perkins was a driving force behind the new B.S. in Digital Game Development, and in bringing the Post Bac Health Professions program to fruition which prepares students to go into the health professions despite having studied other subjects. She also continued with her own research and taught classes in parasitology and disease and history.

AAAS is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal *Science*. It was founded in 1848 and includes nearly 250 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals.

Physicists Uncover Electronic Interactions Mediated Via Spin Waves



Groundbreaking research by physicist Vinod Menon and his team at the Laboratory for Nano and Micro Photonics (LaNMP) are being credited for a novel discovery regarding the interaction of electronic excitations via spin waves. The finding could open the door to future technologies and advanced applications such as optical modulators, all-optical logic gates, and quantum transducers. The work is reported in the journal *Nature Materials*.

The researchers showed the emergence of interaction between electronic excitations (excitons—electron hole pairs) mediated via spin waves in atomically thin (2D) magnets. They demonstrated that the excitons can interact indirectly through magnons (spin waves), which are like ripples or waves in the 2D material's magnetic structure.

"Think of magnons as tiny flip-flops of atomic magnets inside the crystal. One exciton changes the local magnetism, and that change then influences another exciton nearby. It's like two floating objects pulling toward each other by disturbing water waves around them," said Menon.

To demonstrate this, the Menon group utilized a magnetic semiconductor, CrSBr, which the group had previously shown to host strong light-matter interaction (*Nature*, 2023).

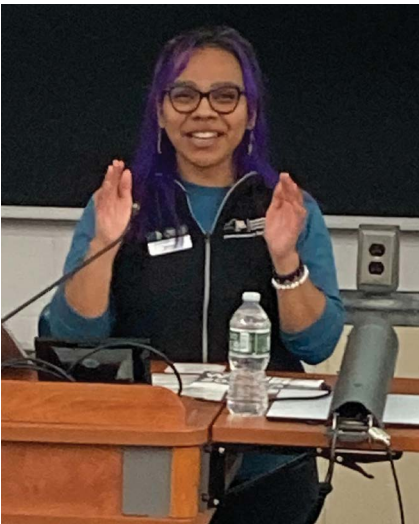
Post-doctoral fellows Biswajit Datta and Pratap Chandra Adak led the research along with graduate students Sichao Yu and Agneya Dharmapalan in collaboration with the groups at the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center, University of Chemistry and Technology–Prague, RPTU–Kaiserslautern, Germany and NREL, U.S.

"What is especially exciting about this discovery is that the interaction between excitons can be controlled externally using a magnetic field, thanks to the tunable magnetism of 2D materials. That means we can effectively switch the interaction on or off, which is hard to do with other types of interactions," said Datta.

"One particularly exciting application enabled by this discovery is in the development of quantum transducers—devices that convert quantum signals from one frequency to another, such as from microwave to optical. These are key components for building quantum computers and enabling the quantum internet," said Adak, another lead author of this work.

The work was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy–Office of Basic Energy Sciences, The Army Research Office, The National Science Foundation and The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

STEM Educators Discuss Career Opportunities at School of Education Panel



Marieke Bender

Professionals from scientific and educational organizations shared their insights and experiences on a Science Engagement Career Panel, coordinated by the Science Learning and Public Engagement major in the School of Education.

Displaying a photo of herself as a toddler on the beach, Marieke Bender, an environmental educator at the Battery Park City

Authority, acknowledged growing up as a "huge nature nerd" who wanted to work outside, so she studied environmental science. Marrying her love of the outdoors with her interest in New York City history, Bender eventually became a tour guide at Central Park. In her current position, she leads nature outings and field trips for diverse audiences, and creates lesson plans and design curricula for multiple programs. She also noted that she is looking to hire a seasonal team of educators.

The renowned mathematician and retired professor Chaim Goodman-Strauss, who is now the outreach mathematician for the National Museum of Mathematics, said that MoMath, as it is known, "offers exciting programs for undergraduates and recent graduates passionate about mathematics." Among them are: the Real Operational Outreach Training (ROOT) summer program for undergraduates majoring in math or a related field; the Exponent Fellowship for graduating math majors seeking professional experience in math outreach and education; and the Centroid Fellowship for graduating math or STEM majors interested in museum administration, and the intersection of math and education.

Mayra Sanchez, an environmental educator at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, graduated from Hunter College with a dual degree in chemistry and environmental science, focusing on earth science systems. She then worked at the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center before becoming a program manager and lead educator for the City Parks Foundation's CityParks Green Girls program for girls and gender nonconforming students. She is also a member of the NASA Earth to Sky program's Team New York City, serving as an informal educator in the city's metropolitan area.

The event was co-sponsored by the City College Academy for Professional Preparation, the City College Initiative to Promote Academic Success in STEM, and the Division of Science and its Biology Department.

Educational Psychologist Nicole Lorenzetti Researches How Teachers Think About Classroom Behaviors



Nicole Lorenzetti

Teacher preparation programs should provide all teacher education students with appropriate training in recognizing and supporting mental health concerns so that they are able to recognize needs for mental health services referral. This is the argument that Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology Nicole Lorenzetti presented to the American Education Research Association's 2025 annual meeting.

Lorenzetti, who also directs the Program in Special Education, presented "It's Just Who He Is: Mindsets of Teacher Education Students and Student Disciplinary Referral," her preliminary findings for a full paper currently under review by the journal *Social Psychology of Education*.

The upcoming paper was prompted by research that Lorenzetti conducted for her most recent study, "Teachers Education Students' Classroom Disciplinary Decisions for Students Exhibiting Internalizing and Externalizing Behaviors," published in *Voices of Reform* last year. Her analysis of the relevant data yielded insights into teacher education students' own beliefs about personality influence. Those beliefs determined how they decide between removing a disruptive student from the classroom for discipline or keeping the student in the classroom to work through the behavior, she found.

Participants in the original study were more likely to refer students displaying internalization symptoms (such as social withdrawal, self-blame, rumination, and anxiety) to the school psychologist. They were also more likely to address externalizing behavior (such as aggression, bullying, conduct problems, inattention, hyperactivity, and defiance) as opposed to internalizing behavior.

These conclusions were reached after analyzing answers to a series of questions posed to participants in a teacher preparation program. The questions regarded disciplinary decisions for each of eight vignettes based on four child pathology diagnostic categories.

"If teachers are at the forefront of recognizing disorders that underlie behavioral issues and they are responsible for recommending students to school administration for exclusionary discipline, it is vital that teachers receive training early to address biases they have around internalizing and externalizing disorders as well as to recognize when students should be referred for services as opposed to receiving exclusionary discipline," wrote Lorenzetti. "This study contributes to this line of investigation by examining how teacher education students make classroom disciplinary decisions about common but disruptive classroom behavioral issues that are related to internalizing and externalizing behaviors."

CUNY-IIE Policy Brief Tackles Issues of Immigrant Students' Educational Equity

ENHANCING EDUCATIONAL EQUITY FOR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS IN NEW YORK STATE



POLICY BRIEF

TAMARA ALSACE AND RACHEL DUFF

JULY 2024

The brief's policy recommendations focus on three key areas concerning equitable access to education for immigrant and undocumented youth.

The City University of New York - Initiative on Immigration and Education (CUNY-IIE) at The City College of New York has released a policy brief that addresses the pertinent issue of Enhancing Educational Equity for Immigrant Students in New York State.

Authored by CUNY-IIE team members Tamara Alsace and Rachel Duff, the brief outlines policy recommendations to achieve equitable access to education for immigrant and undocumented youth. The recommendations focus on three key areas: developing pathways to careers in education for undocumented aspiring educators; fostering educator and leader knowledge and skills around immigration issues and the education of immigrant students; and creating in-school support for immigrant students. Each section provided an overview of the issues, potential solutions, and implementation strategies.

Overall, the policy brief's broad recommendations encompass pathways for undocumented educators, pre-service and in-service educator and leader training and preparation, and in-school support for students. These recommendations serve the overarching purpose of creating inclusive environments, strong school-family-community partnerships, and raising awareness about immigrant rights. Schools should also provide mental health services and promote youth agency, the brief advocated.

These recommendations were developed by the CUNY-IIE Policy

Team based on research and experience. The team included various focus areas of CUNY-IIE's work over four years, encompassing Partner Schools, UndocuEdu, ImmLiaison, and Continuing Teacher and Leader Education, representing current research as well as information gathered in the field.

"This policy brief is the result of countless hours of work with and collaboration between advocates, educators, scholars, immigrant children and youth, and families," said Dean Edwin M. Lamboy. "The CUNY-IIE team is deeply committed to raising awareness about issues that impact the educational experience of immigrants in New York State, and this work is a significant step in that direction. The brief also pushes for the creation of pathways for undocumented educators to work as teachers in the state, a measure that would help address the current teacher shortage crisis. I strongly support this recommendation."

"As the incoming administration threatens the rights of immigrants, it is critical for state and local elected officials, as well as educational institutions and agencies, to implement policies that will guarantee equal access to PK-12 schools and universities for all students, regardless of immigration status," said Daniela Alulema, CUNY-IIE's project director. "At the same time, we must provide educators with resources and training to foster inclusive and welcoming schools that embrace immigrant, refugee, asylum-seeking and undocumented students."

Rafael Cruz, NYC Park Ranger and Science Ed Grad, Prepares to Educate the World



Rafael Cruz

Before he became a New York City Park Ranger, Rafael Cruz knew that he wanted to be an environmental conservation educator, but was unsure how to channel that ambition when he first enrolled at CCNY as an undeclared major. Then, he had a chance encounter with Yael Wyner, an associate professor at the School of Education.

The director of SoE's science education program, Wyner suggested to Cruz that he consider enrolling in the School's Science Learning and Public Education major, which was established in 2021 to prepare students for a range of STEM education careers.

"I wanted to become a park ranger and an educator," said Cruz. "Yael said that the degree deals with informal science education, which is any form of education not in a school, so I switched. I love the major itself."

A former STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) educator at CCNY, and a former Museum Education Experience Program intern at the American Museum of Natural History, Cruz interned as a nature adventure guide for the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation for three summers before becoming a full time ranger in August 2024.

"My role involves preserving wildlife habitats, educating the public on environmental stewardship, and ensuring the safety and enjoyment of all park visitors," he said. "With a strong foundation in ecology and a passion for community engagement, I work to maintain the ecological balance of the city's green spaces while promoting sustainability and conservation."

To complete his degree requirements while maintaining his full time job, Cruz took advantage of the department's option to allow rangers to work a compressed schedule of 10 hours a day, four days a week. That enabled him to attend classes on Thursdays and Fridays, and to study on Saturdays.

Cruz plans to commence a master's degree in biology, education and conservation related fields through Project Dragonfly, a program at Miami University in Ohio in partnership with the Bronx Zoo. Once he completes his master's degree, Cruz may continue to work for Parks & Recreation, building curricula for park rangers, or he may choose to conduct international conservation education for the Bronx Zoo.

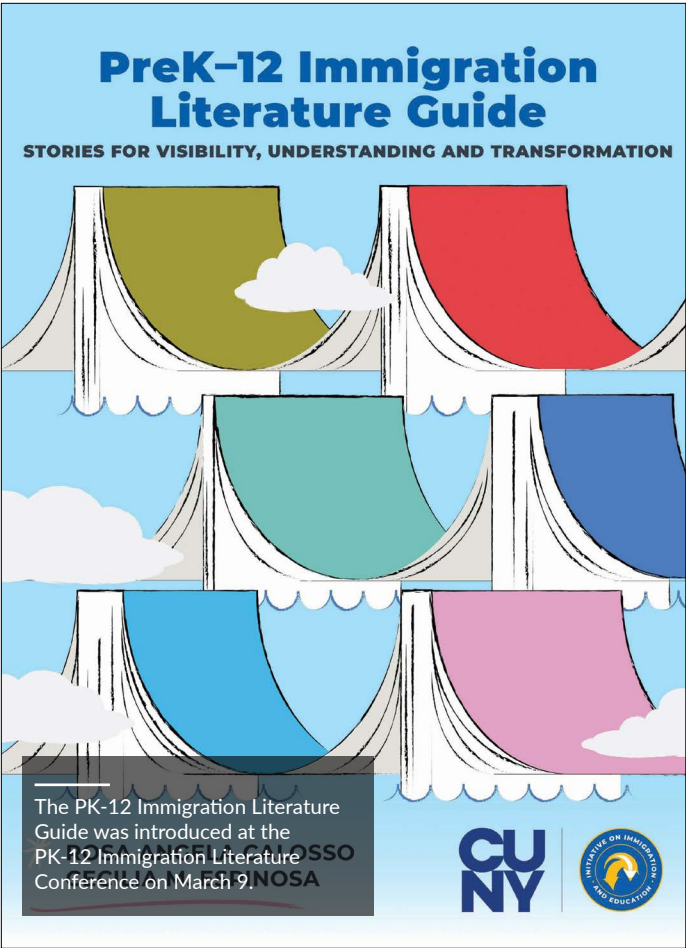
CUNY-IIE Releases Literature Guide to Immigration-centered Stories

The CUNY-Initiative on Immigration and Education (CUNY-IIE) released its PK-12 Immigration Literature Guide, a selection of 100 recently published PreK-12 books that showcase the transformative power of immigration-centered stories.

The guide is organized into four sections based on age range: early childhood and elementary picture books; upper elementary chapter books; middle school; and high school. Each sub-section summarizes 25 books and highlights five authors.

"This collection offers an entry point into the humanization of immigration, introducing readers to resilient characters, courageous journeys, and acts of solidarity, while confronting racism, xenophobia, and healing from trauma," wrote the authors, Rosa Angela Calosso of the CUNY Graduate Center and Cecilia M. Espinosa of Lehman College, in the introduction.

The guide features several authors who presented at the March 9 PK-12 Immigration Literature Conference, which celebrated the works, writing, and stories of immigrant communities and their authors. The theme of the conference, "Storytelling for Visibility, Understanding, and Transformation," reflected the organizers' commitment to amplifying the voices of these communities.



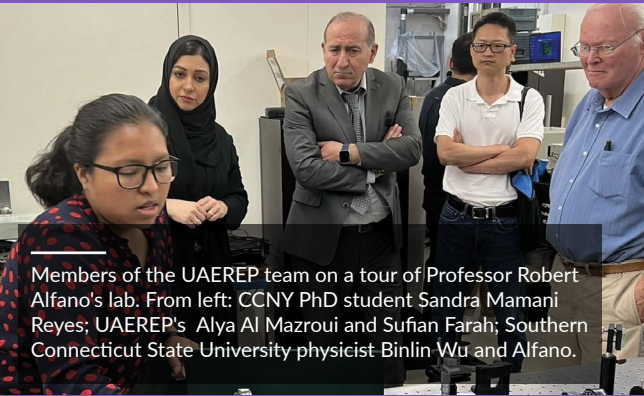
Author Edwidge Danticat, Wun Tsun Tam Mellon Professor of the Humanities in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies at Columbia University, served as keynote speaker. Ten breakout sessions led by educators, social workers, librarians, and community leaders covered a variety of topics, including: "Books as Bridges: How Elementary Students Use Literature for Advocacy;" "Teaching about Religious Diversity with Picture Books for All Ages;" and "The Power of Story: Supporting Immigrant Youth Mental Health Through Literature."

"The conference welcomed over 300 people to CCNY's Great Hall to celebrate immigrants and authors who center immigration in a time of anti-immigrant discourse, policies and programs," said the conference organizer, Professor of Bilingual Education & TESOL Tatyana Kleyn. "It allowed us to uplift immigrant voices through storytelling and come together in community as we centered joy as an act of resistance."

CUNY-IIE envisions educators across New York State and beyond, using its new Immigration Literature Guide to foster deep, meaningful classroom conversations that highlight our shared humanity.

"This guide and conference couldn't have come at a more crucial time," said CUNY-IIE Project Director Daniela Alulema. "Our educators need the resources and spaces to build community, support one another, and proudly uplift immigrant stories and storytellers."

UAE Rain Enhancement Program Team Visits
Noted Physicist Robert Alfano's IUSL Labs



Members of the UAEREP team on a tour of Professor Robert Alfano's lab. From left: CCNY PhD student Sandra Mamani Reyes; UAEREP's Alya Al Mazroui and Sufian Farah; Southern Connecticut State University physicist Binlin Wu and Alfano.

Award-winning physicist Robert R. Alfano's supercontinuum discovery has been an enabling technology for diverse novel applications including the detection of cancer using light spectroscopy and laser tissue welding. Now comes a new possibility: producing rain by the manipulation of ions. This caught the attention of the United Arab Emirates Research Program for Rain Enhancement Science (UAEREP), which sent a three-member delegation, led by director Alya Al Mazroui, to visit Alfano's Lab.

UAEREP is an international research initiative designed to advance the science and technology of rain enhancement by offering managed grant assistance to selected teams of researchers.

"It's very important for us to visit the college and to learn more about what they're doing, and maybe to link that with what we are doing, and to find some links and synergies so that we can build connections and build future collaborations," said Al Mazroui. "So there's very high potential for us to work together."

Distinguished Professor of Science and Engineering and one of the world's pre-eminent researchers in photonics, Alfano initiated contact with UAEREP by sending them a proposal on his concept of forming rain from ions seeding with n2 (nonlinear refractive index) of the supercontinuum.

According to Alfano, UAEREP's future collaboration with CCNY will focus on generating rain using supercontinuum properties.

Explaining the process, Alfano said: "The fingerprint of rain with lasers would be supercontinuum. That starts it, and that means that you have ionization. With ionization occurring that means you create ions, and any water molecules that are there will attach itself to the ion-positive or negative-and form a minimum drop size."

The UAEREP delegation, which included Muhannad Al Badri and Sufian Farah, visited other key research centers specializing in advanced technology and water sustainability, including Michigan Technological University, the Great Lakes Research Center, Thomas J. Watson Research Center at IBM, Columbia University and Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Alfano's discovery of supercontinuum light source as an enabling technology for diverse applications and tunable Cr4 and Cr3 lasers has won him numerous awards.

Robert R. Alfano Awarded IEEE Photonics
Society Prize for Laser Research



Robert Alfano

Dr. Robert R. Alfano, Distinguished Professor of Science and Engineering and one of the world's pre-eminent researchers in the field, is the recipient of the IEEE Photonics Society's (IPS) 2024 Laser Instrumentation Award. The honor is for Alfano's "discovery of supercontinuum light source as an enabling technology for diverse applications and tunable Cr4 and Cr3 lasers," IPS said. He received the award at the 2024 IEEE Photonics Conference, Nov. 10-14, in Rome, Italy. The Supercontinuum laser source has been used in diverse applications in various areas of Science and Engineering.

Karen A. Mergner, the Society's senior governance and awards administrator, said the Laser Instrumentation Award recognizes key contributors to the field for developments of laser-based and electro-optical instruments, "which lead to the development of innovative systems enabling major new measurements or process capabilities of relevance to applications in industrial, biomedical, avionic and metrology fields." The IEEE Photonics Society is the professional home for a global network of engineers and scientists who represent the photonics community.

In addition to Alfano's research in supercontinuum, he has been focused on using ultrafast and steady state spectroscopy and optical properties of materials for direct measurements of optical phonon, vibrations, spin relaxation time, hot carrier effects, inter valley scattering in semiconductors and decay routes of vibrations in organic liquids.

In biology and biomedical optics areas, his research has involved measuring primary events vision and photosynthesis under light excitation. He is a pioneer in the field of optical biopsy by contributing to the development of methods to detect cancer using Raman and fluorescence spectroscopy and two photon microscopy and methods to improve optical imaging in scattering media (tissues, fog and clouds). He introduced the concept of Ballistic and Snake-like photons propagating random scattering media with carry information.

Most recently, he explained the mechanism for higher harmonic generation (HHG) and attosecond laser pulses using universal EM Optical Kerr effect using n2 for odd HHG and n1 for even HHG frequencies.

A member of the CCNY faculty since 1972, Alfano is founding director of CUNY's CCNY-based Institute for Ultrafast Spectroscopy and Lasers established in 1984. He's raised \$63M in photonics research funding over the years.

Alfano holds 133 patents and has author credits on more than 730 research articles. His work has been cited in other papers more than 49,500 times. He is an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow as well as a fellow of APS, Optical Society of America (OSA), IEEE and the New York Academy of Sciences.

His honors include the OSA Michael S. Feld Biophotonics Award (2016); Inventor of Year from ENYIPLA (2018); and the SPIE Gold Medal (2019).

First United Nations University Hub
in U.S. is launched at CCNY



UNU Rector Tshilidzi Marwala and CCNY President Vince Boudreau signed the official Memorandum of Understanding at a ceremony in Steinman Hall on Nov. 5.

A new United Nations University (UNU) Hub on Remote-Sensing and Sustainable Innovations for Resilient Urban Systems (R-SIRUS) at The City College of New York was announced at a partnership agreement signing ceremony by President Vince Boudreau and Tshilidzi Marwala, the rector of UNU and under-secretary-general of the United Nations.

This Hub, in close partnership with the UNU Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH), will connect CCNY to UNU's global research and educational efforts, contributing to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), international relations, and the advancement of sustainable cities.

The first one of its kind in the U.S., the new UNU Hub is the first one in the world that will be focused on remote sensing and the sustainability problems of complex urban systems. It aims to enhance the adaptability of cities worldwide to climate-related challenges, fostering inclusivity and resilience in urban spaces. This Hub will leverage the university's legacy in science, technology, and urban innovation to serve as a global model for resilient, inclusive, equitable, and sustainable urban development.

The UNU Hub will bring together interdisciplinary experts to work on solutions addressing extreme weather impacts, urban water and energy needs, and social inequalities affecting urban communities. The UNU R-SIRUS Hub will operate with three primary pillars: Research and Development; Education and Capacity Building; and Policy and Advocacy. These pillars aim to bridge scientific innovation and policy-making, providing actionable solutions to pressing urban challenges.

As the academic arm of the United Nations with 13 institutes in 12 countries, the UNU addresses a range of global development challenges through joint research and education. Its headquarters are based in Tokyo. UNU-INWEH is working on major sustainability issues, dealing with the most pressing water, environmental, and health problems worldwide.

The Hub at CCNY will have three research clusters: Emerging Technologies for Earth Monitoring and Remote Sensing of Urban Systems; Climate Change Impacts on Health in Underserved

Urban Communities; and Energy Innovations for Sustainable Urban Environments. It also offers CCNY students a range of joint M.S. and Ph.D. programs with UNU in addition to opportunities for short training courses, internships, and certified education programs.

Dean Alexander Couzis, and NOAA Chair and Professor Reza Khanbilvardi of the Grove School of Engineering will serve as the executive co-directors of the UNU Hub at CCNY—R-SIRUS. While R-SIRUS's main office will be at the Grove School, the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education will house a satellite office to maximize reach to working professionals, in addition to researchers and students.

CUNY CREST and India's IISSM Sign
Memo of Understanding



Dr. Reza Khanbilvardi [left], CUNY CREST Executive Director, and IISSM Executive Chairman Ravindra Kishore Sinha after signing the MoU at CCNY.

The City College of New York-based CUNY Remote Sensing Earth System Institute (CUNY CREST) and the International Institute for Security and Safety Management (IISSM) are establishing a mutually beneficial research and educational collaboration and cultural exchange initiative aimed at driving innovation and impact across CUNY and in India. The two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at CCNY to launch the initiative.

"The collaboration with CUNY CREST represents a major step forward in our efforts to build resilient and sustainable communities," said Ravindra Kishore Sinha, executive chairman, IISSM, who signed on behalf of IISSM, India.

Reza Khanbilvardi, executive director, CUNY CREST, signed the MoU on behalf of CCNY and said they were delighted to join forces with IISSM. "This partnership will enable us to translate cutting-edge research into practical solutions that can save lives and protect communities from the adverse effects of disasters and climate change."

The partners will engage in joint research projects, share resources, faculty and student exchanges, workshops, webinars, courses, field trips and other cooperative activities designed to promote innovation and excellence in these critical fields, foster global skill development and policy advocacy focusing on sustainability.

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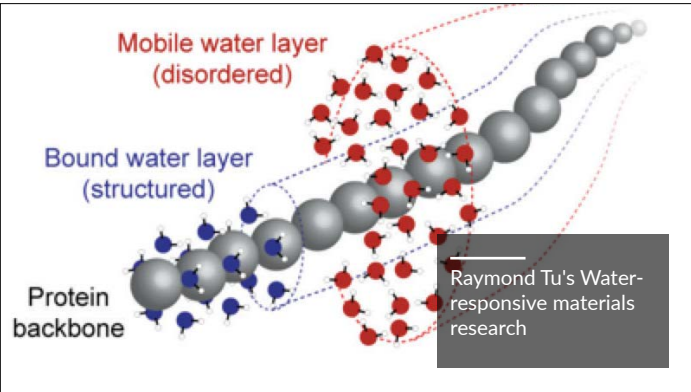
As CUNY CREST Deputy Director and Founding Director of CUNY HIREs, Shakila Merchant represents the CCNY side of the partnership. “Spearheading this collaboration with IISsM India, brings me closer to home (India) and provides me an opportunity to give back to my community that empowered me with knowledge, training, and experience,” she said.

Professor Santosh Kumar, IISsM CEO, said the MoU marked a milestone in its mission to advance safety and security standards globally. “By partnering with CUNY CREST, we are positioned to address some of the most pressing challenges of our time, including disaster management and climate change.” Collaboration would lead to a transformation in how IISsM approaches these issues by incorporating cutting-edge technologies such as space science, machine learning, and artificial intelligence. “These advanced tools will enhance our capabilities in security, safety, and disaster management, and contribute significantly towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

IISsM is a premier global sustainable skill and workforce management institute in India. Established in 1990, it promotes professionalism among security and loss prevention practitioners, and is headquartered in New Delhi.

The CUNY Remote Sensing Earth System Institute was officially approved by CUNY Board of Trustees in June 2010, and serves as a CUNY-wide Institute of Excellence in Advancement of Earth System Sciences and application of Remote Sensing Technology, as well as other emerging technologies.

Discovery Creates New Possibilities for Water-responsive Materials



Water-responsive materials exist everywhere in nature, but transforming these natural materials into sustainably sourced high energy engineered materials requires a fundamental understanding of how they work. Now a groundbreaking discovery unravels the connection between water and surfaces to engineer water responsive properties. The experts, including Professors Raymond Tu and Xi Chen, Professor Honghui Yu, and postdoctoral associate Darjan Podbevsek (power and process engineering), determined how water interacts with biomaterials at the molecular level to yield high energy density water responsiveness.

“We eventually aim to use these new high energy density materials to create a scalable alternative energy source. At a smaller scale, water responsive materials can be applied for robotics and smart

textiles as well as bioelectronics,” said Tu.

Overall, these materials, commonly found in nature, have the potential to revolutionize a range of industries, from robotics and smart textiles to bioelectronics and clean energy generation systems.

The research continues with the team scaling up their work in a National Science Foundation-sponsored cross-disciplinary Convergence Accelerator. “We’re also working on using X-Rays with Brookhaven National Labs to understand the dynamic structural transitions that occurs when relative humidity changes,” Tu added.

“Water-responsive materials that respond to humidity changes are highly promising for use as actuators in robotics and for energy harvesting applications, yet we lack the theories to explain or predict the stress they generate,” said Chen.

The water-responsive materials study was published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

Research was conducted both at the Grove School and the CUNY Advanced Science Research Center located on the CCNY campus.

Computer Scientist Pedersen Publishes Critical Essay on Scientific Measurement Literacy



Arthur Paul Pedersen

Arthur Paul Pedersen, faculty research scientist with the CUNY Remote Sensing Earth Systems (CREST) Institute and doctoral lecturer of computer science, was the lead author of a critical essay on measurement in scientific discourse. The essay, published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, warns of the dangerous implications of measurement illiteracy in contemporary scientific discourse and urges broad, systematic efforts be undertaken to reform measurement literacy.

Measurement literacy is necessary for effectively carrying out the business of science, including inference, experimental design, validation, and treatment of error in theory construction, the paper explains. It provides the foundation necessary for forming perspectives and reaching decisions on matters in science and public policy, including the reproducibility and theory crises and proposals to address them, funding decisions for research programs and government agencies, public health and economic policy decisions, and much more.

“From the American eugenics movement to the 2008 market crash, history is replete with episodes showing the adverse impact that failures of measurement literacy can exact on the enterprise of science and everyday human affairs,” said Pedersen. “By drawing on ideas and examples drawn from across the sciences in language accessible to scientists and laypersons alike, this paper makes the case for promoting measurement literacy and being accountable to upholding it.”

“This paper is a call to action to reinvigorate measurement

literacy in scientific discourse,” added Pedersen. “By doing so, meaningful steps can be taken to address crises in scientific discourse, such as the reproducibility crisis, and to promote more effective and meaningful scientific communication. Importantly, measurement literacy enables scientists to be responsible and trusted ambassadors of knowledge for policymakers as well as for the public at large.”

Pedersen’s co-authors are: David Kellen and Michael L. Kalish (Syracuse University); Conor Mayo-Wilson (University of Washington); Clinton P. Davis-Stober (University of Missouri); John C. Dunn (University of Western Australia); M. Ali Khan (The Johns Hopkins University); Maxwell B. Stinchcombe (University of Texas at Austin); Katya Tentori (University of Trento, Italy); and Julia Haaf (University of Potsdam, Germany).

Grove School Professor Anil K. Agrawal Receives Top 2025 ASCE Moisseiff Award



Anil K. Agrawal

Anil K. Agrawal, Herbert G. Kayser Professor of Civil Engineering is the recipient of the American Society of Civil Engineers’ 2025 Moisseiff Award for his paper “Reliability-Based Framework for Structural Robustness Evaluation of Bridges,” published in the ASCE *Journal of Bridge Engineering* (April 2024).

The paper proposes a novel robustness evaluation approach that is suited for short, medium and long-span bridges. A significant advantage of this approach is its ability to account for, and estimate, structural robustness corresponding to different user-specified initiating events and different user-specified limit states on a common and unified basis. This approach can be used as a comprehensive tool to assess the safety of bridges in their intact and damaged conditions to facilitate critical decisions on design and retrofit needs.

Agrawal’s co-authors include his former Grove School of Engineering graduate students Qian Chen and Hong-Fan Wang; and collaborators Sherif El-Tawil (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor), Baidurya Bhattacharya (University of Delaware), and Waider Wong (former Project Manager at the Federal Highway Administration).

“I am very grateful to the ASCE for the recognition and congratulate my former students for their outstanding efforts to carry out work that is so critical to ensuring the safety of our bridges,” said Agrawal.

The Moisseiff Award is one of the most prestigious awards given by ASCE’s Structural Engineering Institute to an important paper published in an ASCE journal. It recognizes substantial advances in the field of structural mechanics and design.

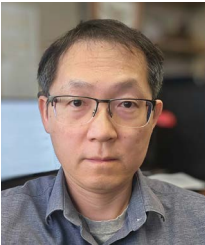
Established by ASCE in 1947, it is in recognition of the accomplishments of Leon S. Moisseiff, M. ASCE, a notable contributor to the science and art of structural design.

Agrawal is a Distinguished Member of ASCE, and past chief editor of the ASCE’s *Journal of Bridge Engineering*. He chairs the Engineering Mechanics Committee of ASCE’s Metropolitan Section, and is currently the vice-chair of ExCom of the SEI Technical Community Committee.

His accolades include, the 2022 Research Implementation award from the NJDOT for the “NJDOT UAS/Drone Procedures Manual and Best Practices for Use in New Jersey”; The Raymond C. Reese Research Prize for the paper “Performance-Based Design Framework for Concrete Barriers Subjected to Truck Collision,” from the *Journal of Bridge Engineering*, and the 2015 CCNY President’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship in Teaching and Service.

He’s the founding chief editor, in collaboration with Italy’s FABRE Consortium, of the journal *International Journal of Bridge Engineering, Management and Research*. He’s published more than 132 peer-reviewed papers, 26 major reports and more than 200 conference papers.

U.S. DOE Awards Supercomputing Access to Cutting Edge Fluid Mechanics Project



Taehun Lee

A trailblazing fluid mechanics project led by mechanical engineering Professor Taehun Lee is one of 16 initiatives nationally awarded supercomputing time at the Argonne Leadership Computing Facility (ALCF) by the U.S. Department of Energy’s Advanced Scientific Computing Research (ASCR) Leadership Computing Challenge (ALCC). The awardees will pursue advances in areas ranging from quantum chemistry to clean energy technologies to AI for science.

The Lee project, “High-Fidelity Simulations of Helium-Air Mixing in High-Temperature Gas Reactor Cavities,” will use the ALCF’s Aurora and Polaris supercomputers to pursue breakthroughs in science and engineering. The research has applications for work in nuclear engineering.

Lee is a core faculty member of the CUNY Energy Institute and his research expertise is in the areas of multiphase/multiscale computational fluid dynamics and high-order methods for the lattice Boltzmann equation.

Each year, the ASCR program, which manages some of the world’s most powerful supercomputing facilities, selects ALCC projects in areas that aim to further DOE mission science and broaden the community of researchers capable of using leadership computing resources.

The ALCC program allocates computational resources at ASCR’s supercomputing facilities to research scientists in industry, academia, and national laboratories. In addition to the ALCF located at DOE’s Argonne National Laboratory, ASCR’s supercomputing facilities include the Oak Ridge Leadership Computing Facility at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center at

(Continued on the next page)

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The ALCF, OLCF, and NERSC are DOE Office of Science user facilities.

Other institutions awarded computing time include: The University of Connecticut; Utah State University; The Ames National Laboratory; Stanford University; Argonne National Laboratory; and the University of South Florida.

Lee is the recipient of the 2005 J.H. Wilkinson Fellowship from the Mathematics and Computer Science Division at the Argonne National Laboratory. He serves as associate editor of the journal *Computers & Fluids*. He received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Seoul National University; and his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of Iowa.

Waymo Enhances Autonomous Vehicle Training Curriculum at UTRC Member BCC



Waymo, the world's leading autonomous driving technology company, is partnering with the University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) to develop and enhance an Autonomous Vehicle (AV) training curriculum at Bronx Community College's Automotive Technology Program. This initiative aims to prepare the next generation of automotive technicians for the rapidly evolving field of autonomous vehicles.

This partnership will fund the development of an enhanced AV training curriculum, equipping students with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the rapidly evolving automotive industry and contribute to the growing AV workforce.

Dr. Camille Kamga, Grove School of Engineering professor and the director of UTRC and SEMPACT, emphasized: "As the USDOT Region 2 University Transportation Center, UTRC's Center for Social and Economic Mobility for People and Communities through Transportation (SEMPACT) is uniquely positioned to facilitate this partnership. This AV training curriculum bridges cutting-edge technology with practical workforce development, addressing real-world challenges in our communities."

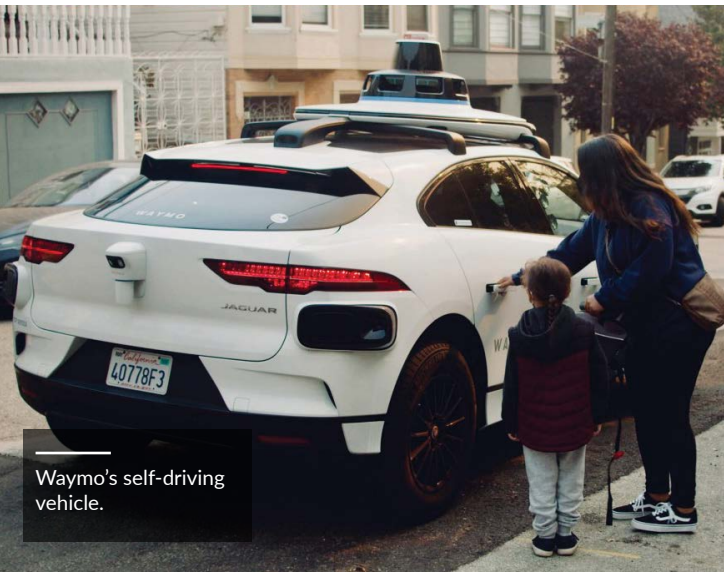
"Waymo is committed to supporting educational and workforce development initiatives that prepare young people to succeed in the growing autonomous and electric vehicle industries," said Waymo Vice President of Engineering Satish Jeyachandran. "We're thrilled to collaborate with the Bronx Community College and the

CUNY UTRC to provide hands-on experience with autonomous technology, and create new opportunities for the next generation of automotive professionals."

This collaboration between Waymo, UTRC, and Bronx Community College (BCC) aligns with The City College of New York's mission as the lead institution for the USDOT's University Transportation Center (UTC) program in Region 2. UTRC's SEMPACT received \$15 million from USDOT to support research in areas including inclusive advanced technology applications and workforce development.

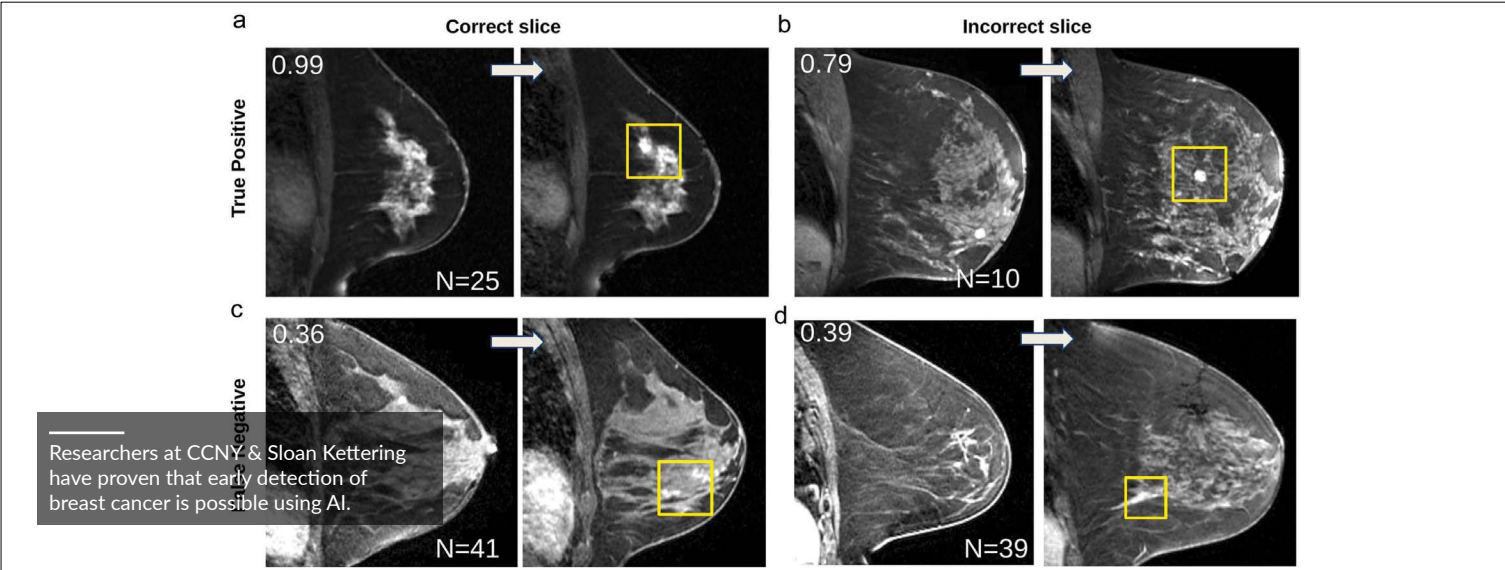
"I am excited to see this groundbreaking partnership between the world's leading autonomous driving technology company and the University Transportation Research Center at The City College of New York," said Bronx Borough President Vanessa L. Gibson. "Investing in emerging technologies and workforce development is key to preparing our community for the jobs of the future. The enhanced training program will not only open doors for Bronx students but will also strengthen our local economy by expanding job opportunities," stated New York State Assemblymember Yudelka Tapia.

"Retraining for-hire and taxi drivers, and welcoming new talent into the workforce will ensure a smooth transition that creates new career opportunities. This new AV workforce development curriculum at BCC is a great start to preparing for and managing innovation with social responsibility," said Matt Daus, former NYC TLC commissioner and UTRC transportation technology chair. The program will be housed at BCC's Patterson Garage, which recently underwent a \$9 million upgrade funded by the Governor's Office of New York. This state-of-the-art facility now offers courses in electronics, fuel systems, transmissions, electric vehicles, autonomous vehicle systems, and more.



Clement Drummond, director of Automotive Technology at BCC, envisions a transformative future through this collaboration: "From safety procedures to advanced diagnostics, our program already provides comprehensive automotive training. Now, through this groundbreaking partnership with Waymo, we're creating a unique ecosystem where industry meets education. As the only program of its kind within CUNY, we're not just training technicians—we're preparing the next generation of autonomous vehicle specialists who will shape the future of transportation."

Grove, MSKCC Experts Develop High Performance Open-source AI for Breast Cancer Detection



Lucas Parra

In a major breakthrough, a team of researchers from CCNY and Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center has developed a new AI model that can detect breast cancer in MRI images and pinpoint the location of tumors. The news appears in the journal *Radiology: Artificial Intelligence*.

While AI methods have made significant strides in breast cancer detection, deep learning models often lack interpretability and are rarely openly available for external validation. This is particularly important for MRI, with heterogeneous imaging protocols, and small datasets. The CCNY-MSKCC team's objective was to address these issues, by publicly releasing a model that has been trained to detect and localize breast cancer, tested on data from two different clinical sites.

The new model's performance is comparable to that of specialized breast radiologists but is better than existing automated tools, said Lucas C. Parra, professor of Biomedical Engineering at the Grove School of Engineering and co-head of the project. It was trained on the largest breast MRI dataset to date and has been released publicly to facilitate independent evaluation and foster future development.

Since early detection is crucial for successful treatment and improving patient outcomes, the model establishes a new state-of-the-art method for detecting breast cancer, which is a leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women in the United States.

Breast MRI is more sensitive in detecting cancer than conventional mammograms. Given recent recommendations to expand the use of breast MRI to radiologically dense breasts, the use of breast MRI in breast cancer screening is likely to expand.

In addition to Parra, other members of the research team included CCNY's Lukas Hirsch, Yu Huang, Beliz Kayis, and Hernan A. Makse (Benjamin Levich Institute). Elizabeth J. Sutton, attending radiologist at MSK's Breast Center, Mary Hughes, and Danny

Martinez were CCNY's collaborators from MSKCC's Department of Radiology.

Parra and Sutton co-lead the \$4 million NIH-funded project, "Machine learning for risk-adjusted breast MRI screening." The project is leveraging modern machine learning techniques to analyze medical images, an area of expertise for Parra. The goal is to detect breast cancer as early as possible while limiting the burden of screening in high-risk women.

They have also developed an AI algorithm and evaluated its ability to identify breast cancer on MRI scans one year in advance.

The AI model was trained on MRI from 52,598 breasts and fine-tuned on 3,209 scans from 910 patients at high risk of developing cancer. The data contained 115 cancers that were diagnosed one year after a normal MRI result. According to the study published in *Academic Radiology*, the algorithm can detect cancers one year earlier than current clinical practice. It was used to rank the top 10% of the highest-risk MRIs. If those MRIs had been analyzed by a radiologist, early detection could have been increased by up to 30%. The AI was also able to identify the region where cancer would be detected in 66 of the 115 cases. A radiologist identified the cancers in 83 of the 115 cases. The radiologist and AI agreed on 54 cases.

"These findings are one of the first large scale demonstrations of the possibility of implementing AI tools for early detection of cancer in high-risk women from an MRI screening program," said Hirsch, a postdoctoral researcher in the Parra Lab with a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering, who is a lead author of this study. "Working with MRI is difficult in general due to the difficulty obtaining a sufficiently large number of images to train these large AI models, so research and development of tools for this is just starting. We have shown that AI is very good at detecting early stages of cancer but there are still more efforts to do in improving performance and implementing this in clinics."

While the data acquisition, storage and annotation for the project is taking place at MSK, the methods and AI-tools are developed at CCNY. The team includes Parra and Makse.

Postponed 52nd Annual Poetry Festival Features Pamela Laskin



Pamela L. Laskin

Pamela L. Laskin, the award-winning poet, children's book author, and now retired English lecturer at CCNY, was the guest poet at the 52nd annual Poetry Festival on Sept. 20, in the Aaron Davis Hall's Marian Anderson Theater. Dubbed "the Woodstock of the Spoken Word," the festival is New York's longest-running poetry celebration. It was rescheduled from May 10.

"The City College Poetry Festival is the democratic voice of poetry in New York City public schools," said Laskin, who was also the long serving director of the

CCNY Poetry Outreach Center, which produces the festival. "Its assumption is that there are many poets, and they all have terrific stories to tell. This would make Walt Whitman proud."

The event commenced with readings by elementary school students, followed by poets from junior high schools, and readings by guest poet Kay Bell, CCNY adjunct assistant professor and Bronx Poet Laureate. Then Professor Michelle Valladares, director of the MFA in Creative Writing Program, introduced the winners of the festival's citywide high school poetry contest. They recited their poems. First, Second and Third Place winners received Poetry Prizes, which were cash prizes. Shaila Moulee from Thomas A. Edison Career and Technical Education High School was awarded first place.

In addition to the readings by students, each year the festival invites one or more prominent poets to read their work. Laskin's reading was the highlight of the day's festivities. Laskin retired this year.

Laskin is also the editor of two anthologies, *Life on the Moon: My Best Friend's Secrets* (Linus Publications, 2009), and *The Heroic Young Woman* (Clique Calm, 2006); and the author of two young adult novels, *Ronit and Jamil* (Harper Collins, 2017), and *Why No Goodbye* (Leapfrog Press, 2019). The latter won the 2018 International Fiction Prize. Laskin's other publications include *BEA*, a picture book that was a finalist for the Katherine Paterson Prize for Children's Fiction in 2018; *Trellises and Thorns*, *The Lost Language of Crazy*, *Words Unwhispered*, *Monster Maria*, and *My Secret Wish*. Laskin was the recipient of a 2022 Freedom Through Literacy Board Option Award for her work to enable children to unload their grief and to empower voices through poetry.

The festival presents a special award for the best poem in a language other than English. Three high school students were awarded prizes: Landin Huang, Bronx High School of Science; Gaurav Paliwal, Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics; and Sebastian Perez, The High School of Fashion Industries.

Faculty also read poems including Valladares, Alyssa Yankwitt, Jennifer Buno, David Groff, Suzanne Weyn, Estha Weiner, and Serhiy Metenko, as well as retired faculty, alumni and other poets. Poems by Charles Butler were read by students in memory of Butler's partner Elise Buchman.

Writer Hadara Bar-Nadav Headlines 2025 Poetry Festival



Hadara Bar-Nadav

Back on schedule, the 53rd annual City College Poetry Festival was held on May 2 with award-winning poet Hadara Bar-Nadav as the featured writer. Schools from all five boroughs attended.

"It's quite extraordinary mentoring these young students. They see the world with such different eyes, and then write without censoring themselves, with freedom," said Alyssa Yankwitt, senior poetry outreach mentor, CCNY adjunct assistant professor and new co-director.

"This is a moment in time when poetry is more important than ever. These students have something to say, and the festival is a place for them to use their voices."

Hadara Bar-Nadav is the recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry, the Lucille Medwick Award from the Poetry Society of America, a fellowship from the Poetry Foundation, and other honors. Her books include: *The Animal Is Chemical*, awarded the Levis Prize in Poetry, selected by Jericho Brown; *The New Nudity*; *Lullaby (with Exit Sign)*, awarded the Saturnalia Books Poetry Prize; *The Frame Called Ruin*, Editor's Selection/Runner Up for the Green Rose Prize; and *A Glass of Milk to Kiss Goodnight*, awarded the Margie Book Prize.

The Poetry Outreach Center's Annual Poetry Festival is supported by the following: President Vince Boudreau; Dee Dee Mozeleski, senior vice president, The Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications; Provost Tony Liss; City College's Division of Humanities and the Arts Dean Renata K. Miller; Dan Gustafson, English; MFA Director Michelle Valladares; Annika Luedke (Director) and Kelly Sullivan, the Office of Institutional Advancement and Communications and External Relations, and The Foundation for City College; David Covington, Executive Director, Alumni Association; The City College of New York Office of Support Services, Taki Petrochilos in particular; Gregory Shanck; Axe-Houghton Foundation; The South Wind Foundation; The Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation; David and Harianne Wallenstein; Barry Wallenstein; and Poets & Writers, Inc. J. Chester Johnson; and The American Academy of Poets is a co-promotional sponsor.

Renowned Author Joyce Carol Oates Shows up for MFA in Creative Writing Program



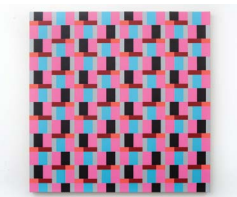
Celebrated writer Joyce Carol Oates gave a talk, answered questions and signed books at an event thanks to the MFA in Creative Writing Program on Nov. 14. Oates was joined in conversation with Professor Mark J. Mirsky of the English department. The event was free and open to the public.

Oates is a recipient of the National Medal of the Humanities, the National Book Critics Circle Lifetime Achievement Award, the National Book Award, and the Jerusalem Prize. She is the author of *Butcher*, as well as the national bestsellers *We Were the Mulvaney*s, *Blonde*, *The Falls*, *The Gravedigger's Daughter*, and *The Accursed*. She is the Roger S. Berlind Distinguished Professor of the Humanities emerita at Princeton University and has been a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters since 1978.

Mirsky is an award-winning author of 13 books, including fiction, short stories, novellas and essays. He is the founding editor of literary magazine *FICTION* and has been teaching literature and creative writing at CCNY for over 50 years.

The event was sponsored by CCNY's MFA in Creative Writing's The David Dortort Fund and the Rifkind Center for the Humanities and Arts.

Artist Carl Fudge Returns Triumphantlly From Paris



"Slip 153, 2024" by Carl Fudge, from his recent show "Techno-Abstraction," in Paris.

Artist and Professor Carl Fudge held an exhibition "Techno-Abstraction" at Galerie Richard in Paris. This exhibition was the third time Fudge, the director of the MFA program in studio arts, showed his work in the City of Light. Invited by gallery owners Jean-Luc and Takako Richard, Fudge was eager to see how he, a renowned New York artist, would be received in Europe. Richard "has quite an international program," said Fudge.

Fudge described his Slip series, the crux of the show, as "explor[ing] the aesthetics of technological malfunctions—as

manifested in glitch patterns—capturing the visual remnants of systemic breakdowns. These glitches offer a window into the underlying mechanics of our digital reality, revealing a visual form of disruption."

Fudge mused about the differences between the various art scenes around the world.

"For me, it's good to see how my work is viewed somewhere else [other than New York]," he said. "There are cultural differences [in] what people are making in France or what people are making in England or what people are making in Japan or anywhere else. It is a little different, so you do pick up on those differences as to what's happening in the United States."

Fudge pronounced himself pleased—and relieved—with the reception to his show, which drew hundreds of visitors during its five-week run.

"In New York, there's a little more pressure because you're known better, but also people are excited to see what you're making," he said. "Going somewhere that's a little more alien, where you don't know so many people, I just feel like it's a different kind of pressure."

The London-born Fudge has taught at CCNY for almost a decade. He is also area head of the printmaking department.

N.Y. State Assembly, Latin American Cultural Heritage Honor Rosalia Reyes Simon



Rosalia Reyes Simon

Lecturer of Teaching Spanish Language & Latin American/Latinx Literature and Cultures Rosalia Reyes Simon, M.A., Spanish '17 was awarded citations from the New York State Assembly, and the Latin American Cultural Heritage organization, for her contributions and commitment to education and the dissemination of Latinx and Latin American cultures.

Reyes Simon received the citations at a ceremony held at the Washington Heights-based Directorate of Dominican Culture Abroad, an official Dominican agency that promotes the country's arts and literature among the diaspora.

Reyes was cited for organizing book fairs, festivals, workshops, and conferences at the Cervantes Institute of New York, the CUNY Graduate Center, Rutgers University, and New York University. These events are for academics and the general public with the goal of promoting the cultural value of Latinx, Caribbean and Latin American cultures.

A native of Mexico, Reyes Simon has been teaching at CCNY and Lehman College intermittently since 2017. She is currently a doctoral candidate in Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures at the CUNY Graduate Center. Her research interests focus on contemporary Latin American and Latinx literature, as well as literary productions published in Spanish by independent U.S.-based publishing houses.

Roxane Gay Receives 2025 Langston Hughes Medal



Roxane Gay

The 46th Annual Langston Hughes Festival honored Roxane Gay, *The New York Times* bestselling author and noted scholar. She received the 2025 Langston Hughes Medal recipient during the 46th annual Langston Hughes Festival held in February. The festival commemorated the centenary of the Harlem Renaissance, and kicked off with a student symposium. The evening ceremony included a reading by Gay, and a conversation between her and author Edwidge Danticat, the 2011 Langston Hughes medalist. On Valentine’s Day, the program concluded with the first Langston Hughes Festival Fundraising Breakfast.

“The 2025 Langston Hughes Festival Theme is Black Love, and we celebrate Black Love in all its iterations,” said Jervette R. Ward, the festival director and chair of CCNY’s Black Studies Department. “In addition, in honor of both Gay and Danticat, this special two-day Harlem Renaissance Centennial included a celebration of Haitian music and food.” Hughes was a central figure in the Harlem Renaissance, an intellectual and cultural revival of African-American literature, music, art, theater and scholarship.

A prolific writer, Gay has authored and edited numerous books. The list includes her 2014 debut *An Untamed State*, the *New York Times* bestsellers *Bad Feminist* and *Hunger*; the nationally bestselling *Difficult Women*, and the *World of Wakanda* for Marvel. Gay’s writing appears also in *Best American Mystery Stories 2014* and *Best Sex Writing 2012*. Among the many literary magazines frequently publishing her work are: *McSweeney’s*, *Tin House*, *Oxford American*, and *American Short Fiction*.

In 2020, in honor of the 50th anniversary of the first LGBTQ Pride parade, *Queerty*—the online news and entertainment publication that covers LGBTQ-related topics—named Gay among the 50 heroes “leading the nation toward equality, acceptance, and dignity for all people.” She was also included in the 2022 Fast Company Queer 50 list.

Gay is a graduate of Norwich University (B.A.), the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (M.A.) and Michigan Technological University (Ph.D.).

World Philosophy Day Celebrates with Keynote Lecture, Pizza and Roundtable Discussion



Rob Colter

World Philosophy Day was celebrated in November with the keynote lecture, “Philosophy in the Ivory Tower, Philosophy Behind Bars,” given by Professor Rob Colter, of the University of Wyoming and Wyoming Pathways from Prison. Earlier in the day a pizza forum-roundtable discussion about “The Value of Philosophy in Prison Education” was held in the North Academic Center with Colter, Taylor Rae Almonte-Roman, director of Just Ideas at Columbia University, and Larry Williams, a graduate of the Just Ideas program.

Colter is senior lecturer in the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies, as well as founder and director of Wyoming Stoic Camp. His talk broached how best to articulate the conception of philosophy so that it might be practiced among the underprivileged incarcerated population.

Almonte-Roman is a Brooklyn-based activist, athlete, creator and host, focused on the intersection of racial justice and wellness. She is assistant director at Just Ideas which brings together Columbia professors and interns to teach at Metropolitan Detention Center.

Larry Williams is a criminal justice advocate and mitigation specialist with the Federal Defender’s Office of the Eastern District of New York. His work draws upon his transformation from jailhouse lawyer to leader in restorative justice.

World Philosophy Day was sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and chaired by Massimo Pigliucci, the Department’s K.D. Irani Professor of Philosophy. Professor Elise Crull and Professor Chad Kidd were the organizing committee.

World Philosophy Day has been held annually since 2014 at CCNY. It is a UNESCO-partnered day that occurs on the third Thursday of November. In establishing World Philosophy Day, UNESCO highlighted the importance of this discipline, especially for young people, underlining that “philosophy is a discipline that encourages critical and independent thought and is capable of working towards a better understanding of the world and promoting tolerance and peace.”

Multiple GRAMMY Winner Randy Brecker Headlines 2025 CUNY Jazz Festival



Seven-time GRAMMY-winner Randy Brecker was the guest artist at the 25th annual CUNY Jazz Festival, held in May in Aaron Davis Hall. The legendary trumpet player and composer performed with his quintet. The festival also featured acclaimed pianist and composer Helen Sung.

The festival brought together on a single stage performing ensembles from The City College and other CUNY institutions—including Hunter College and Queens College. Student groups performed both days. Admission was free and open to the public. The festival began with a performance by the CCNY Faculty Jazz Ensemble, a group of internationally acclaimed musicians. Ensembles from CCNY performed, as well as guest bands from Hunter College, Brooklyn College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, York College, Lehman College, Queens

College, LaGuardia Community College and the College of Staten Island.

An evening concert featured Sung with the CCNY Small Jazz Ensemble, followed by a jam session with her for all festival participants.

The Friday evening performance began with a City College graduate jazz ensemble, followed by the headline act of Randy Brecker and his Quintet, featuring tenor saxophonist Ada Rovati.

“Brecker is a true jazz legend and one of the most influential voices in both jazz and jazz-rock. He is a trumpet player and composer of historic importance,” said Mike Holober, the noted pianist, composer, and arranger who is also festival director.

Now in its 25th year, the CUNY Jazz Festival has evolved into the most important event on the CUNY jazz calendar. As host and sponsor, CCNY wholeheartedly supports the event that captures the spirit and joy of performing and thriving in an educational environment. The festival is presented by the City College Music Department, with assistance from the City College Center for the Arts.

Psychosocial Component to COVID-19 Pandemic Deaths Discovered by Professor Keith Gandal



Keith Gandal

Keith Gandal, professor of English in the Division of Humanities and the Arts, and his brother Neil Gandal, professor of economics at Tel Aviv University, examined U.S. COVID-19 deaths by day of the week during the first several months of the pandemic, from March to August 2020.

Using data from the two largest U.S. states that reported fatalities by day of actual death from the beginning of the pandemic, they show that daily deaths in Florida and Texas during the week were seven to eight percent higher than daily deaths on the weekend in those states. Even in hospitals, the weekend is a more relaxed time.

A weekend decrease in daily COVID fatalities did not meanwhile occur in New York City (which also reported fatalities by day of actual death), where during this period the pandemic was each and every day treated as an emergency and hospitals did not have lighter, “weekend” staffing on Saturdays and Sundays.

In essence, the Gandal brothers show that pandemic COVID deaths, like heart attacks and heart-attack fatalities, have a psychosocial component. Doctors have given the name “broken-heart syndrome” or stress cardiomyopathy to heart attacks that occur in response to a sudden acute stress, such as the death of a loved one. And the Gandal brothers would suggest that something analogous was going on during the pandemic with what might be called “stress COVID fatalities.” For example, if COVID patients during the pandemic became suddenly stressed about their illness because of a new lockdown policy or a report on rising fatalities, they might end up experiencing more severe

symptoms or even dying.

The Gandal brothers’ article “What Do Suicides, Heart Attacks and COVID-19 Deaths Have in Common?” appeared in *The European Society of Medicine*.

Keith Gandal is the author of six books, including studies of American urban poverty and the American mobilization during World War I. His latest book, *Firsthand*, is a memoir that touches on his hospitalization as a child during the 1968 H3N2 pandemic. Neil Gandal has published numerous papers about industrial organization and the economics of information technology, the software and internet industries, and cybersecurity and cryptocurrencies.

PRSA-NY Awards Big Wins to AD/PR Program

2024 PRSA-NY Big Apple Excellence in Mentoring Award Goes to Lynne Scott Jackson; and Alum Layla Ayoub ’25 Awarded PRSA-NY Art Stevens Scholarship



Lynn Scott Jackson

Lynne Scott Jackson, distinguished lecturer and the director of Industry Relations, Internships and Professional Development in the Ad/PR Program, is the recipient of the 2024 PRSA-NY Big Apple Excellence in Mentoring Award. The award honors individuals who continuously lead, guide and selflessly counsel and stimulate the careers of communications professionals at all career stages.

The event, themed “Collaboration and Innovation,” is the premier networking event for the public relations industry and also recognizes the 2024 15 Under 35. Scott Jackson also received PRSA-NY’s President’s Award for Leadership and Service in 2021 and the 2021 CCNY Townsend Harris Medal for postgraduate achievement in marketing communications.

With several years of experience in communications, Scott Jackson has worked in consumer advertising, healthcare marketing and social entrepreneurship. Her consultancy, Millynneum Marketing, Media & Public Affairs, has developed award-winning public relations programs for corporations, businesses and institutions, including: Colgate-Palmolive Company’s Bright Smiles, Bright Futures®, Pepsi-Cola Company’s Link Program, and South African Tourism.

Scott Jackson is actively involved in PRSA’s Diversity Central Committee and the Black Public Relations Society-NY. She is advisor to the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) - American Advertising Federation (AAF) student chapters and executive producer of the Building Bridges Career Fair & Networking Mixer, the Ad/PR Program’s signature event.

She is a graduate of Howard University’s Cathy Hughes School of Communications, receiving a B.A. in Communications and is recipient of the Outstanding Alumni Award. She also has a Master’s in International Affairs from the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at City College.

(Continued on the next page)



Layla Ayoub

PRSA-NY also named CCNY PRSSA President Layla Ayoub, an Ad/PR student who graduated in spring 2025, as the year’s PRSA-NY Art Stevens CCNY Scholar, which is funded by Stevens, managing partner of The Stevens Group and a CCNY alumnus (Class of 1957). Ayoub was awarded a \$5000 scholarship, and she and her team worked on the Building Bridges Career Fair & Networking Mixer where 150 people attended including alumni, recruiters and Ad/PR Program supporters.

Honoring James Baldwin’s Centennial Celebration

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THURS. 12/5/24
Panels, Performances, & Soul Food!
10:30 AM - 4 PM in NAC Ballroom

HARLEM COMMUNITY WALK
FRI 12/6/24
Departing at 10 AM from the NYPL Harlem Branch,
8 W 124th St.

**SAVE THE DATES AND
REGISTER NOW**

citycollegecenterforthearts CCNY MFA HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION

The City College of New York presented the James Baldwin Centennial Celebration, an homage to the enduring legacy of Harlem-bred writer and activist James Baldwin. Spanning fall 2024, the celebration encompassed film screenings, panels, performances, live music, a writing contest and a Harlem community walk centered on the legacy of James Baldwin, our hometown giant.

Born in 1924, James Baldwin’s extensive body of work, which includes essays, speeches, plays, poetry, short stories, and novels, fearlessly tackles racial and social issues, offering profound insights into the Black American experience in the 20th century that continue to resonate today.

The celebration kicked off with “Our Hometown Giant Film Series” and the film *I Heard It Through the Grapevine*, the 1980s documentary exploring the civil rights movement through the lens of Baldwin’s activism. English Professor Janee Moses introduced the film.

I Am Not Your Negro was shown with an introduction by Media and Communication Arts Chair and Professor Jerry Carlson, and again as part of a double feature with *Meeting the Man: James Baldwin in Paris* with an introduction by the festival’s director, writer and Black Studies Professor Emily Raboteau. *I Am Not Your Negro* is an examination of racism in America through the lens of Baldwin’s unfinished book *Remember This House*, directed by Raoul Peck and written by Baldwin.

A full-day symposium was held on Dec. 5 in the NAC Ballroom. The CCNY President’s Medal was awarded by President Vince Boudreau to Baldwin, posthumously, and accepted on behalf of the Baldwin family by his nephew Trevor Baldwin, founder of the Baldwin United Fund. The symposium included panels of writers and scholars influenced by Baldwin, a screening of Baldwin’s 1978 Langston Hughes Medal acceptance speech at CCNY, a keynote conversation with Baldwin’s biographer Herb Boyd, live music and soul food.

CCNY librarian William Gibbons led a Baldwin-focused Harlem community walk on Dec. 6 from the New York Public Library Harlem branch at 9 W. 124th St.

The celebration was a collaboration between The City College Center for the Arts, CCNY’s Division of Humanities and the Arts, the Black Studies Department, the MFA Program in Creative Writing, Harlem Renaissance High School, DeWitt Clinton High School, and Sisters Uptown Bookstore. It is also supported in part by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the Manhattan Neighborhood Network. Contributions were also made by The Henry Luce Foundation.

Three CCNY Students Take Top Prize at the FRAME FORWARD Student Video Festival

Three students from The City College of New York are winners of the inaugural FRAME FORWARD Student Video Festival from the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education. The festival is open to all CUNY students, regardless of their major, with this year’s theme being “Featuring Student Life Through the Eyes of Those Living It.”

Emily Adon, an electrical engineering student at the Grove School of Engineering, was the overall winner for *Through My Eyes*, the highest-rated film across all submissions, regardless of category. This short series of clips displaying student life is Adon’s first film.

Twin sisters Kiara Battle and Kayla Battle, students in the BFA in Film and Video Production Program in the Division of Humanities and the Arts, won in the best CCNY video category for *Eye of the Fish*, a poetic, short documentary combining curated images and interpersonal archival footage exploring the perspective of students through the eyes of a small orange fish. The New York City filmmaking duo were 2023 fellows of the prestigious nonprofit Ghetto Film School.

Bronx Community College student Alicia León won in the best CUNY video category for *In My Head*, which focuses on college students and their struggles with anxiety due to mounting academic pressure.

The winners received a trophy and \$200 gift cards from festival supporters Café One, Fumo, White Horse Tavern, and B&H. Their videos were screened at The Americas Film Festival New York in June.

FRAME FORWARD was founded by Dean Juan Carlos Mercado and Lorena de Miranda Marques, CWE’s senior advisor and strategic media and marketing communications specialist.

More information about the festival, eligibility requirements and video submission instructions are available at www.ccny.cuny.edu/frameforward.

Vibrant TAFFNY Showcases Talented Filmmakers from the Americas



The 12th annual The Americas Film Festival New York opened on June 12 with the New York premiere of the feature film *Becoming Vera* (U.S., 90 min.) directed by Sergio Vizuete at the Instituto Cervantes New York. A cultural initiative of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education, TAFFNY presented nine feature films and more than 25 short films celebrating the rich diversity of the stories, languages and cultures from across the Americas.

The opening night event was invitation only, and after the film, Vizuete answered questions from the audience. A reception followed, sponsored by Ron Barceló.

Set in Miami, *Becoming Vera* is the inspiring story of Vera, a talented 18-year-old pianist, who has aged out of the foster care system where she grew up. Alone and uncertain about her future, Vera finds solace and passion in the world of Latin Jazz. As she navigates the challenges of adulthood—financial struggles and lingering emotional scars from her time in foster care—Vera embarks on a journey of self-discovery and resilience.

This is Vizuete’s first feature-length film. He previously directed commercials for the L.A. Lakers, T-Mobile, Ducati, Lexus, Real Madrid, and the L.A. Dodgers. His work has appeared at the Cannes Film Festival and the Tribeca Film Festival.

Juan Carlos Mercado, dean of the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies and TAFFNY’s founder, shared his thoughts on this year’s festival: “As we celebrated our 12th edition, we proudly reaffirmed our role as a cultural beacon within the city’s rich and vibrant artistic landscape. This year’s selection aimed to amplify stories often overlooked by mainstream media and to spotlight countries rarely featured in major festivals—fully aligned with the mission of CUNY and City College.”

The Americas Short Film Competition is dedicated to promoting and showcasing short audiovisual works—up to 26 minutes in length—by emerging filmmakers whose stories reflect the concerns, perspectives, and realities of life across the region. This year, TAFFNY presented more than 25 short

films competing for the Americas Award in the categories of Animation, Documentary, Experimental and Fiction.

There was a special showcase featuring the work of graduating students from the MFA and BFA in Film program at City College as well as winners from the first annual Frame Forward student video festival.

All events were free and open to the public, and all foreign-language films were subtitled in English.

Diana Vargas, TAFFNY’s artistic director, said, “Each year, filmmakers and their stories offer a mirror to the struggles, dreams, and hopes of their societies. For this edition, we chose to highlight narratives that celebrate women’s resilience, explore the complexities of love, and bring attention to issues of mental health and inclusion—especially within LGBTQ+ communities and among adolescents. The Americas are a vibrant mosaic of cultures—complex, illuminating, and deeply human—and TAFFNY’s mission is to bring these stories to the screen so New Yorkers can experience, reflect, and connect. Best of all: it’s completely free and full of joy.”

TAFFNY closed on June 20 with its Short Film Awards Ceremony at the National Museum of the American Indian followed by the New York premiere of *So Surreal: Behind the Mask*, a documentary directed by Neil Diamond and Joanne Robertson (Canada, 88 min). The movie follows Cree filmmaker Diamond as he traces the storied history of indigenous masks from the far reaches of Turtle Island to Europe where they influenced the major artists of the Surrealist movement, while attempting to return a 100-year-old mask to the Kwakwaka’wakw people on Canada’s northwest coast.

The jurors of the Documentary and Animation categories included director Marta Bautis, CUNY Graduate Center gender studies professor Joe Rollins, and radio journalist and scholar David Little. Screenwriter and author Lopera-Sánchez and LaGuardia Community College professor Ana María Hernández were jurors in the Fiction and Experimental categories.

Creative Writing
Conference
Celebrates Richness of
International Cultural
Interplay



From left to right: MCWC-NY organizers Carlos Aguasaco, Carlos Villar Flor, Giannina Brachi, Espido Freire, Immaculada Lara-Bonilla and Javier Valdivielso Odriozola at the closing ceremony.

The 2024 International Multilingual Creative Writing Conference in November was a resounding success, and a milestone in the cultural and academic life of the College. Over the course of the three-day conference, MCWC-NYC welcomed more than one hundred writers, scholars, publishers, and cultural leaders from the United States, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. With more than 30 panels, keynote addresses, and special events, the program showcased extraordinary richness, weaving together scholarship, pedagogy, translation, and artistic performance.

Highlights included keynote sessions on amplifying Latinx voices, the 20th anniversary of *Hostos Review*, landmark presentations of new works by Giannina Braschi and Espido Freire, and a groundbreaking forum on Indigenous literatures. Panels explored identity, translation, pedagogy, theatre, audiovisual writing, and the intersections of literature with psychology, politics, and the visual arts. Collectively, they demonstrated the conference's power to bridge academic research and artistic practice while amplifying historically marginalized voices.

MCWC-NY also featured the Americas Poetry Festival of New York, known as TAPFNY, which delivered two unforgettable evenings of multilingual poetry readings in more than a dozen languages, including English, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Arabic, Catalan, and Chinese. These vibrant

performances captivated audiences and embodied the conference's mission of celebrating diversity and foster intercultural collaboration through creative expression.

The conference was the brainchild of Carlos Aguasaco, professor and chair of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences. Building on 10 successful multilingual poetry festivals, Aguasaco expanded the project into a broader platform for creative writing in all its forms.

The 2024 edition validated his vision, strengthened international networks, and positioned CCNY as a global hub for multilingual creative exchange. The conference was organized in collaboration with Universidad de La Rioja, and the support of The Academy of American Poets, the Latino Writers Institute, and the *Latino Book Review*.

International
Conference on the
Historical Links
Between Spain and the
Americas

The 10th International Conference on the Historical Links Between Spain and the Americas, “Transatlantic Transformations: Histories, Democracies, and Artificial Intelligence,” was held in New York City from April 30 to May 2, 2025. Known as LINKS, this landmark event brought together more than 60 scholars from more than 40 institutions across Spain and the Americas. The conference explored the multifaceted historical and contemporary connections between these regions.

Across 14 panels, participants addressed themes such as transatlantic artistic exchanges, socio-political transformations, language and identity, and pressing global challenges, including democracy, climate change, migration, and artificial intelligence. Keynote presentations by distinguished scholars and thought leaders, including chemistry and biochemistry Professor David Jeruzalmi on molecular machines and philosophy Professor Lou Marinoff, enriched the interdisciplinary discourse.

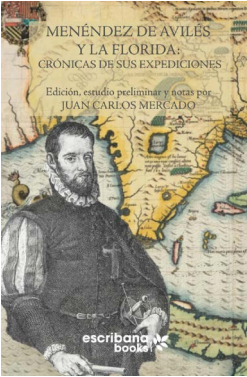
The conference’s hybrid format enabled broader participation, fostering cross-

cultural dialogue and enhancing collective insights into how historical connections continue to shape the socio-political and cultural dynamics of the transatlantic region.

The 10th edition of LINKS was jointly organized by the CCNY Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education, Instituto Cervantes New York, and the Benjamin Franklin Institute at the University of Alcalá (Spain), underscoring a strong institutional commitment to advancing transatlantic academic cooperation and dialogue.

Dean Mercado
Publishes Revised
Edition of Scholarly
Publication

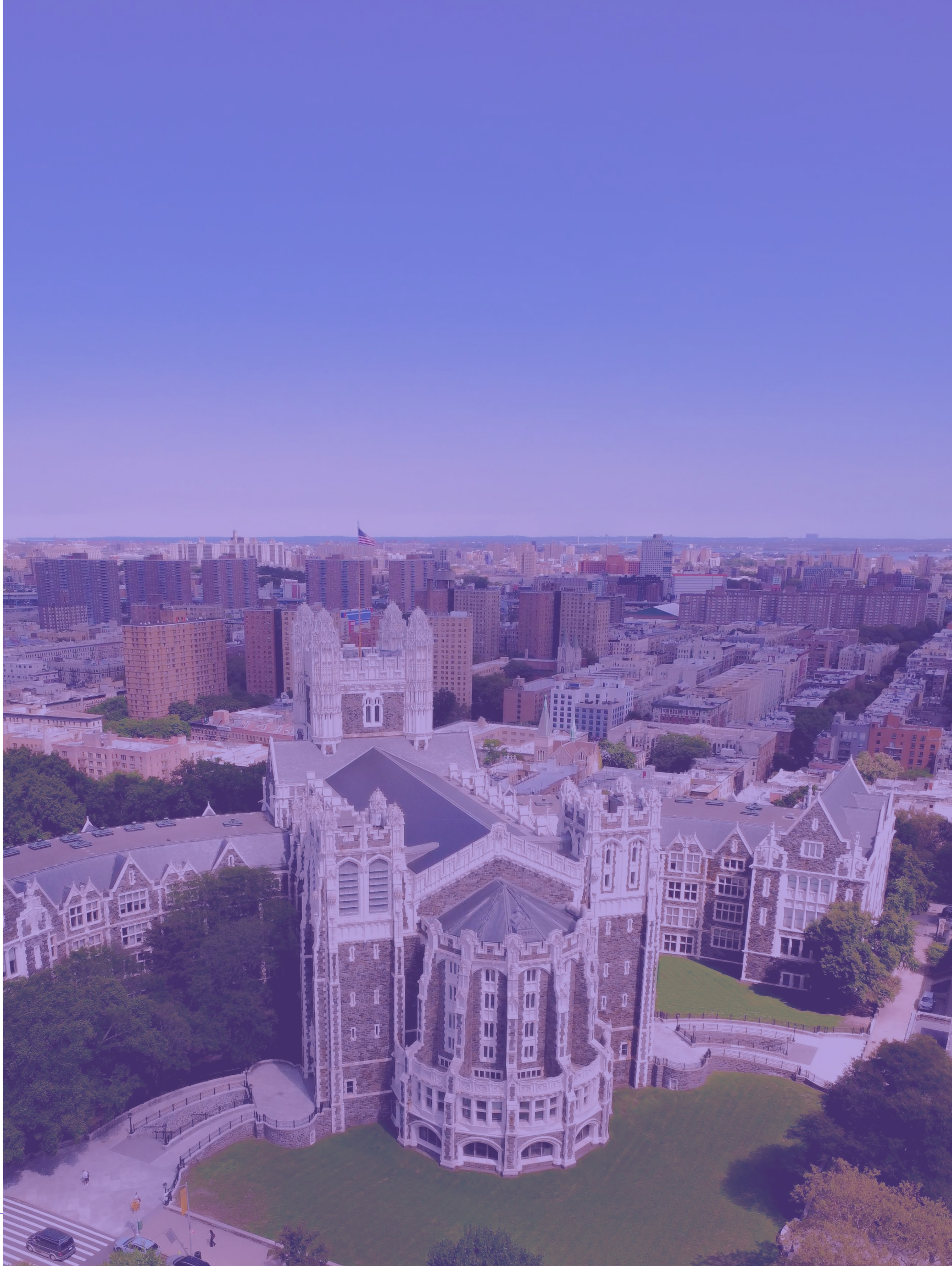
In a groundbreaking contribution to the study of early American and colonial



history, Dean Juan Carlos Mercado published a new edition of *Pedro Menéndez de Avilés and the Chronicles of La Florida*. This book introduces new scholarship on one of the most

vital figures in American history, Pedro Menéndez de Avilés, who in 1565 founded St. Augustine, the oldest European colony in the modern continental U.S. Through close reading and contextual explication, Mercado illuminates Menéndez's chronicles, highlighting such significant topics as early crosscultural encounters, imperial ventures, and the dynamics of colonization.

Mercado's work is a tribute to CCNY's commitment to encouraging historical scholarship and dialogue with foundational narratives that remain to build knowledge of the Americas. It further highlights the vital role our faculty members play in creating research that informs popular knowledge and significantly contributes to scholarly debate at national and international levels.



Brad Lander, City Comptroller, Addresses Class of 2025



New York City Comptroller Brad Lander was the keynote speaker at The City College of New York's 172nd Commencement on May 30. He addressed the Class of 2025, comprising more than 3,000 graduates, on CCNY's South Campus Great Lawn in historic Harlem.

Other speakers included:

- City College President **Vince Boudreau**
- Class of 2025 Valedictorian **Eilyn Zuniga Marquez**
- Salutatorian **Andrew Williams**
- **Mayra Linares-Garcia**, a member of the CUNY Board of Trustees, offered greetings to CCNY's graduating class.

Comptroller Brad Lander serves as New York City's chief financial officer, leading an office of roughly 800 public servants in their work to promote the financial health, integrity, and effectiveness of city government and secure a more thriving and sustainable future for all New Yorkers. As investment advisor and custodian for the City's public pension funds, Comptroller Lander stewards the retirement security of over 750,000 current and retired public sector workers, with a prudent, diversified, long-term approach to the City's investments and obligations. Under Comptroller Lander's leadership, three of the City's funds have adopted a detailed plan to reach net zero emissions by 2040, among the most aggressive in the nation. The plan includes divesting from fossil fuels, engaging asset managers and portfolio companies toward decarbonization across the economy, and dramatically scaling up investments in climate solutions. He ran in the primary for New York City Mayor.

Colin Powell School Students Are Valedictorian and Salutatorian: Eilyn Zuniga Marquez and Andrew Williams

Eilyn Zuniga Marquez, a Salvadoran immigrant who graduated summa cum laude in January with dual B.A. and M.A. degrees in psychology from the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, is Class of 2025 Valedictorian. Andrew Williams, who also completed his coursework for a B.S. in psychology summa cum laude in the Colin Powell School's Macaulay Honors Program, is the Salutatorian. CCNY's 172nd Commencement took place May 30.



Eilyn Zuniga Marquez

ABOUT EILYN ZUNIGA MARQUEZ

The Bronx resident arrived in the U.S. as a teenager in 2018 with knowledge of English grammar but unable to speak the language fluently. She took ESL classes during the two years that she attended Liberty High School Academy for Newcomers before enrolling at CCNY. In addition to the unprecedented experience of online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, Marquez would face other challenges at CCNY, including culture shock and financial stress.

But she credits the SEEK program and Colin Powell School Office of Student Success for seeing her through. Hailed as a stellar student, she made the Dean's List every semester and received the SEEK Sophomore of the Year Award for her first-year academic performance, in addition to her active involvement (both in-person and virtually) in campus and community activities. Marquez also received the Debra Kennedy Sterling Silver Award, and the Outstanding SEEK Graduate of the Year Award.

She plans on using her BA/MA in psychology, which meets the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports' educational requirement for certification as a substance use counselor, to, among other things, help ameliorate mental health issues in the community. She's interned with RevCore Recovery Center, conducting counseling sessions with patients diagnosed with substance use disorder.

Marquez' career goal is to eventually obtain a Ph.D. in clinical psychology but, more immediately, she's accepted a Civil Service Pathways Fellowship from the New York City Department of Citywide Administrative Services. The two-year full-time paid program for CUNY graduates is designed to create a pipeline from college to a career in civil service.

She's assigned to the Department of Homeless Services, working on special initiatives in city shelters and learning from actual project managers.



Andrew Williams

ABOUT ANDREW WILLIAMS

Born in Queens of Jamaican immigrant parents, Williams's CCNY tenure was littered with honors. His accolades included:

- A four-year full-tuition merit scholarship to the Macaulay Honors College
- The Peter F. Vallone Academic Scholarship
- The City College Academy for Professional Preparation (CCAPP) Scholarship
- The Associated Medical Schools of New York (AMSNY) Scholarship
- The Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship

The latter award enabled Williams to spend three months in summer 2024 as a research intern at The Kids Research Institute Australia, in Perth, Australia. There, he performed experiments with the Brain Tumor research group.

In addition, Williams has worked as a research assistant in CUNY Distinguished Professor Ruth E. Stark's NMR spectroscopy lab at CCNY's Center for Discovery and Innovation; as a biology and organic chemistry tutor in CCAPP; an Emergency Department volunteer at New York-Presbyterian Columbia, Manhattan; and as a Scribe Technician at CITYMD, Jackson Heights in Queens. On campus, he served as a Colin Powell School Student Advisory member.

The Queens resident plans on continuing his tutorship in biology and chemistry while applying for medical school.

BY THE NUMBERS

200+	22	12
Student-athletes representing CCNY	All-Conference selections	Varsity programs in competition
3.21	2	2
Average GPA among student-athletes	Conference Major Award winners (Coach & Rookie of the Year – Men's Soccer)	Teams recognized with national academic awards

As the 2024-25 academic year concludes, the City College of New York Department of Athletics proudly celebrates a year of growth, success, and renewed energy across all programs. From postseason breakthroughs to academic milestones, our student-athletes exemplified what it means to be Beavers—resilient, determined, and united.



Karina Jorge

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Karina Jorge, Interim Director of Athletics, was honored with the 2025 CCNY Alumni Association Distinguished Service Award, recognizing her exceptional leadership and enduring commitment to the City College community. Appointed Interim Director in Fall 2024, Jorge has guided the department through a time of transition with stability, integrity, and a student-centered approach. Her dedication to fostering academic and athletic excellence has made a lasting impact on CCNY Athletics.

ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Exceptional academic achievements across the CCNY Athletics community marked the 2024-25 academic year:

- Four student-athletes were honored as 2024-25 CUNY Scholar-Athletes of the Year (Honorable Mention):

- **Viviana Alltore** – Women's Volleyball

Jessica Fuentes – Women's Soccer

- **Michael Chasnov** – Baseball
- **Stephen Suprun** – Baseball
- A total of 61 student-athletes earned recognition on the CUNYAC Winter/Spring Honor Roll, each achieving a GPA of 3.2 or higher.
- Twelve student-athletes were named to the College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District Team, celebrating those who excel both academically and athletically on the national stage.
- The Baseball team earned the American Baseball Coaches Association Team Academic Excellence Award for the fourth consecutive year, boosting a 3.3 GPA.
- The men's basketball team earned the National Association of Basketball Coaches Team Academic Excellence Award, reflecting a strong academic year with a team GPA.

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

MEN'S SOCCER



The 2024 season marked a true resurgence for the Beavers under first-year head coach **Roger Gonzalez**, who was named CUNYAC Coach of the Year after leading the program to its best conference finish since 2015. CCNY went unbeaten in CUNYAC play (5-0-2) and earned the No. 2 seed in the postseason, making their first CUNYAC Semifinals appearance since 2021.

Freshman standout **Yanis Hamdi Pacha** was named CUNYAC Rookie of the Year, leading the team in goals (four), points (eight), and game-winning goals (two). The team boasted five All-Conference selections, including:

- **Carlos Garcia** – First Team (Goalkeeper), conference leader in saves (71), four shutouts
- **Adonijah Brooks** – First Team (Defender), second career All-Conference selection
- **Peter Gjini** – First Team (Midfielder), three goals, team-high 27 shots
- **Aliou Ndiaye** – Second Team (Midfielder), four assists, one goal, six points

Junior **Arlind Cela** was named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team, recognizing their exceptional performance in the classroom and on the court.

WOMEN'S SOCCER



The Beavers continued their remarkable streak, making their eighth consecutive appearance in the CUNYAC

Championships, cementing their status as a consistent postseason contender. With a blend of experienced leadership and strong defensive play, CCNY once again proved to be a tough competitor within the conference.

Leading the way was senior **MacKenzie Moreno**, who capped off an outstanding career by earning her fourth consecutive CUNYAC All-Star selection. Moreno started all 14 matches, finishing the season with 10 goals, four assists, and 24 points, while firing 41 total shots, including 28 on goal.

Graduate student **Samantha Pinto** also earned her second straight All-Star honor, anchoring the defensive line in 13 matches. Pinto contributed on both ends of the pitch, helping the Beavers to two shutouts, while also scoring two goals, dishing out four assists, and totaling eight points.

Jessica Fuentes, Pamela Bernal, Isabel Osorio, Sara Rodriguez, Samantha Pinto were named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team.

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY & OUTDOOR TRACK & FIELD

The City College of New York cross country and track & field programs continued to demonstrate depth and development throughout the 2024–25 academic year, with strong team performances and individual accolades on both the course and the track.

In the fall, the men's cross country team finished fourth overall at the 2024 CUNYAC Cross Country Championships held at Van Cortlandt Park. Freshman **Trent Santoro** led the Beavers with a 10th-place finish, earning CUNYAC All-Conference honors with a time of 31:42.8. Sophomore **Gian-Carlo Riehl** (33:35.1) placed 11th, and sophomore Toufique Mahmud ran a personal-best 32:20.2 for 21st place.

In the spring, the men's outdoor track & field team turned in a third-place team finish at the 2025 CUNYAC Outdoor Championships, led by key performances across sprints, distance, jumps, and throws.

Michael Abayev powered the Beavers with a gold medal in the 800m (2:08.33)

and silver in the 400m hurdles (1:02.70), scoring 18 points. **Trent Santoro** added to his strong year with a silver in the 3000m steeplechase (12:09.05) and fifth in the 5000m.

In the field, **Jason Alexopoulos** delivered across all throwing events—second in discus (28.76m), fourth in javelin (29.40m) and hammer (27.01m), and fifth in shot put. **Nicolae Burlacu** scored key points with a third-place finish in hammer (28.79m) and fifth in discus.

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY & TRACK AND FIELD



The City College of New York women's cross country and track & field teams showcased resilience and rising talent throughout the 2024–25 academic year, highlighted by all-conference honors, podium finishes, and a third-place team result at the CUNYAC Outdoor Championships.

In the fall, the Beavers turned in a fifth-place team finish at the 2024 CUNYAC Cross Country Championships held at Van Cortlandt Park.

Freshman **Norma Flores** led the squad with an outstanding ninth-place finish (28:52.3), earning CUNYAC All-Conference honors in her debut season. She was followed by sophomore **Isabelle Ashpole** (21st, 32:26.6), sophomore **Flor Dominguez** (25th, 33:08.4—personal best), and freshman **Krystell Martinez** (26th, 33:08.7—personal best), rounding out the scoring for CCNY.

In the spring, the Beavers capped their season with an impressive third-place team finish at the 2025 CUNYAC Outdoor Championships, powered by depth in distance events, field dominance, and relay strength.

Hailey Thomas, a standout freshman, captured gold in the high jump (1.41m), silver in the long jump (4.90m), and scored in the triple jump, 100m hurdles, and javelin, proving herself as one of the most versatile athletes in the conference.

On the track, **Dominguez** and **Flores** dominated the 3000m steeplechase, finishing first and second respectively. **Karuna Aikawa** chipped in with a third-place finish in the 10,000m (51:19.92) and fourth in the 5000m, adding crucial distance points.

Senior **Stephanie Toussaint** ended her CCNY career on a high note by winning gold in the hammer throw (29.64m) and scoring in the shot put.

Relay units also came up big, with the 4x400m team (**Flores, Dominguez, Tien, Gomez**) finishing second (4:50.32), and the 4x100m team (**Thomas, Choudhury, Tien, Gomez**) securing third (58.18).

Dominguez, Flores, Thomas, and **Toussaint** all earned CUNYAC All-Star honors, while **Karuna Aikawa** was selected to the All-Sportsmanship Team.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The City College of New York women's volleyball team continued its strong tradition of excellence, qualifying for the CUNYAC Postseason Tournament for the seventh consecutive season.

Senior **Bianka Catral** was recognized for her outstanding play, earning Second Team CUNYAC All-Star honors. Senior **Viviana Alatorre** was named to the CUNYAC All-Sportsmanship Team, showcasing poise and leadership on and off the court.

Academically, the team thrived with a 3.04 team GPA, while graduate student **Michelle Fernandez** and **Alatorre** were both honored on the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team, recognizing their exceptional performance in the classroom and on the court.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Beavers wrapped up the 2024–25 season with a 10-11 record, securing their fourth consecutive postseason

appearance as the No. 5 seed in the CUNYAC Tournament.

Senior forward **Edward Beqiri** led the way, earning CUNYAC First Team All-Star and All-Met Third Team honors from the Metropolitan Basketball Writers Association. Junior guard **Justin Morety** was recognized as a CUNYAC Second Team All-Star, while senior **Chris Stone** earned a spot on the CUNYAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Off the court, the program was honored with the NABC Team Academic Excellence Award, reflecting a strong academic year with a team GPA above 3.0.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



CCNY's women's basketball squad continued to lay a strong foundation in 2024-25, highlighted by freshman guard **Yazmin Loma Romero's** selection to the CUNYAC All-Sportsmanship Team—a testament to the program's culture of respect and integrity on the court. Off the hardwood, the Beavers excelled in the classroom, posting an impressive 3.35 team GPA, underscoring their commitment to academic success and holistic student-athlete development.

Junior **Joscelyn Ramos** was named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team for the second straight season, recognizing their exceptional performance in the classroom and on the court.

BASEBALL

The Beavers captured their third straight regular season championship, finishing with a 13-14 record in a competitive CUNYAC schedule. CCNY advanced to the CUNYAC Championship Series for the fourth consecutive season, demonstrating sustained excellence on the diamond.

Four student-athletes earned postseason honors, with freshman outfielder **Demetri Ziogiannis**, senior shortstop **Kevin Budzinski**, and junior two-way player **Erik Rank** all named to the CUNYAC All-Star Team. Additionally, junior outfielder **Eric Marmolejos** was recognized on the CUNYAC All-Sportsmanship Team.

Off the field, the program received national recognition by earning the ABCA Team Academic Excellence Award for the fourth consecutive year, celebrating a team GPA of 3.0 or higher during the 2024–25 academic year. **Budzinski, Michael Chasanov**, and **Brandon Paider**, were named to the College Sports Communicators Academic All-District Team, recognizing their exceptional performance in the classroom and on the court.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

The City College of New York men's volleyball program celebrated the leadership and sportsmanship of **Alex Abraham**, who was named to the CUNYAC All-Sportsmanship Team for the 2024 season.

WOMEN'S FENCING



The City College of New York women's fencing team wrapped up the 2024–25 season with a 15th-place finish at the NIWFA Championships on March 1. Earlier in the season, the Beavers placed 11th overall at the EWFC Championships, continuing to gain valuable experience against top regional competition.

Alan M. Hantman
Delivers 2024 Rudin
Lecture, Publishes
New Book



Alan M. Hantman

Alan M. Hantman, the 10th Architect of the U.S. Capitol, returned to his alma mater in September as the 2024 Samuel Rudin Distinguished Visiting Scholar. His lecture in the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture's Sciame Auditorium was entitled: *Under the Dome: Politics, Crisis, and Architecture at the United States Capitol*, which is the title of his latest book. Hantman signed copies of his book after his talk.

Hantman was in the first graduating class of what became CCNY's Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture. He earned both Bachelor of Science '64 and Bachelor of Architecture degrees '66 from CCNY, followed by a Masters in Urban Planning from the Graduate Center, CUNY in 1979. He currently serves on the Dean's Advisory Council at the Spitzer School.

A Fellow of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA), Hantman was appointed 10th Architect of the U.S. Capitol in 1997 by President Bill Clinton. *Under the Dome* provides a personal account of how the Capitol works as a physical entity; who runs it, how and why decisions are made about the security of the Capitol and the people who work there. With a staff of 2300, Hantman was entrusted with the stewardship and preservation of all Capitol Hill Buildings and Grounds. This included the operation of 18 million square feet of historic buildings, 300 acres of prime Washington land, and all the day-to-day support services required by Congress, in addition to the preservation and upgrading of these Legislative branch structures.

Hantman oversaw the planning, design and construction of the three-story underground expansion of the Capitol, the largest increment of growth since 1793 when the design for the Capitol was first selected by President George Washington. He retired in 2007.

Hantman is married to Rosalyn Frank '65. They met at CCNY via a mutual friend, and were both in the Wittes Dynasty in House Plan Association.

The Samuel Rudin Visiting Scholars Lecture is supported by a grant from the May and Samuel Rudin Family Foundation, Inc. Samuel Rudin, a civic and philanthropic leader in New York City, was a member of the Class of 1918 at City College and went on to a prominent real estate career.

Alumni and Friends
Enjoy Special Events
at the Third Annual
Homecoming Day



The City College of New York's Homecoming Day took place on Saturday, May 3 on the North Campus's Beaver Quad. Alumni and friends of the college reunited for a fun-filled day of activities, games, campus tours, live music, performances, an art exhibition and more, including special appearances by alumni members of the New York Giants.

The free events kicked off Lavender Fever Homecoming Week, which ran from April 28 through May 9.

Refreshing drinks and delicious Southern-style comfort food was served up by Harlem's very own Miss Mamie's Spoonbread Too.

Alumni with class years ending in 1 and 6 were celebrated. Campus tours, planetarium shows and networking workshops were also held. Athletes had a chance to show off their skills.

"Photographic Alchemy: A Retrospective Through The Lens of Joe Harris," an exhibition of the work of Joe Harris, professor of photography at CCNY from 1985-2003, was on view in the Lincoln Corridor of Shepard Hall from April

28 through May 3. On Homecoming Day, tours of the exhibit were held. The exhibit showcased Harris' body of work about Harlem. The Estate of Joe Harris was a proud partner of the exhibition, and marked the occasion by attending a donor luncheon and a special student reception celebrating CCNY's photography program where one exceptional student will be awarded the Joe Harris Scholarship.

The Harlem Gallery of Science's Video Games' "The Great Connector" exhibit was open to the Homecoming Day community. The exhibition explores how young people leverage video games, emphasizing the skills they acquired such as determination, resilience and patience.

The City College Center for the Arts and the CCNY Cohen Library presented a world premier dance composition called "Intuitive Imprints: An Exploration of Sense and Memory" in the Morris R. Cohen Library. It was co-sponsored by CUNY Dance Initiative, a program that allows dancers and dance companies access to CUNY PAC's for low cost rehearsals and public performances.

Victor Almanzar '12
Describes "An Actor's
Journey" in Dortort
Lecture



Victor Almanzar

Victor Almanzar, the star of award-winning theatrical, television and film productions, returned to his alma mater to deliver the David Dortort Lecture in the Dramatic Arts at The City College of New York on Wednesday, May 7. Free and open to the public, his talk was entitled "An Actor's Journey."

From the Class of 2012, Almanzar, who majored in theatre, shared how his CCNY degree led to success on the stage and screen, appearing on Broadway and in television shows, such as *Homeland* and *Empire*. He is a 2024 Townsend Harris Award winner.

Almanzar is a New York-based actor

who came from the Dominican Republic at an early age. He appeared as Oswaldo in the Pulitzer Prize-winning production of *Between Riverside and Crazy* in both The Atlantic Theater and Second Stage Theater (NYC) and the Steppenwolf Theater (Chicago). He was nominated for the Lucille Lortel Award for his role as Oswaldo.

His credits are many and varied, including a lead role in independent feature film *11:55*, a recurring role in the TV series *Homeland* as Lieutenant Wenzel, a recurring role in the series *Power* as Arturo on STARZ, a recurring role in the series *Empire* as Big Heavy (FOX), and a supporting role in the feature film *Brawl in Cell Block 99* (XYZ Films). Almanzar is a proud lifetime member of The Actors Studio.

Before turning his attention to acting, Almanzar was in the United States Marine Corps, where he served in Kosovo and Iraq.

The Dortort Lecture in the Dramatic Arts was endowed in 2004 by David Dortort (1916-2010), the famed Hollywood screenwriter, executive producer, and 1936 CCNY alumnus. He sought to bring to his alma mater the most creative and talented writers, directors and other artists from stage, film and television. Dortort was the creator, writer and executive producer of *Bonanza*, one of the longest-running primetime dramatic series in television history, lasting 14 years. He also created, wrote and produced *The High Chaparral*, the first primetime series to feature Latino characters in starring roles. Dortort's film credits include *The Lusty Men*, *Reprisal*, *Cry in the Night*, *The Big Land*, and *Clash by Night*. He received the Motion Picture and Television Foundation's Golden Boot Award for Distinguished Work in Western Films and Television in 1999.

Dan Pugach '11 Wins
Big With GRAMMY®
Award



Dan Pugach

The City College of New York was represented in full force at the 67th Annual GRAMMY® Award. Jazz musician alumni Dan Pugach '11 was awarded a GRAMMY® for Best

"Large Jazz Ensemble" for his album *Bianca Reimagined: Paws and Persistence* by the Dan Pugach Big Band, featuring Nicole Zuraitis, on which CCNY Masters of Music student Nitzan Gavrieli played piano and CCNY Masters of Music private instructor Pete McCann played guitar.

Members of the Band, including Gavrieli, crowded the stage alongside Pugach as he made his acceptance speech. This significant accolade highlights the dedication and artistry of the musicians involved in the project. The recording is particularly meaningful as it is dedicated to Pugach's late dog, Bianca, symbolizing the deep emotional connection that inspired the music. Pugach is an avid supporter of pet adoption.

"I got to CCNY City College of New York in 2009 in order to pursue a Master of Arts in Jazz Performance," said Pugach. "My mentor was pianist composer Mike Holober who pushed me to pursue arranging and composition for large jazz ensemble. Winning a GRAMMY® for Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album with an original big band album is a direct result of everything I got exposed to during CCNY which shaped my musical and professional growth."

While this is both McCann and Gavrieli's first GRAMMY® nomination, this is Pugach's third.

Pugach is a three-time recipient of the ASCAP Foundation Jazz Composer Award, a winner of the BMI Charlie Parker Composition Prize/Manny Albam Commission as part of the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop, and a Betty Carter Jazz Ahead Residency Program participant at the Kennedy Center.

Jazz guitarist McCann recently released "Without Question." A sought-after sideman, McCann has played guitar on over 100 CDs. He's performed at Carnegie Hall, jazz clubs and festivals, and played in 20 countries.

Israeli pianist and composer Gavrieli arrived in New York in 2007, leads a jazz trio and plans to record his second album this year. He's toured extensively in the U.S. and Europe, and is musical director for Pulitzer-Prize-winning playwright Suzan-Lori Parks.

Class of 2025 Duo &
Alumna Flora Lennihan
'22 are Fulbright
Winners

Rafath Ghabode and Kristy Lee, members of the Class of 2025, and 2022 alumna Flora Lennihan, are recipients of Fulbright awards.

Ghabode, who graduated from CCNY's Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership with a B.A. in economics and a minor in international studies, is headed to France. She'll pursue a master's in economics at ENS Paris-Saclay through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

The Harlem resident, who was born in Benin Republic, West Africa, plans a career as an international economic consultant working with governments, NGOs, and IGOs to support sustainable development in underserved communities.



Kristy Lee

Kristy Lee leaves CCNY with dual BA and MA degrees in history from the Macaulay Honors College at CCNY. Her Fulbright will take her to Taiwan as an English Teaching Assistant.



Flora Lennihan

Flora Lennihan is also a graduate of CCNY's Macaulay Honors College, where she earned her BFA in film production with minors in anthropology and journalism. She

is the recipient of a Fulbright Research Grant to Croatia.

During her nine months there, she plans to travel throughout Croatia and create a documentary film about emigration and return migration of its diaspora, a topic that is both timely and personal. Lennihan will be mentored by professors and advisors at the University of Dubrovnik, the University of Zagreb, and the Rochester Institute of Technology's campus in Dubrovnik.

Alumni Association’s Annual Gala Honors Neil DeGrasse Tyson and Seven Alumni



Neil DeGrasse Tyson

Neil DeGrasse Tyson, the noted astrophysicist and bestselling author, was the recipient of the 2024 John H. Finley Award recipient given by the Alumni Association of The City College of New York for exemplary and dedicated service to the City of New York. Additionally, the association honored seven CCNY alumni for outstanding post-graduate achievement with Townsend Harris Medals at the 144th Annual Alumni Gala on Nov. 7 in the Great Hall of Shepard Hall.

Established in 1948 by the Class of 1918, the Alumni Association presents the John H. Finley Award annually in honor of Finley, who was the third president of CCNY.



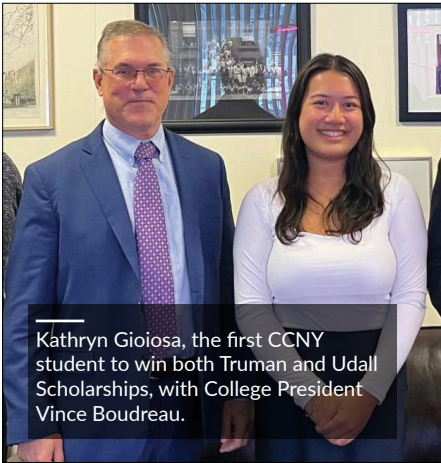
From left to right: Larry Greengrass, Gary Calnek, Gail Purchia, Charles Powell, Victor Almanzar and Dr. John Gordon Harold.

The 2024 Townsend Harris recipients are:

- Victor Almanzar '12** - a military veteran turned actor, his credits include shows such as *Homeland*, *Empire*, *Blue Bloods*, *Chicago PD* and *High Maintenance*.
- Gary Calnek '67** - helped create the NYC career path for minorities in the Emergency Medical Service, EMT and paramedic ambulance workforce, and was pivotal in establishing the School Construction Authority.
- Dr. John Gordon Harold '77** - Professor of Cardiology at the Cedars-Sinai Smidt Heart Institute; Past President of the American College of Cardiology; Emeritus Trustee American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation and past consultant to the United Nations World Health Organization.
- Jolyon Naegele '76** - a veteran journalist and author, he later became an international peacekeeper with the U.N. Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK) in 2003, and was the mission's first coordinator for dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

- Charles Powell '71** - previously a litigator in Civil Rights and constitutional law, he assisted in the development and establishment of South Africa's first democratic constitution. He's president and CEO of New Origins Development Corporation.
 - Art Stevens '57** - a distinguished leader in the public relations industry, he is managing partner of The Stevens Group, a mergers and acquisitions firm for public relations agencies.
 - Gail Konstantin Purchia '74** - a senior vice president of Wealth Management with UBS, she was named on the Forbes SHOOK list of Top Women Wealth Advisors in 2020.
- "It's our privilege to host the 144th Annual Alumni Gala and bring together our incredible community once again," said David Covington, Executive Director of the Alumni Association. "Each year, we are continually impressed by our community's commitment to success, as we watch our alumni consistently reach new heights and conquer any obstacles in their careers."

First CCNY Student to Win Both Coveted Truman and Udall Scholarships



Kathryn Gioiosa, the first CCNY student to win both Truman and Udall Scholarships, with College President Vince Boudreau.

Kathryn Gioiosa, a political science major in the Colin Powell School, has been named a 2025 Harry S. Truman Scholar and a 2025 Udall Scholar. She is the first CCNY student to receive both of these scholarships.

She is one of 54 exceptional students from 49 U.S. colleges and universities selected by the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation's Board of Trustees, and one of 55 exceptional students from 45 colleges and universities selected by the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation.

The highly competitive Truman Scholarship is the premier graduate scholarship for aspiring public service leaders in the nation. Selection is based on a combination of career and graduate study interests, community service and academic achievement.

"Resourceful, patriotic leaders, today's Truman Scholars would make President Truman proud," said Terry Babcock-Lumish, the Foundation's executive secretary and a 1996 Truman Scholar from Pennsylvania.

Each Truman Scholar receives funding for graduate studies, leadership training, career counseling, and special internship and fellowship opportunities within the federal government.

Gioiosa is CCNY's eighth Truman Scholar since 2005.

Established by Congress in 1975 as the living memorial to President

Harry S. Truman and a national monument to public service, the Truman Scholarship carries the legacy of our 33rd President by supporting and inspiring the next generation of public service leaders.

The 54 awardees join a community of 3,618 Truman Scholars named since the first awards in 1977.

The Udall Undergraduate Scholarship honors the legacies of Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall. The Scholarship Program identifies future leaders in environmental, Tribal public policy, and health care fields. It is highly competitive, with students participating in their schools' internal competitions before receiving consideration from the Udall Foundation.

The Udall Foundation was established by the U.S. Congress in 1992 as an independent executive branch agency to honor Morris K. Udall's lasting impact on this nation's environment, public lands, and natural resources, and his support of the rights and self-governance of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

The Forest Hills, Queens native is a Macaulay Honors student. She is also a Moynihan Center Public Service Fellow and was, previously, a Climate Policy Fellow.

Gioiosa serves as co-executive director of TREEage, a youth-led climate justice organization. She co-leads the organizing committee of New York Renews, a coalition of over 390 environmental, justice, faith, and labor organizations statewide.

Gioiosa first became interested in public policy in the areas of infrastructure and climate change as a high school student. The daughter of a teacher, she experienced first-hand how some Queens public schools are afflicted with problems such as lead-tainted water or faulty heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Gioiosa plans to pursue a joint master's degree in public policy and urban planning after graduation.

Graduate Film Student Justis Fiduccia Chosen for Original Voices Accelerator



Justis Fiduccia

Justis Fiduccia, an MFA Film student, was accepted into NBCU Academy's 2024 Original Voices Accelerator Fellowship six-month program. Fiduccia, Class of 2025, is a documentary filmmaker with autism. The program is for U.S.-based student filmmakers and film critics interested in documentary film, journalism and inclusion

The Original Voices Accelerator is a pipeline to launch the generation of diverse creatives behind the camera and in the bylines with an annual convergence at the nation's oldest journalism school and leading independent documentary film festival, introducing them to bold ideas, films, and leaders.

"I want to prove that no matter what limitations you have or how that limitation is perceived by others, anyone can reach their goals if they, not only seize any opportunity presented, but push through any hardship with determination and a 'Yes, I can do it,' attitude," said Fiduccia.

The Accelerator program matched each Fellow with an Artist Mentor. Fellows attended an immersive day of workshops with leading artists and industry experts at the forefront of inclusion and innovation. They attended the Based on a True Story Conference (BOATS) hosted by the Jonathan B. Murray Center for Documentary Journalism at the University of Missouri, an NBCU Academy Academic Partner, on the intersections of documentary film and journalism, followed by three days full of viewing and reviewing the best new creative nonfiction films at True/False Film Fest. A grant of \$8,000 was awarded to each Fellow to defray travel and production costs.

The Original Voices Accelerator cohort included 10 students from a mix of public and private institutions: Harvard University, New York University, Duke University, University of Texas at Austin, Brigham Young University, Spelman College, University of Central Florida, Mount Holyoke College, and University of Hawaii.

The New York Times
Mentorship Program
Chooses Political
Science Student



Fairuz Omar Raya, Class of 2027, is a member of the third cohort of The New York Times Corps, a talent-mentorship program for undergraduates to develop relationships with and receive career-building advice from Times journalists.

Raya, a graduate of Bronx High School of Science, is a political science major in the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership and a journalism minor in the Division of Humanities and the Arts. She has interned with the NBCU Academy.

At the Times, she has been matched with Jeanna Smialek, who covers the Federal Reserve and the U.S. economy, and will meet with her several times a year. The idea behind the mentorship program is to focus on quality career guidance and laying a foundation for success in the field of journalism. The program aims to attract future journalists from underrepresented groups, such as students of color and/or students from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds, and to develop a diverse talent pool both for The Times and the industry at large.

Raya is one of 20 national students selected for the cohort, a highly competitive program. The students have access to speakers and training sessions throughout their undergraduate journey. Upon graduation, the highest performing students might be accepted into the Times Fellowship, the newsroom's one-year work program for up-and-coming journalists, or be referred to other newsrooms.

This year's cohort includes another CUNY student, Christian Rojas Linares, of Baruch College, who is paired with The Times' Michael Johnson, a senior audio producer.

Students in the Corps are also from Texas Tech University, Florida State University, Los Angeles Pierce College, Boise State University, Lehigh

University, University of Georgia, Texas Tech University, Bowie State University, Samford University, Muhlenberg College, University of Connecticut, University of California, Davis, Kennesaw State University, University of Alabama, Appalachian State University, Pennsylvania State University, Las Positas College, and University of Central Florida.

Since the Times Corps launched in 2022, it has graduated 60 students.

Downbeat Magazine
Win for Graduate Jazz
Ensemble



Jazz Studies Graduate Ensemble 1 won the category of Graduate College Outstanding Performance by *Downbeat* magazine. Saxophonist Steve Wilson, director of CCNY Jazz Studies and associate professor, led the Ensemble to the win. The Ensemble included graduate students Matthias Meyer, Julian Brezon, Martin Locken, Nicolai Daneck, Nitzan Gavrieli, Daniel Nagel and Antonio Cerfeda. The announcement was made in the June 2024 issue of the magazine.

Wilson is an award-winning musician and has consistently placed in the *Downbeat* Magazine Critics and Readers Polls in the alto and soprano saxophone categories since 1997.

In addition to the *Downbeat* award, Israeli pianist and composer Gavrieli was named a GRAMMY® winner for his participation on *Bianca Reimagined: Paws and Persistence*, an album by alumni Dan Pugach, class of 2011. The album won Best "Large Jazz Ensemble" at the 67th Annual GRAMMY® Award in February.

Students in the ensemble in the Master of Music program need 32 credits,

including harmony, history, arranging/composition, ensemble, pedagogy & practicum, private instruction, and a final recital, to graduate.

NYWEA Chapter at
Grove is Best in New
York State



Since 1929, the New York Water Environment Association (NYWEA), an organization of water quality professionals, has served the public by promoting sustainable water quality management through science, education, and training. This year, it's awarded The City College of New York student chapter first place for outstanding performance among NYWEA college affiliates.

Comprised of some 40 undergraduate and graduate students in the Grove School of Engineering, the chapter was recognized at NYWEA's 97th annual meeting in mid-Manhattan for its unrivaled approach to promoting knowledge about sustainable water quality management.

"We organize trips, seminars, workshops, and various events throughout the year," said Krish Ramalingam, research director in the CCNY-NYCDEP Applied Research Program in the Department of Civil Engineering, and a chapter advisor. "Additionally, we engage in activities hosted by the NYWEA Metropolitan Chapter, offering CCNY students to network, continuing education, professional growth, leadership development, and connection to the professional water environment community. We are active on social media platforms also."

Examples of CCNY-NYWEA Chapter trips include an outing to Governors Island in fall 2024, where they toured the Billion Oyster Project work site.

They learned about the organization's mission to restore New York Harbor and its water quality initiatives.

Also, in exploring broader water-related sustainability efforts, the chapter toured the Sunset Park Materials Recovery Facility, a solid waste recycling center, and The Solaire, a LEED-certified residential building featuring its own wastewater treatment system and green roof.

The chapter provides professional development opportunities for students, too. In December, professionals from Hazen and Sawyer led a resume workshop with CCNY-NYWEA to help students prepare for the oncoming job application season. More recently, the chapter hosted an alumni panel. It informed students about various career paths within the water and environmental fields, as well as how to strengthen their professional networks.

"Our chapter's primary goal is to bring awareness of the immense potential that is available in the field of environmental engineering as it caters to students with multiple backgrounds including chemical, mechanical and bio-medical," said Ramalingam. "Working in this field addresses questions and helps innovate solutions that are existential in nature for our planet."

Spitzer Students Design
a Mobile Learning
Workstation



Architecture students working with Adjunct Professor Steve Preston of the Spitzer School designed a mobile learning workstation for a local children's hospital, as part of Freedom by Design

(FBD). FBD is a community service program sponsored by the American Institute of Architecture Students (AIAS) in partnership with the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. The program uses the talents of architecture students to impact the lives of people in their community, aiming to solve everyday problems with modest design and construction solutions.

The team included Juan Giraldo (director), Gildalis Torres (historian), Mouhamadou Dieng (construction manager), Evelyn Krutoy (construction editor), Miriam Perel (treasurer) and Mehrab Chowdhury (2nd Year Rep). Students were tasked with designing a cart for the hospital to facilitate hands-on education for parents. On a visit to the hospital, they recognized that the educators relied on tote bags to carry supplies between units and struggled to find family-friendly spaces for interactive teaching.

In response, the students designed a mobile workstation to function as both a transport vessel and learning platform. The station features several large drawers for equipment storage and a flat top surface for simulation-based teaching. The colorful exterior complements the pediatric unit's subway décor theme and adds a playful touch to learning sessions.

FBD encourages students and provides real-world experience through working with clients, learning from local licensed architects and contractors, and experiencing the practical impacts of architecture and design. The program embraces efforts to provide both design-build and engagement solutions to address five barriers: physical, educational, environmental, socio-economic and cultural.

The team began working on the project in 2023, designing and building the cart while periodically meeting with the hospital team. They finished construction and handed off the cart in summer 2024.

Undergrads Star at
Annual National STEM
Conference Again

Five undergraduates were winners at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The conference

attracted more than 4,000 participants—including graduate students, researchers and scientists—in one of ABRCMS's largest gatherings in its 24-year history. The students were supported by various programs including PURT (the CCNY-MSK partnership), headed by Karen Hubbard; U-RISE (Undergraduate Research Training Initiative for Student Enhancement), led by Jonathan Levitt; CCAPP (City Academy for Professional Preparation), headed by Millicent Roth and CCNY's Division of Science headed by Dean Susan Perkins.

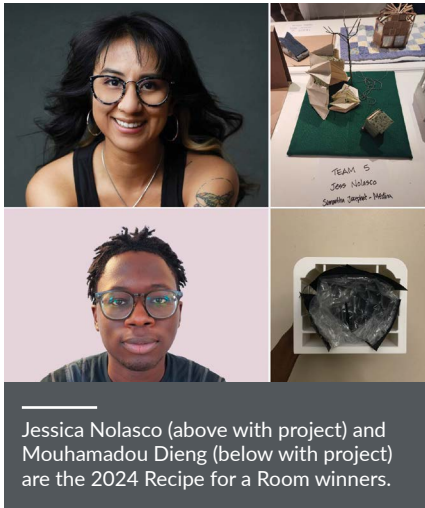


The triumphant students, their majors and project titles are:

- **Litsi Auquilla**, sophomore; biomedical science, "Mapping Between Cancer Incidence and Environmental Conditions"
- **Yusha Aziz**, junior; biomedical science, "In Vitro Study of Dis-Assembling using Mass Photometry"
- **Will Butler**, senior; biology, "ADM-4 or SUP-17: Do These β -secretases Cleave APL-1 in *Caenorhabditis elegans*?"
- **Tessa Cherian**, junior; biomedical science major, "Lung Cancer Survivor Narratives: Stories That Matter"
- **Divyani Sitaldin**, junior; biochemistry, "Pulse Diagnosis with Laser Doppler Vibrometry: A Non-Contact Approach for Cardiovascular Health Assessment"

Last year, CCNY returned from the ABRCMS conference in Pheonix, Arizona with four winners. For over 20 years, the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS)—recipient of the 2019 AIMBE Excellence in STEM Education Award—has been the go-to conference for underrepresented community college, undergraduate and postbaccalaureate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. As ABRCMS has continued to grow and evolve, it has also become a space for graduate students, postdocs, faculty, program administrators and more.

Spitzer Students Win Recipe for a Room Competition



Jessica Nolasco and Mouhamadou Dieng, two Spitzer School students, won the 2024 Recipe for a Room competition, which was hosted by the AIANY Interiors Committee. The model-making contest—about building spatial, sculptural, miniature rooms—benefits Terra Firma, a New York City-based non-profit organization supporting newly arrived immigrant children and families in gaining access to quality healthcare and legal representation.

The contest asked student competitors to create a safe, temporary, portable room for two displaced persons: one parent and one child; each room had to be constructed of items one might take when leaving a previous life like a bag, coat, favorite shirt, shoes, family photos, etc. Two-person teams, each composed of a student and architect mentor, designed portable shelters that can be folded up into suitcase-size packs.

Nolasco, M Arch '26, won in the Judge's Favorite category for her project "In Bloom," which was in collaboration with Samantha Josaphat-Medina, co-founder of Studio 397. Dieng, B Arch '25, won in the Audience Favorite category for his project "METROSOFT," which was in collaboration with Nicole Vlado Torres, fellow for Design Trust for Public Space. Spitzer students Olivia Langford, MLA '26, and Gabriel Pena, M Arch '26, also presented their completed rooms to a live audience.

Watson Fellowships Awarded to Sydney Roy and Deven Morales

Sydney Roy, of the Macaulay Honors School, and fellow freshman Deven Morales are among 15 undergraduates from 12 New York colleges selected Jeannette K. Watson Fellows by the Watson Foundation. The highly competitive three-year fellowships accord recipients unprecedented personal, professional and cultural immersions in the U.S. and abroad.

At the center of the program are fully-funded summer experiences with leading organizations in New York City and around the world. Combined with close mentoring, Watson Fellows expand their vision, develop their potential and build the confidence and perspective to do so for others. Fellows go on to attend leading graduate programs, receive national and international scholarships, and become leaders in their fields.



Sydney Roy

Roy is a political science major in the Colin Powell School and is on the Dean's List. As a Watson Fellow, the Queens resident will intern with several organizations. She'll be interviewing with The Century Foundation, Tides Advocacy, and AFS Intercultural Programs, which hosts the United Nations Youth Assembly Conference.

Roy plans on a career as a lawyer or public policy researcher, "primarily to be an advocate for those who can't advocate for themselves," she added.



Deven Morales

Morales, a Bay Shore resident, is a physics major and member of the Dean's List. He's asked to intern at the International Institute of Education as a Watson Fellow.

Professionally, he plans to practice patent law.

Jeannette K. Watson Fellows are

chosen through a nomination process from freshman and sophomore students at 12 New York City partner institutions. The fellowship's comprehensive program includes three summers of internships at leading organizations around the world, a cohort of supportive peers and ongoing mentorship. Over 300 Jeannette K. Watson Fellows have been named since the fellowship's start in 1999.

In 1961, the Watson Foundation was created as a charitable trust in the name of Thomas J. Watson Sr, best known for building IBM. Through one-of-a-kind programs, and over 100 global partnerships, the Foundation works with students to develop personal, professional and cultural opportunities that expand their vision, test and develop their potential, and build their confidence and perspective to be more humane and effective leaders with a world view.

CCNY Students and Alumni Discuss Research Experiences at CUNY Mini-conference



Professor of Iberian and Latin American Cultures Isabel M. Estrada, director of CCNY's Fellowships Program, opened the mini-conference.

The first-ever Mini-Conference on Undergraduate Research at CUNY's central office attracted more than 150 attendees from across the University, a significant proportion of them from The City College of New York.

Professor of Iberian and Latin American Cultures Isabel M. Estrada, who directs CCNY's Fellowships Program, led off by discussing an application for an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation grant that would create the CUNY STEM And Research Scholars Bridge Program. To be known as CUNY STARS, this program "would integrate community college students

into growth-oriented multi-institutional pathways within the CUNY system to foster their access to graduate education, and to effect systemic change," she said.

"It is important for CUNY students to be involved in research," said Associate Vice Chancellor and University Vice Provost for Research Rosemarie D. Wesson, who also noted that 13 campuses participated in the day's conference. "These introductions should begin at the undergraduate level so that students can see the wide scope of options available to them in this changing global, digital knowledge economy."

Total grants and contract expenditures by the CUNY Research Foundation topped more than \$600 million in FY24, she pointed out.

The mini-conference featured two panel discussions and four breakout sessions. The morning panel, on perspectives of students and alumni, featured four representatives of CCNY, including moderator of the Office of Experiential Learning.

Richard Perez, a senior majoring in psychology, shared the challenges he faced as an older student returning to college after losing most of his vision eight years ago. That experience ignited his passion for advocacy, particularly for individuals with different abilities. Crediting the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership's network, he received an offer to intern with the New York State Commission for the Blind. He and his wife earned second place in the Zahn Innovation Center's business start-up incubator competition in the Standard Chartered Women + Tech Track for SpotLight, which provides care management for individuals with low or no vision.

"One of the sayings I often remind myself of is that setbacks and failures are valuable because they provide an opportunity to reflect, analyze, and ultimately find a way forward," he said. "This mindset was central to the creation of SpotLight, which came about after hearing about the struggles faced by members of our community who had lost their vision."

CUNY Bestows Salk Scholarships on Two Students, Two Alumni

Two current City College of New York students and two recent graduates are recipients of Jonas E. Salk Scholarships awarded by The City University of New York. The scholarships recognize exceptional students who plan careers in medicine and the biological sciences.

The 2025 Salk Scholars are:

- Janice Rateshwar, graduating senior, biomedical science
- Abiola D. Laguda, graduating senior, biomedical science
- Beliz Kayis, Class of 2024, B.S. biomedical engineering, Macaulay Honors College
- Sameah Algharazi, Class of 2023, B.S. biology

As Salk Scholars, the four will each receive a stipend of \$8,000 to be allocated over three or four years of medical studies. The Salk Scholarship is named for Dr. Jonas Salk, a 1934 graduate of City College, who developed the first polio vaccine in 1955. Dr. Salk turned down a tickertape parade in honor of his discovery, and asked that the money be used for scholarships instead. New York City provided initial funding for the scholarships that year. The Jonas Salk Scholarships are awarded annually to eight graduates of CUNY senior colleges who have been accepted by, and plan to attend, U.S. medical or graduate schools.



Janice Rateshwar

JANICE RATESHWAR

A graduating senior in the Sophie Davis Program, Rateshwar will attend the CUNY School of Medicine. On campus, she conducts

biomolecular computational research under the mentorship of Dr. Linda Spatz, investigating the pathogenesis of systemic lupus erythematosus—an autoimmune disease that disproportionately affects women of color. The Long Island native raises awareness about her research by presenting at several national conferences. She serves as vice president of CCNY's Women in Science Organization, is a Dean's List student, and a recipient of CUNY's Belle Zeller Scholarship for Community Service. Janice also shadows at

Columbia Dermatology and volunteers with NYU Langone to organize free community skin cancer screenings for immigrant populations. She has worked with the Bronx-based nonprofit, The Inspired Community Project, to champion educational opportunities for neurodivergent children. Janice aspires to become a physician-scientist dedicated to holistic care and advancing health equity in underserved communities.



Abiola D. Laguda

ABIOLA D. LAGUDA

A member of CCNY's Class of 2025, Laguda will enroll in CUNY School of Medicine after graduation. He plans a career as a physician

with the goal of improving health literacy and accessibility in underserved communities. He volunteered as a community healthcare worker at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, worked as a research assistant at Weill Cornell Medicine Center and interned there also for immunologist Dr. Lishomwa Ndhlovu. Laguda's resume includes a clinical research internship at Mount Sinai in Manhattan; a health science internship at the Remedy Project, and a spring 2024 stint as an intern at the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Science in the Public Interest. On campus, the Bronx resident has served as a Colin Powell School Racial Justice Fellow, and as a CUNY School of Medicine biochemistry tutor. Laguda's honors include the Dean's List, the David and Ruth Levine Scholarship, and the Merit scholarship.



Beliz Kayis

BELIZ KAYIS

The 2024 alumna and Long Island resident recently enrolled at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University. Raised in Türkiye, Kayis

plans to specialize in surgery and pursue an early career with Doctors Without Borders that will enable her to travel globally serving underserved populations. She graduated summa cum laude with a B.E. in biomedical engineering, on a pre-med track, from the Macaulay Honors College in the Grove School of Engineering. Along with volunteering as an emergency responder, Kayis worked as a research assistant for Dr. Steven Nicoll's team tasked with developing a new cellulose-derived biomaterial for multiple medical applications; and in Dr. Lucas Parra's lab, helping develop an algorithm able to analyze and detect anomalies in breast MRIs. In addition to

her Macaulay scholarship, Kayis' other honors included the Peter F. Vallone Scholarship, Undergraduate Academic Excellence awards in biomedical engineering, Wallace H. Coulter awards for Outstanding Undergraduate Performance and the Dean's List.



Sameah Algharazi

SAMEAH ALGHARAZI
From CCNY's class of 2023, Algharazi is also enrolled at SUNY Downstate to study medicine. Her career goal is to become a neurologist specifically to utilize patient care to direct research work on memory disorders. Born in New York of Yemeni immigrant parents, she graduated magna cum laude with a B.S. in biology. Algharazi participated in neuroscience research at Columbia University on a project related to neuroimaging analytical techniques used in studying longitudinal changes in brain activity. Additionally, she helped with the development of a project studying autobiographical memory recall and music. At CCNY, the Bronx resident conducted honors research with Dr. Jay Edelman on saccadic eye movements and memory. She was a peer mentor in the CCAPP Science Mentoring Program and learned patient care while being a hospice volunteer. Algharazi's academic honors included the Excellence in Neuroscience Award, the Peter F. Vallone Scholarship, and inclusion on the Dean's List.

Grove’s “VitaVroom” Finishes Top Four at International Chem-E-Car Event

“VitaVroom,” the latest incarnation of student-designed, chemically-powered shoebox sized-vehicles from Grove School of Engineering, placed fourth at AIChE’s annual Chem-E-Car Competition® in San Diego, California, from a field of 51 foreign and domestic entries.

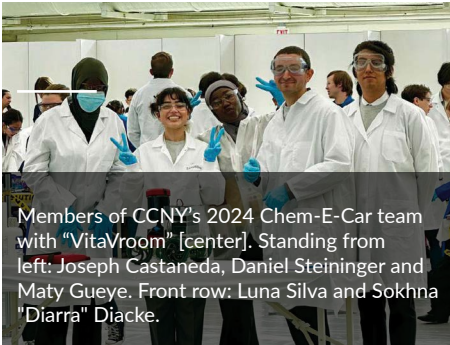
The result maintains the Grove School's reputation as a top performer in the international event. Student teams qualify for the finals by excelling in regional competitions.

VitaVroom secured CCNY’s trip to the finals—held at the San Diego

Convention Center—with a top four finish at the AIChE Mid-Atlantic regionals in Maryland last spring.

The objective of the Chem-E-Car competition is for students to build a car that runs and stops at a precise distance via two distinct chemical reactions. The target distance this year was 26.62-meters.

VitaVroom stopped 31.8 centimeters from the target distance. Cornell University's entry “Under Pressure” won by reaching within 12.4 cm of the target, followed by Brazil's Centro Universitário FEI (15.2 cm), and the Greek-based National Technical University of Athens (19.3 cm). China's Nanjing University of Science and Technology (45.2 cm) was fifth.



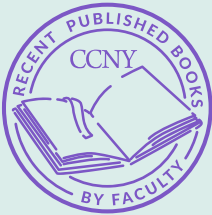
The CCNY team members (all chemical engineering majors unless indicated) were:

- **Luna Silva** (junior)
- **Daniel Steininger** (senior)
- **Shaedil Dider** (electrical engineering, junior)
- **Joseph Castañeda** (senior)
- **Maty Gueye** (senior)
- **Diacke Sokhna** (senior)

Grove School chemical engineering professor Raymond Tu was the faculty advisor. “I couldn’t be more proud of this year’s Chem-E-Car team. They worked together day and night to put together a world-class car and compete for the first time since the pandemic,” he said.

In CCNY’s previous trips to the Chem-E-Car Competition® in the last decade, “Manganese Prime,” also placed fourth in 2019; “Zincotron” was third in 2018 and won the Spirit of Competition Award in Pittsburgh. There was also a second place finish in 2013 with “REAKTER,” and Spirit of Competition awards in 2014 with “Grover,” 2015 with “RuSTi,” in 2016 with “Iodonator” and in 2017 with “Sulfurious.”

CCNY Faculty Publish a Plethora of Books That Earn Praise and Accolades



Faculty have published new works that are fiction, non-fiction and instructional books. They range from political science topics to engineering to film and memoir.

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND THE ARTS

The Department of English and the MFA Creative Writing program has a spate of new publications.

Author Irvin Weatherby, Jr., the Bernard Mendik Visiting Professor, has a new book *In Open Contempt: Confronting White Supremacy in Art and Public Space*. The book was featured on *ABC News Live Prime* and has received favorable reviews, including *The Philadelphia Tribune* and a starred review by *BookPage*. Weatherby, Jr. will teach creative nonfiction to students for two semesters in the MFA Creative Writing program.

The *Human Origins of Beatrice Porter and Other Essential Ghosts*, a debut novel, by Soraya Palmer, adjunct assistant professor, generated buzz as Goodreads’ Buzziest Debut Novel of the Year, and was a Finalist for the PEN Open Book Award and a Finalist for the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Palmer is a recipient of the New York State Council on the Arts/ New York Foundation for the Arts Artist Fellowship in the Fiction category.

Author, professor, and director of undergraduate writing Salar Abdoh has had his translation of the story *Firefly*, by Iranian author Alireza Iranmehr, selected for inclusion in the 2026 edition of the anthology *Best Literary Translations* published by Deep Vellum. *Guernica* magazine also published an essay by Tarek Abi Samra “A Man Made of Dust,” for which Salar was guest-editor. His translations in the book *Women Life Freedom: Voices and Art from the Women’s Protests in Iran* were shortlisted for the United Kingdom’s The Bread and Roses Award for Radical Publishing. Abdoh most recently published the highly acclaimed

novel *A Nearby Country Called Love* which was shortlisted for the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing.

Professor Lyn Di Iorio's *Maritza and Carmen* was selected by guest editor Celeste Ng for *The Best American Short Stories, 2025*.

Longtime Guest Professor David Groff was presented with the 2025 Michele Karlsberg Leadership Award by The Publishing Triangle Awards.

The comic memoir *Firsthand: How I Solved a Literary Mystery and Learned to Play Kickass Tennis while Coming to Grips with the Disorder of Things*, was published by Professor Keith Gandal, who has a Joint Appointment in Creative Writing and American Studies in the English Department and is affiliated with the MFA in Creative Writing program. *Firsthand* combines a scholarly detective story with a comic midlife crisis. Gandal, while researching how Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and Faulkner faced their forgotten crisis of masculinity, discovers that his own crisis is instrumental to his creative process. An excerpt was published on *LitHub*.

Faculty from other departments in The Division of Humanities and the Arts, have also published recently.

Associate Professor of French, Arabic and Comparative Literature Amr Kamal published *Emporialism: Department Store Fictions and the Politics of the Mediterranean*.

Professor Ben Vilhauer, chair of the Philosophy Department, has made waves with his book *Kant on Rational Sympathy*.

Elise Crull, associate professor of philosophy, has co-written *The Einstein Paradox: The Debate on Nonlocality and Incompleteness in 1935* with Guido Bacciagaluppi, associate professor of the Universiteit Utrecht.

Massimo Piglucci, K.D. Irani Professor of Philosophy, has co-written *Beyond Stoicism* with Gregory Lopez and Meredith Alexander Kunz. Using the wisdom of 13 Greek and Roman thinkers to navigate life's thorny problems, *The Wall Street Journal* praised the book that gives you exercises to test-drive each philosophy to fulfill the quest for eudaimonia—a life worth living.

Assistant Professor of history Yaari Felber-Seligman, has written *Fashioning Inland Communities: Trade and Popular Culture in Central East Africa*.

Professor Isabel Estrada has written a new book *Democracy in Spain: Cinema and New Forms of Social Life (1968-2008)*. Her book discusses the convergences in Spain, through the film industry, of two markedly significant periods in two separate centuries: the protests prompted by the 2008 financial crisis and the 1968 protests. Estrada is in the Classical and Modern Languages Department and affiliated with the Media and Communication Arts Program.

THE BERNARD AND ANNE SPITZER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

From The Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, Professor Damon Bolhassani has published the top-selling newly released book in the Architectural Materials category on Amazon entitled *Funicular Structures: The Art of Building Efficiently*.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Lessons from a Dual Language Bilingual School: Celebrando una década de Dos Puentes Elementary is co-edited by the School of Education's Bilingual Education and TESOL Professor Tatyana Kleyn. A co-founder of the fully bilingual Dos Puentes Elementary School in New York City, the book reflects on the first 10 years of the school, showcasing the lessons, successes and challenges they faced.

GROVE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

From the Grove School of Engineering, electrical engineering Professor M. Umit Uyar debuts his book *Machine Learning and AI with Simple Python and Matlab Scripts: Courseware for Non-computing Majors*.

DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES AT THE CENTER FOR WORKER EDUCATION

Martin Woessner, a professor of history and society in the Division of Interdisciplinary Studies at the Center for Worker Education, published the book *Terrence Malick and the Examined Life*. The book is the most comprehensive account of celebrated filmmaker Terrence Malick's (*Days of Heaven, Thin Red Line, A Hidden Life*) oeuvre. *Publisher's Weekly* describes the book as “erudite” and “essential reading” for Malick fans. Woessner was recently interviewed by the CUNY Academy for the Humanities and the Sciences *Book Talks*.

COLIN POWELL SCHOOL FOR CIVIC AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

The Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership has a bevy of new books by faculty.

Breaking Point: Job Stress, Occupational Depression, and the Myth of Burnout is co-written by psychology Professor Emeritus Irvin Sam Schonfeld of the Colin Powell School and Renzo Bianchi, associate professor of psychology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU).

Liberation Stories: Building Narrative Power for 21st Century Social Movements was co-edited by anthropology and interdisciplinary programs Distinguished Lecturer Shanelle Matthews, Marzena Zukowska and the Radical Communicators Network.

Award-winning Colin Powell School Distinguished Lecturer Cristina Jimenez Moreta has written a memoir titled, *Dreaming of Home: How We Turn Fear Into Pride, Power, and Real Change*.

In *From Homemakers to Breadwinners to Community Leaders*, Norma Fuentes-Mayorga compares the immigration and integration experiences of Dominican and Mexican women in New York City, a relatively new destination for Mexicans. Her book documents the significance of women-led migration and underscores the contributions women make to their communities of origin and of settlement. She is program director of Sociology in the Colin Powell School.



Robert Messinger
Named a City & State
Trailblazer



Robert J. Messinger

Robert J. Messinger, associate professor of chemical engineering at The Grove School of Engineering, whose research includes developing a new generation of rechargeable batteries, has been named to City & State’s 2025 Trailblazers in Clean Energy list. The list shines a spotlight on New York’s most remarkable renewable energy leaders, including innovative industry figures, groundbreaking policymakers and notable environmentalists and conservationists.

Since joining CCNY in August 2015, he has been PI or co-PI on awards or contracts totaling \$23.8 million. At CCNY, his research team investigates electrochemical materials, chemical processes, and multi-phase fluids up from the molecular level, aimed at solving societal challenges in energy storage and recycling.

“The transition to clean energy has entered a new phase in New York, as the state faces threats from new tariffs, economic headwinds and a pivot away from climate change policies in Washington, D.C. Yet renewable resources like solar and wind power as well as advances in battery storage and energy efficiency remain a key part of the energy equation, championed by public officials and industry executives alike,” said City & State. “And even as federal subsidies for renewable energy dry up and climate goals come under scrutiny, there remains plenty of industry momentum behind major initiatives like offshore wind installations and upgraded and expanded transmission lines across the state.”

City & State cited Messinger for his “out of this world” research, noting that he heads the partnership between CCNY and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab and Northeastern University “to study and

develop new battery technologies that can withstand the rigors of space.” An expert in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy, Messinger also leads one of the nation’s largest teams investigating rechargeable aluminum metal batteries, an emerging battery technology with significant promise but that requires scientific and technology research before scalable use. In addition, Messinger is also developing novel chemistries for Li-ion battery recycling.

Messinger is also director of chemical engineering graduate studies. He is the founding director of the NASA-CCNY Center for Advanced Batteries for Space and received a 2019 NSF Faculty Early Career Award.

Five Professors
Win 2025 Google
Cybersecurity Funding

Five faculty members of The City College of New York are among the 12 faculty members from six CUNY campuses who have received funding from Google as part of a three-year, \$3 million grant from the company.

The grants come from the Google Cyber NYC Institutional Research Program, a multi-year initiative designed to advance cybersecurity research and education in New York City.

Now in its third year, the program supports pathbreaking work that addresses emerging challenges and opportunities in the cybersecurity field. Each of the lead principal investigators will receive \$80,000 in direct funding for their teams, along with access to a shared pool of \$140,000 in Google Cloud Platform credits.

The CCNY faculty members and their winning projects are:

- CUNY Distinguished Professor of Electrical Engineering **Yingli Tian** (principal investigator, or PI) for “Towards Safer Privacy: Leveraging Synthetic Face Generation for Facial Data Protection”
- Associate Professor of Computer Science **Nelly Fazio** (PI) and Assistant Professor of Computer

Science **Tushar Jois** (co-PI) for “Cryptographically Secure Mesh Messaging for Large-Scale Protests”

- Herbert G. Kayser Professor of Computer Science **Zhigang Zhu** (co-PI) for “On-the-Go Privacy: Real-Time and Predictive Visual Privacy Alerts for Smartphone or Wearable Systems”
- Assistant Professor of Computer Science **Tushar Jois** (PI) and Professor of Computer Science Rosario Gennaro (co-PI) for “Cryptographic Computation over Spot VMs”

“The Google Cyber NYC Institutional Research Program is an important recognition of the cutting-edge and critical research being conducted at City College and across the University,” said Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Tony M. Liss. “This is an area of national importance and City College strength, and I am proud that five of our faculty have been recognized by Google for their expertise in cybersecurity.”

2024-25 Stuart Z.
Katz Lecture Given by
African Film Expert

The 2024-2025 Stuart Z. Katz Professor in the Humanities & the Arts Professor Boukary Sawadogo delivered the Katz



Boukary Sawadogo

Lecture, entitled “Of Here and Afar: The World in Me.” An author, and founder of the Harlem African Animation Festival, Sawadogo is the leading scholar of African cinema and teaches in the Cinema Studies and Black Studies Department. The Katz Lecture, held on Oct. 29 at CCNY’s Advanced Science Research Center Auditorium, was free and open to the public.

Sawadogo’s multifaceted work seeks to give voice and presence to film/media productions that developed outside of the Hollywood cinema model. As a writer, Sawadogo interrogates the place and trajectory of Africa in the world through the diasporas.

As Katz Professor, Sawadogo conducted archival and field research for his latest book on African animation. The book discusses the history, aesthetics, theory, and the emerging market for animation in Africa.

“Animation studies as an academic field is relatively recent, having only been fully established in the 1990s,” he said. “Within this field, attention to African animation is glaringly absent. My book aims to fill this gap.”

In addition to his faculty position at CCNY, the Ivorian-born Sawadogo is also affiliated with the Graduate Center, CUNY. Sawadogo’s books are required reading in several courses on African cinema that are taught in American universities. His books include, *African Film Studies: An Introduction*; *West African Screen Media: Comedy, TV Series, and Transnationalization*; *Les Cinémas Francophones Ouest Africains, 1990-2005*; and *Africans in Harlem: An Untold New York Story*.

Sawadogo’s documentary, *Salut Y’all: African Teachers on the Bayou*, was selected for screening at the 2013 African World Documentary Film Festival. He launched the Harlem African Animation Festival in November 2020. It is exclusively devoted to animated films and series from Africa and is the first of its kind in the U.S.

Filmmaker Antonio Tibaldi, Guggenheim Fellowship
Winner, Named 2025-26 Katz Professor



Antonio Tibaldi, professor of film and video, won a Guggenheim Fellowship, one of 198 distinguished individuals across 53 disciplines in the 100th class of Guggenheim Fellows.

Tibaldi was also named the new 2025-26 Stuart Z. Katz Professor in the Humanities & the Arts. An installation ceremony at which Tibaldi spoke about his research and creative projects took place in October. Stuart M. Katz, his family, and colleagues attended the event which was free and open to the public.

An award-winning writer and director of feature and documentary films, Tibaldi’s work has been shown at Berlin, Sundance, San Sebastian, Rotterdam, IDFA, and Tribeca film festivals, and is distributed by major companies like Miramax, Warner Bros., and Lion’s Gate. He is a consultant for United Nations TV (UNTV) and works as a videographer to shed light on under-reported realities around the world.

Chosen by the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation through a rigorous application and peer review process from a pool of nearly 3,500 applicants, the Class of 2025 was tapped based on both prior career achievement and exceptional promise. Each Fellow receives a monetary stipend to pursue independent work at the highest level under “the freest possible conditions.”

The 100th class of Fellows is part of the Guggenheim Foundation’s year-long celebration marking a century of transformative impact on American intellectual and cultural life.

“At a time when intellectual life is under attack, the Guggenheim Fellowship celebrates a century of support for the lives and work of visionary scientists, scholars, writers, and artists,” said Edward Hirsch, award-winning poet and president of the Guggenheim Foundation. “We believe that these creative thinkers can take on the challenges we all face today and guide our society towards a better and more hopeful future.”

As a Fulbright scholar, Tibaldi studied at CalArts (California Institute of the Arts) where he received an MFA in Film & Video. He’s received grants from major organizations, like The Gotham, Tribeca Film Institute, FIND (Film Independent), When East Meets West, and DOKINBUBATOR, NYSCA. Antonio is a member of WGA, East, and is the co-Director of CCNY’s MFA in Film Program. His production company is No Permits Produktion at antoniotibaldi.com.

The Stuart Z. Katz Professorship in the Humanities & the Arts was established in 2017 by a generous gift from Stuart Z. Katz, a 1964 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of The City College. The endowment supports one outstanding professorial faculty member in the Division of Humanities & the Arts for an academic year, providing the professor up to two months of summer salary plus \$10,000 to support research and creative activity. A retired attorney, Katz established the gift for the importance of the study of humanities and the arts for a thorough education and life.

DASNY President Rodriguez and President Boudreau Survey Campus Construction



President Vince Boudreau, flanked by DASNY President Robert J. Rodriguez (left) and CCNY Senior Vice President, Chief Operating Officer Scott Gurba and Director of Planning & Design Vathana Mendez during a tour of campus construction on Jan. 13.

Dormitory Authority of the State of New York President and CEO Robert J. Rodriguez, and The City College of New York President Vince Boudreau toured construction sites on campus to view projects that will create lasting improvements for student learning.

DASNY is currently managing 44 active CCNY projects, including energy-efficiency projects like upgrades of high-efficiency lighting to the replacement of outdated heating and cooling systems.

"For nearly five decades, DASNY has collaborated with CCNY to construct and renovate numerous facilities that promote learning, foster community, and support students' academic growth. We look forward to continuing our partnership with CCNY to deliver projects that support and inspire future generations of students," said Rodriguez.

"City College has a historic and complex physical campus. As we near completion of our master planning process, we welcome the opportunity to give President Rodriguez an up-close view of some of our largest and most impactful ongoing projects," said Boudreau. "I'm deeply grateful for President Rodriguez's generosity in spending time with us and look forward to working with DASNY to preserve and develop our beautiful campus."

President Rodriguez noted that DASNY has managed hundreds of millions of dollars in the historic restoration of CCNY's neo-Gothic buildings, including Shepard Hall, Harris Hall, Compton-Goethals Hall, Baskerville Hall, and Wingate Hall. These original campus buildings were constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Additionally, DASNY managed the construction of CUNY's Advanced Science Research Center, a state-of-the-art, glass-enclosed laboratory designed to foster groundbreaking discoveries in medicine and technology. This facility is adjacent to the Center for Discovery and Innovation, another cutting-edge science building managed by DASNY. Together, these two facilities represent an investment of approximately \$700 million.

The tour included the following active DASNY-managed construction sites:

- Aaron Davis Hall: The Hall is home to Leonard Davis Center for Performing Arts, the Department of Theatre and Speech mainstage productions, and houses three theaters: The Marian Anderson Theater, a 750-seat traditional proscenium space; Theater B, a flexible theater with 110-265 seats; and Theater C, a 75-seat space which doubles as a studio classroom. The building has large dressing rooms, scenery and costume shops, and the Green Room. There is a "smart" classroom designed for our theatre history and design classes. It also boasts a large lobby and exhibition area.
- Marshak Hall Plaza: Constructed in 1971, Marshak Hall houses the Division of Science and the Athletic Department. This project involves renovating approximately 9,100 square feet of Marshak Plaza, providing the college community with a new outdoor recreation center.
- Firehouse Art Studios Renovation: This project involves transforming the former Hook and Ladder Company 23 firehouse at 504 W. 140th Street into a community gallery and studio spaces for CCNY's Master of Fine Arts and graduate art programs. Upon completion, the facility will include new stairs and an elevator, modernized mechanical systems, a new entrance, a restored façade, a fabrication shop, art studios, and support spaces.
- Spitzer Hall: The creation of a new robotics lab and the renovation of the outdoor atrium.

Founded in 1944, DASNY is New York State's capital project development authority. It finances and constructs sustainable and resilient science, health and education institutions that help New York thrive. It is one of the largest issuers of tax-exempt bonds in the nation with an outstanding bond portfolio of approximately \$55.8 billion as of March 31, 2024. DASNY is also a prolific public builder with a construction pipeline of approximately 1,000 projects valued at more than \$12 billion as of March 31, 2024.

Dee Dee Mozeleski is a 2025 Crain's Notable



Dee Dee Mozeleski—Senior Vice President of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations (OIACER), executive director of the Foundation for City College, Inc. and senior advisor to the president of The City College of New York—has been named a 2025 *Crain's New York Business* Notable Leader in Philanthropy. Mozeleski was selected for her commitment to advancing her industry and community.

This is not the first time that *Crain's* has recognized Mozeleski for her achievements. In 2023, she was a *Crain's* Notable in Advertising, Marketing & PR. In 2021, the publication selected her as one of 57 Notables in Nonprofits and Philanthropy for her efforts to help New Yorkers ride out the upheaval wrought by Covid-19.

In her capacity as executive director of the Foundation for City College, Mozeleski manages total assets of \$454,679,874. In FY 2023-24, the Foundation raised more than \$30 million in contributions and grants as it continued to advance its mission to provide access to educational and research excellence, particularly to students who might not otherwise attend a senior college.

Mozeleski was instrumental in forming the Foundation in late 2019, culminating a three-year process that merged two precursor, and often conflicting, organizations. The current Foundation began operations with an endowment of more than \$290 million.

Since then, Mozeleski overhauled CCNY's public philanthropic profile. She launched its billion-dollar campaign, "Doing Remarkable Things Together," in 2022, the 175th anniversary of the College's founding, while improving the College's infrastructure to allow greater reach and better stewardship.

Mozeleski's responsibilities also include workforce development activities, community engagement projects and management of campus emergency needs programs. One such program, Benny's Food Pantry, continues to serve all CUNY staff and students beyond its initial expansion during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Overseeing a diverse staff of 125—many of whom are CCNY alumni—as senior vice president of OIACER, Mozeleski is responsible for the College's external communication profile, and government and community relations. She has been a trusted advisor and confidante to CCNY President Vince Boudreau since she arrived at the College in 2012 as the development director of the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership, of which Boudreau was then the founding dean.

"Upgrading City College's philanthropic operation was a central aspect of my strategic plans for the College," said Boudreau. "Dee Dee has been the chief architect, engineer and implementer of those plans, and the fact that we are well on our way to meeting our ambitious campaign goals is entirely a testament to her professionalism and vision. She richly deserves this recognition, and I am thrilled that she is receiving it this year."

Mozeleski is also: a cabinet member of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education's District II, which honored her as Professional of the Year in 2021; a board member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals' New York City chapter and an ethics committee member of AFP Global; and a board member and mentor of the National Scholarship Providers Association. She is also the proud mother of a two-time CCNY graduate.

Since 2017, *Crain's* Notables has recognized over 5,000 outstanding leaders across industries. Honorees are selected through a peer nomination and editorial review process.

Runners, Hackers and Job Seekers Participate in HARLEM WEEK 2025



CCNY was at the center of many of the 51st Annual HARLEM WEEK events held Aug. 1–17. The theme for this year was "Celebrate Our Magic" and CCNY did just that by participating in the Percy Sutton Harlem 5K Run, and hosting both the Hackathon and the 2025 New York City Jobs and Career Fair.

Team CCNY took to the road on Aug. 9th, for the New York Road Runners' annual Percy Sutton Harlem 5K Run. The Harlem 5K run celebrates historic Harlem. The team was excited to take to the streets and run through CCNY's beautiful campus.

The Hackathon took place on Aug. 11 and was a competition geared towards middle school and high school students. Teams were challenged to solve a community issue using technology—whether with an app, website or other digital solution. Silicon Harlem and the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce were also key participants in the event.

On Aug. 13, the 2025 New York City Jobs and Career Fair was a day-long free in-person event in Shepard Hall. The Jobs and Career Fair was sponsored by the Greater Harlem Chamber of Commerce, the office of Representative Adriano Espaillat (D-N.Y. 13th District) and CCNY.

In attendance were N.Y. State Senator Cordell Cleare (D-N.Y. 30th District), the NYC Fire Commissioner, Hon. Robert S. Tucker, and the West Harlem Development Corporation. Almost 50 participating partners attended, such as NYC Parks, the N.Y. County and the Bronx County's Office of the District Attorney, Mount Sinai, and Con Edison. Thousands of registered job-seekers walked away with more information than when they arrived, networking contacts, and a sense of community.

The Greener the Better



The president of the Alumni Association of CCNY's Young Professional Alumni Group Kyesha Ruffin M.S. '13 led volunteers to plant vegetables in Benny's Urban Garden. Ruffin, founder of Science In The City, Inc., was hired to run a one-day service workshop to prepare the garden for the summer season on May 1. The goal of the garden is to produce 1,000 pounds of food for Benny's Pantry Building.

Free trees were being doled out by the New York Restoration Project. Dee Dee Mozeleski alerted Ashley Mastroddi '18 and Akasha Solis '16, project managers of the Outdoors Project, to the good news. The managers signed up and a Basswood tree and two Smooth Alder trees were delivered to campus. The trees now grow on the South Campus lawn near the Spitzer School of Architecture, adding beauty and shade to a key entrance of the college.

The Outdoors Project continues its work to develop a network of student leaders who can facilitate outdoor experiences for their peers and increase access to nature-based learning opportunities at an urban institution with its annual wilderness trips.

The Third Annual Wilderness First Aid Training took place from July 13–16. Eleven participants traveled to the Stephen and Betsy Corman Harriman Outdoor Center in Harriman State Park. The group included nine students across departments, including engineering, STEM, and Mellon Mays, and Professor Kyle McDonald, Terry Elkes Professor of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. The program provides hands-on experience in first aid, outdoor leadership, emergency response, and backcountry navigation, helping students build confidence and resilience while strengthening their connection to nature.

The Outdoors Project also held its Ninth Annual Outdoor Leadership & Team Building Retreat from Aug. 4–7 for 41 people, also at the Harriman Outdoor Center. For many students, it was their first time staying in a tent or experiencing extended time in the great outdoors. Others opted for cabin lodging. Over the course of four days, participants engaged in team-building exercises, hikes, canoeing, swimming, campfires, reflection circles, and skills workshops, all designed to develop leadership, collaboration, and confidence. This retreat continues to serve as a foundational experience for students at CCNY, nurturing future peer leaders and strengthening bonds across departments.

President Boudreau Spearheads A Greener Campus



The White House has its Rose Garden. City College has its fruit forest. "I want the campus to be a place where you can wander in and take a piece of fruit," said President Boudreau in describing why he started the idea of planting fruit trees throughout the CCNY campus.

The seeds of that idea were planted in Boudreau's childhood In North Syracuse, N.Y., where his family home's backyard sported numerous trees, including a cherry tree that yielded so much fruit that his mother could bake pies with them and freeze the excess for snacking throughout the year.

That familial passion began to take root on the CCNY campus shortly after Boudreau became interim president in 2016, when a heavy rainfall caused an old elm tree to topple. "All of a sudden, we had a patch of land on the quad," he said. He used the occasion of Earth Day to fill the void with five trees, among them a paw paw tree. The Kentucky banana, as the tree's fruit is sometimes called due to its Bluegrass State origin, contains a creamy pulp that can be scooped out and tastes "like a cross between a mango and a banana," he said.

Shortly afterward, artist Lee Cannarozzo donated a fig tree after a chance conversation with Albert V. DeLeon '72, who told him of the president's interest in developing a greener, more sustainable City College.

From those modest beginnings, interest began to sprout across campus. The grassy triangle behind Aaron Davis Hall, designated by the College's long term strategic plan as a future "fruit forest," now features a persimmon tree planted by an OIACER employee, a sour cherry tree, a northern James pecan tree, a medlar tree—whose squishy fruit tastes like baked apple, and a Concord grape vine. The latter has been plagued by lantern flies, but they are repelled by the application of neem oil, a natural pesticide.

Boudreau is pleased that members of the Facilities Department have taken great interest in caring for the plantings in the nascent fruit forest; one employee recently planted a magnolia tree in honor of his granddaughter.

The president calls this area "Vince's Scattered Fruit Tree Project." Future plans for it include the planting of more cherry trees and nut trees, as well as establishing a fruit calendar that tracks the growing seasons for the trees from June through October.

"We think of ways to invite members of the community to make this their own," he said, noting that "students, little by little, pick a piece of fruit off a tree and eat it."

Dynamic Alumna Sarai Perez '10 is Promoted to Alumni Relations Manager



Sarai Perez

Sarai Perez, the dynamic new alumni relations manager at The City College of New York, is a key player in the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications, and External Relations. Perez possesses a deep knowledge of higher education and philanthropy. Her position is fueled by a distinctive combination of skills and a deep enthusiasm for cause marketing.

Perez's expertise includes nonprofit marketing, advertising, event management, and web design. She adeptly utilizes her diverse skill set to foster robust connections with alumni and advance the College's mission. A double alumna of CCNY, Perez earned her B.A. in Public Relations, Advertising, and Applied Communication in 2010, and finished her Master's in Branding and Integrated Communications with the class of 2019. Her academic accomplishments serve as the foundation for her successful work in alumni relations.

"As a CCNY alumna, my role as Alumni Relations Manager is deeply personal. I get to help alumni reconnect with fellow graduates, share stories, and celebrate our shared journey—especially during meaningful moments like commencement and homecoming. Every year, I am reminded just how life-changing my own time at City College was, and how it remains one of the best decisions I've ever made."

Her previous title was Graphic Designer and Special Events Coordinator.

Outside of her professional commitments, Perez is an enthusiastic long-distance road runner, participating in races across New York City and around the world. Her dedication and resilience are evident both on and off the pavement, making her a truly inspiring figure.

Mark A. Libatique Appointed First Data Director

Mark A. Libatique is the College's first-ever director of Data, Analytics and



Mark Libatique

Advancement Services. He started the newly-created position on Jan. 2. The son of Filipino immigrants and a Jersey City, N.J. native, Libatique brings almost a decade of experience in nonprofit online tools and database operations management to CCNY.

"By some luck, I've spent my time here so far surrounded by people who aren't only dedicated, intelligent, and insightful—they're kind," said Libatique.

Libatique and his team manage a complicated system of donor and alumni contributions, a comprehensive direct mail management program, and the CUNY system's largest alumni information network, among other responsibilities.

"Being able to stay connected to our alumni, donors and partners is key to everything we do at City College," said Senior Vice President of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations Dee Dee Mozeleski. "As an institution, we rely so much on our ability to manage increasingly sophisticated data needs. Mark arrives at a time when we are focused on our 'Doing Remarkable Things Together' campaign. His excitement about our work, coupled with his experiences in donor management and stewardship, makes him a tremendous new fit for our team."

Previously, Libatique served as manager of development database operations at the Tenement Museum, and prior to that he spent five years at the New York Immigration Coalition, where he was senior systems manager of operations, and manager of membership and capacity building. He also worked in operations and then in the education department of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. Libatique started his career in the field of data management while at NYC during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jorge E. Yafar '20 Oversees Campus Planning and Facilities

CCNY welcomes Jorge E. Yafar, who graduated with a B Arch cum laude and B.S. in architecture in 2020, to the role of assistant vice president for Campus Planning and Facilities. Yafar



Jorge E. Yafar

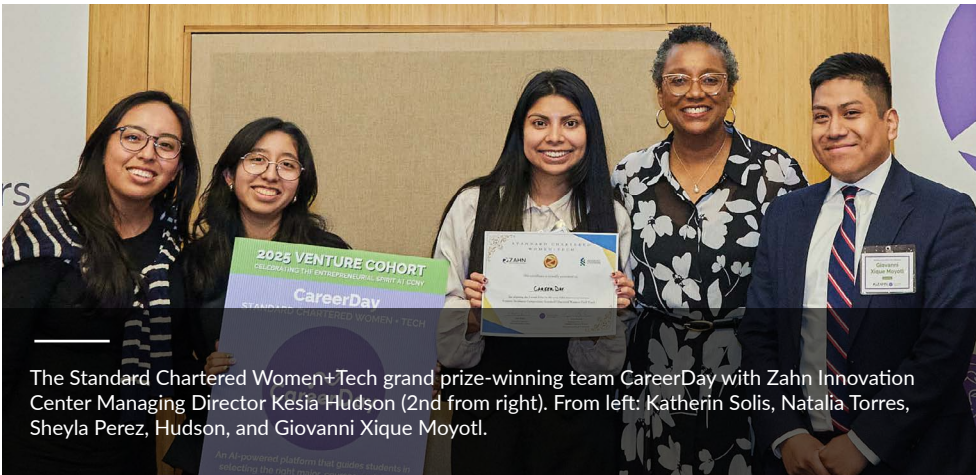
is a registered architect and seasoned facilities executive with more than 26 years of experience leading capital planning, design, and construction initiatives across higher education, public institutions, and cultural organizations. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), is LEED AP and BD+C-certified, and has built a career at the intersection of architecture, facilities management, and strategic planning.

Previously, Yafar served as assistant vice president for Campus Planning and Facilities at Borough of Manhattan Community College, where he oversaw the operations of the 1.8 million sq. ft. campus with a \$37 million operating budget. In this role, he managed a multidisciplinary team spanning Buildings & Grounds, Environmental Health & Safety, Events/Rentals, and Public Safety. His leadership emphasized teamwork, prioritization of student needs, formulating strategies for optimizing space utilization before considering expansion, and crafting a balanced capital program request that was grounded in collaboration and addressing infrastructure and programming needs. Yafar's prior public sector experience included a position as program executive at the NYC Department of Design and Construction, where he partnered with client agencies to evaluate capital project feasibility, mitigate risks, and manage consultant-produced master plans. His tenure as senior construction project manager at Queens College was the starting point of a successful and active career in the public sector.

Yafar has over 15 years of professional experience in the private sector and has worked as an architect in the design, development of construction documents and construction administration for historic building restorations, cultural facilities, and public-school modernization projects.

He also consulted for the New York City Transit Authority and engineering firms, contributing to major station rehabilitations and transit system upgrades. Yafar has served on advisory boards for the BMCC President's Fund for Excellence and Innovation, the Public Buildings Strategic Planning Committee at NYC's Department of Design and Construction, and the Louis Armstrong House Museum at Queens College.

Zahn Scholarships Bestowed \$82K to Student Startups



Innovative pitches by student startups from The City College of New York and other CUNY and SUNY schools won big in CCNY's 2025 Zahn Innovation Center Incubator Venture Competition. Eighty-two thousand dollars in prizes went to the budding inventor/entrepreneurs to develop their ideas.

The Zahn Innovation Center, a program of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations, is at the heart of entrepreneurship at the City College of New York. It inspires a diverse community of changemakers to develop transformative ventures.

The startups competed for grand prizes of \$15,000 each in four categories, with each second-place finisher receiving \$5,000. In addition, one team in each category received a \$500 demo day audience choice award.

Support for the Zahn Innovation Center Incubator Venture Competition is provided by, among others, endowments established by the late Irwin Zahn and Harvey Kaylie, both distinguished CCNY alumni; and by Standard Chartered.

Following are the categories and final pitch results (all CCNY unless indicated):

ZAHN SOFTWARE

Grand prize winner (\$15K): Chat With Menu Team (Baruch College)—helps restaurants offer clear, adaptable menu options that cater to dietary preferences, allergens, and individual tastes, leveraging technology to ensure a safe, efficient, and personalized dining experience for every guest. Team members: Felix Gonzalez, senior, computer information systems; Lia Emerson, junior, business management.

Second place (\$5K): Banister Learning—personalized, gamified, interactive AI-powered learning. Team members: Pragyam Tiwari, sophomore, computer science & mathematics; Vishnu Vijayakrishnan, sophomore, physics.

ZAHN SOCIAL

Grand prize winner: WattSage—transforms ordinary windows into power-generating assets with solar harvesting curtains, blending energy efficiency and modern design for sustainable living. Team members: Hiba Ouadii, junior, electrical engineering; Ryan Ramnauth, senior, electrical engineering.

Second place: Amor For—an accessible communications agency and platform for community-driven folks and brands. Team members: Nichimyo Rich, masters of professional science (MPS) candidate in branding and integrated communications; Zaakirah Medan, MPS candidate, branding and integrated communications program on PR track.

KAYLIE HARDWARE

Grand prize winner: CardiaLink—a wireless EKG acquisition and EKG lead management system that reduces setup time by 50% and improves patient care through rapid diagnostics and enhanced portability. Team members: Abdelrahman Ahmed, graduate student, translational medicine; Hassan Ahmad (College of Staten Island), senior, engineering science; Shaedil Dider, junior, electrical engineering; and Yahia Abdalla, junior, biomedical engineering.

Second place: LOOM—enhance the experience of users during active recreational activities. Team members [all electrical engineering]: Anthony Rodionov,

junior; Ashraf Alam, junior; Mohammed Islam, junior; and Tanveer Hassan Khan, freshman.

STANDARD CHARTERED WOMEN+TECH

Grand prize winner: CareerDay—AI-powered platform that guides students in selecting the right major, courses, and career path through personalized roadmaps, mentorship opportunities. Team members: Sheyla Perez (Queens College), junior, math and design; Giovanni Xique Moyotl (Queens College), senior, economics; Natalia Torres (Baruch College), sophomore, computer information systems; and Katherin Solis (Stony Brook University), graduate student, computer science & political science.

Second place: EvalRX—advancing AI in healthcare with inclusive data insights for equitable outcomes for all. Team members: Mohani Adem, senior, biomedical science; Nicole Rodriguez (Baruch College), senior, data analytics & new media arts.

DEMO DAY AUDIENCE CHOICE WINNERS (\$500 EACH):

Zahn Social Cineduca—increases the visualization of the LatinX stories through an educational Spanish platform Cineduca (film library) that includes other resources such as lesson plans and handouts for teachers and students.

Zahn Software QuickBites—a student-led food delivery service that provides busy college students with affordable, time-effective, and eco-friendly meal delivery while supporting local businesses through low commissions and campus-focused partnerships.

Kaylie Hardware CardiaLink—a wireless EKG acquisition and EKG lead management system that reduces setup time by 50% and improves patient care through rapid diagnostics and enhanced portability.

Standard Chartered Women+Tech EcoBuild—a marketplace that connects professionals in the construction industry with surplus and reclaimed building materials, reducing waste and promoting sustainability.

Alumni Outreach Expands with More “City In Your City” Destinations



Hundreds of alumni outside of the New York tri-state area were able to connect with The City College of New York and President Boudreau through “City in Your City” events all over the country this year.

In 2025, the president and the development team visited Albany, N.Y., Austin, Tex., Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Palm Beach, Fla., San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington.

“For as long as I’ve been at CCNY, I’ve heard about the vast numbers of CCNY alumni spread across the country, and as long as I’ve been visiting alumni, I keep hearing them say that they don’t have any fellow CCNYers living near them,” said Boudreau.

Over the past three and a half years, these events have provided an opportunity for alumni, donors and friends of the College to network with other CCNY friends while gaining a deeper understanding of what is happening on campus and with CCNY partnerships across New York City, the country and around the world. The president shared details of research initiatives, workforce development, and student success with them.

“As we’ve cleaned up and expanded our database through various projects, we’ve acquired the capacity to identify exactly how many alumni live in cities that we’ve never visited! In most cases, it’s a pretty big number. ‘City in your City’ is our attempt to correct that, and to build stronger connections with our graduates across the country,” said Boudreau. “It

gives me the chance to share our news, hear your stories, and answer questions you may have about the college. Every year, we’re expanding the scope of this project—and I’m eager for the opportunity to bring City to your city.”

CCNY and MIT Join Forces for AI and Entrepreneurship Certificate

The Zahn Innovation Center at The City College of New York is working with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management and the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship to deliver a new Artificial Intelligence and Entrepreneurship Certificate targeted at undergraduate students. Experts at CCNY and MIT are creating videos, in-person workshops, and course content designed to help CCNY students solve business problems using AI applications.

“CCNY’s Zahn Innovation Center has, for more than a decade, helped students develop both an entrepreneurial mindset and concrete business ventures through a rigorous incubation and launchpad program,” said CCNY President Vince Boudreau. “Our new collaboration with MIT mobilizes the Zahn Center experience into a larger effort to develop students’ AI skills in the service of entrepreneurship, using the combination of the two to solve pressing business and organizational problems. I’m thrilled to be able to open the combined resources of CCNY and MIT to our students, and with the prospect of building on this initial collaboration in the future.”

CCNY students in the Certification Program will work with mentors to use AI to answer real-world questions and solve business problems for the program’s partner organizations with the goal of setting up students to be more competitive in the job and internship market. Students will be equipped with a tool-kit and mindset for identifying opportunities no matter where they begin their career path.

“I am grateful to colleagues at both CCNY and MIT for their commitment to this very important collaboration and am excited that MIT’s thought leadership in entrepreneurship and AI will be made

available to even more people,” said Georgia Perakis, John C Head III Dean (Interim) at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

The MIT team from the Trust Center, a hub for entrepreneurship education and collaboration at MIT, performed market research with dozens of companies learning how they are using AI and what they expect new hires to know. Through their research, they learned that even companies that have developed great AI capabilities in-house have struggled to feel the benefits across different departments, but these companies expressed how they expect their new hires to have a comfort level with AI.

“This collaboration has been carefully crafted—using detailed market study—to accelerate innovation in AI and entrepreneurship,” said Anantha P. Chandrakasan, dean of MIT’s School of Engineering and chief innovation and strategy officer at MIT. “The curriculum will provide students with the necessary tools to solve a variety of business challenges across AI disciplines and set them on a path towards leadership in careers related to AI and entrepreneurship.”

Both CCNY and MIT are known for their economic mobility and a rich history of entrepreneurship including Andy Grove, CCNY alumnus ’60, and Robert Noyce, MIT alumnus ’53, who co-founded Intel.

CCNY and New York Giants Forge Closer Ties

The bond between the Giants and CCNY strengthened at Homecoming Day celebrations in May, at which the Giants Alumni—active and retired players who come to campus as goodwill ambassadors—greeted returning CCNY alumni and others who attended the day’s festivities. The success of this event could lead to these visits becoming an annual Homecoming tradition.

This partnership between one of the National Football League’s cornerstone franchises and CCNY has grown in recent years, and is part of a sponsorship agreement in which two CCNY juniors or seniors can apply for game day activation internships at MetLife Stadium during the 2025 NFL season. The interns obtain



Retired Giants linebacker Jonathan Casillas and wide receiver Hakeem Nicks visited the campus on Homecoming Day, accompanied by members of the team's marching band.

experiential learning opportunities by assisting the Giants Corporate Sponsorship Department to ensure a successful game day experience for corporate sponsors and prospects. The interns welcome sponsor guests, escort Giants alumni players throughout the stadium, prepare hospitality, organize gameday activations, set up signage, and take pictures to catalogue sponsor activities. The interns also have access to parts of the stadium that are generally unavailable to the general public, such as the Legacy Club, a space that commemorates, celebrates and honors the team's rich history and its notable players and coaches.

More information and testimonials from former interns are available at www.ccny.cuny.edu/oiaicer/internship-opportunity-new-york-giants.

In addition to the College's agreement with the team, 10 Ad/PR students have been chosen to take part in an independent study course designed to expose them to real time sports marketing.

The course, MCA 31162: CCNY x New York Giants Research Project, is co-

taught by Professors Ed Keller, Javier Garcia and John Totaro. After getting pre-briefed, the selected students spend the rest of the 15-week fall semester collaborating with fellow team members on an integrated communications research project in which they analyze the Giants' marketing communications on various channels, as well as those of other major sports leagues, before presenting their ideas to Giants marketing executives at the Legacy Club. They meet with the team officials and the course professors a few times throughout the semester to review their progress.

"The students really get into the weeds," said Keller. "The level of detail really reflects their thinking," he said, adding that he and Garcia receive positive feedback from the team about the quality of the students' work.

"Our partnership with CCNY is an incredible platform to give the students a first-hand look into the sports industry," said Manager of Partnership Activation Alex Cros. "The class project itself allows the upcoming generation of talent the unique opportunity to gain a taste of real-world experience, build meaningful connections, and bring fresh ideas to the

table. It's been a great win-win for both the students and our team, and we're so excited to hear what the next class will bring!"

"The engagement of the students is incredible," said Garcia. "[The Ad/PR program] has a number of experiential courses, but this [one] offers an opportunity to give [students] experience [in sports marketing]. The more we do this, the more clients we can take on."

This is the third incarnation of the course, which commenced at the start of the 2022 season.

The College's agreement with the Giants goes beyond the academic research project and the internships. The College advertises on MetLife Stadium's Jumbotron on game days, during which the College also sets up promotional booths in the stadium's parking lot during pre-game tailgating activities.

Frank J. Sciamè '74 Named New Board Chair of the Foundation for City College, Inc.



Frank J. Sciamè B Arch '74 is the new board chair of the Foundation for City College, Inc. at The City College of New York, as of July 1. He succeeded Martin Cohen '70, D.Sc. (hon.) '13, chairman and co-founder of investment firm Cohen & Steers, Inc.

Sciamè founded F.J. Sciamè Construction Co., Inc. in 1975. One of the tri-state's leading construction management firms, Sciamè Construction's current projects are valued at more than \$1 billion. They include the Frick Collection, Studio Museum in Harlem, the addition to the New Museum, the repositioning of 22 Vanderbilt, the Christian Dior flagship store, and the Ronald O. Perelman Performing Arts Center.

In 1996, Sciamè formed the real estate development firm Sciamè Development. Among its many achievements, the firm acquired development rights and engaged Spanish "starchitect" Santiago Calatrava to design the 80 South Street Tower, which garnered worldwide praise for its remarkable design and iconic architecture. Sciamè Development oversaw the landmarking process to preserve and protect the historic character of 70 Pine Street, a one million-square foot Art Deco tower in Lower Manhattan. The firm also completed the restoration and conversion of two commercial properties into condominiums in the South Street Seaport Historic District.

Sciamè also led the effort to ensure a buildable World Trade Center Memorial. His design recommendations are included in National Geographic's *A Place of Remembrance: Official*

Book of the National September 11 Memorial.

Sciamè has remained actively involved with CCNY in the five decades since his graduation. A member of the Foundation's advisory board and its development committee, he received the John H. Finley Award from The Alumni Association of The City College of New York in 2011 for his exemplary service to the city. He is a generous supporter of the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture's Sciamè Lecture Series.

For all of his contributions to CCNY, Sciamè was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts by the College in 2004.

"I want to thank Martin Cohen, our founding chair of the Foundation for City College, for his decade of outstanding service and leadership," said Sciamè. "I will continue to honor our City College motto as I follow in Martin's footsteps: 'Look behind, look here, look ahead.' I look forward to working with President Vince Boudreau, his terrific staff, and the Foundation's board as we continue to use the Foundation's incredible resources to make City College the best that it can be."

Sciamè was one of three individuals to win the 2023 Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Medal from the Municipal Art Society for making a lasting contribution to New York City through vision, leadership, and philanthropy. He is an executive committee board member and past chairman of the New York Landmarks Conservancy and the New York Building Congress. He also serves on the board of the Association for Lower Manhattan, and is a member of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations Industry Advisory Group.

"Frank Sciamè has served the college at every level—on both of our historic Foundation boards, and on the Alumni Association Board, and as a Board member for the Spitzer School of Architecture," said CCNY President Vince Boudreau. "His assumption of the chair for the Foundation for City College Board brings with it two essential features: vast personal experience in the world of philanthropy and public service and deeply committed loyalty to his alma mater and what it stands for. We're thrilled at the opportunity to move forward under his leadership."



THE FOUNDATION BOARD

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President, CCNY, ex-officio

Alma Rangel (1925-2024)



Longtime activist and social worker Alma E. Rangel, the beloved wife of former U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel (D-N.Y.) and statesman-

in-residence at The City College of New York, passed away on Sept. 16 at age 99.

"To those who had the pleasure of knowing my beautiful wife, Alma, let me take this time to thank you for sharing your condolences and sympathy for our family's loss this week. We have been so fortunate enjoying Alma's love, affection and support over these many, many years that we can only thank God for having her with us for so long," said Rangel in a statement. "On behalf of my children, Steven and Alicia, and my family, let me sincerely thank all of you for your words of support during this time of our loss. Your thoughts are sincerely and deeply appreciated."

"Mrs. Rangel will be fondly remembered for her strong commitment to her family and community, and as an inspiration to many," said CCNY President Vince Boudreau. "The City College extends its deepest condolences to the Rangel family."

Mrs. Rangel was hailed by family, friends and associates as passionate, socially conscious and driven in all her endeavors. She was a woman of great vision whose long meritorious service included founder and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses, a social fundraising arm of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, which awards grants to college students around the country. Among her other roles, she also served as president and CEO of the Ralph J. Rangel Foundation, which provides scholarships to students; and vice chair of the New York Foundation for Senior Citizens' Board of Directors. Her hard work in the latter position resulted in the construction of the Alma Rangel Gardens, an 89-unit apartment building that provides housing and support services for low- and middle-income seniors in Harlem.

During her time as a social worker

and trips abroad to visit imprisoned Americans, rural villages, soup kitchens, and Peace Corps projects on many continents, she developed an interest in speaking with women's organizations on issues that affect women in developing countries. Specifically, Mrs. Rangel became interested in the role of the Cuban economy as it relates to women and the human rights of women in Cuba after her visit to Cuba in 2002.

A memorial service was held at St. Aloysius Catholic Church on Oct. 19.

Charles B. Rangel (1930 - 2025)



Charles B. Rangel, who served 46 trailblazing years in the U.S. Congress and then dedicated his life to addressing the lack of

modern infrastructure jobs in his old congressional district through a program at The City College of New York, died on Memorial Day. He was 94.

A founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus who then made history as the first African American member of Congress to lead the powerful Ways and Means Committee, Rangel represented what is now New York's 13th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1971 to 2017. He then served as statesman-in-residence at The City College.

In 2022, Rangel continued his mission of service by launching the Charles B. Rangel Infrastructure Workforce Initiative (RIWI) at CCNY to boost modern infrastructure jobs in upper Manhattan and the Bronx.

Rangel was a war hero, history-making congressman, and master lawmaker. He served for 23 terms in the House of Representatives and was cited as the most effective lawmaker in Congress, leading all of his colleagues in passing legislation. He was the primary sponsor of President Obama's historic health care reform law.

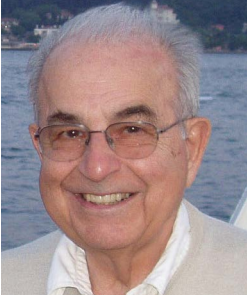
Recognized as one of the hardest

working legislators in Congress, he sponsored 40 bills and resolutions that became law throughout his tenure. Among his greatest legislative accomplishments were: championing the national Empowerment Zone program, Affordable Care Act, Low Income Housing Tax Credit, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Work Opportunity Tax Credit, Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, and the Rangel Amendment which sounded the death knoll for apartheid in South Africa.

Demonstrating his commitment to education, he created financial mechanisms to construct and rehabilitate public schools across the country. Following Saint Matthew's teaching, he was a stalwart champion for the "least among us," dedicated to improving the lives of working families, fighting for jobs and education, and advocating for equality and justice.

Born and raised in Harlem, Rangel was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1970, after serving in the New York State Assembly and as an assistant U.S. attorney. He retired from Congress in 2017. He was a veteran of the Korean War, where he earned a Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Andreas Acrivos (1928-2025)



Professor Andreas Acrivos, former director of the Levich Institute and one of the foremost scientists in the field of rheology,

chemical engineering and fluid dynamics, died in February at age 96. Born in Athens, Acrivos emigrated to the United States to pursue studies in chemical engineering. He earned his bachelor's degree from Syracuse University in 1950, and his master's degree in 1951 and his Ph.D. in 1954 from the University of Minnesota. His academic career began at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1954. Moving to Stanford University in 1962, he played a pivotal role in the development

of the chemical engineering program and served as department chair from 1972 to 1975. His research contributions focused on studying the properties of suspensions, emulsions, and fiber-filled materials, significantly influencing the understanding of their microstructure and microrheology. His work, in collaboration with Frankel and Leighton, on concentrated suspensions and shear diffusion, remains a cornerstone of modern rheology.

His mentorship was crucial to the development of many distinguished scientists. He was also advisor to a graduate student named Andrew Grove in his early years at the University of California at Berkeley. Grove, CCNY '60, chemical engineering, went on to found Intel Corporation, and donated \$26 million to his alma mater in 2005. The City College School of Engineering was then renamed the Grove School of Engineering.

Acrivos arrived at City College in 1988, when he accepted the position of Albert Einstein Professor of Science and Engineering and became director of the Benjamin Levich Institute for Physico-Chemical Hydrodynamics until his retirement in 2001. Acrivos was honored with numerous prestigious awards and distinctions, including the National Medal of Science (2001), recognizing his contributions to fluid mechanics and chemical engineering, the Fluid Dynamics Prize from the American Physical Society (1991), the Bingham Medal from the Society of Rheology (1994) and the G.I. Taylor Medal from the Society of Engineering Science (1988).

In addition to these prestigious accolades, two significant awards have been established in his honor that include the Andreas Acrivos Award for Professional Progress in Chemical Engineering by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), recognizing outstanding professional achievements in the field of chemical engineering and the Andreas Acrivos Dissertation Award, presented by the American Physical Society, to recognize outstanding dissertations in fluid dynamics. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2001, the Hellenic Society of Rheology recognized him as an honorary member, honoring his long-standing and significant contribution to the field of rheology.

Bernard Spring (1927-2025)

Influential architect and educator Bernard Spring was the inaugural dean of the School of Architecture and



Environmental Studies, now the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture, from 1969 to 1980.

Spring helped transform

architectural education in America by championing the integration of modern technology and community engagement into design curricula, advocating for a standardized architectural curriculum that would become a template for school accreditation nationwide. His seminal 1967 work, *A Study of Education for Architectural Design*, commonly known as The Princeton Project, co-authored with Robert L. Geddes, revolutionized architectural education by establishing comprehensive standards for design schools across the country. His 1969 publication, *The Planning and Design Workbook for Community Participation*, became an essential resource for both non-professionals and practicing designers, offering detailed guidance for urban housing and community development.

Brendan Costello (1969-2025)

Writer and adjunct faculty member Brendan Costello, M.F.A., Creative Writing '07 taught in the English Department for 17 years. An alumnus



of the CCNY MFA in Creative Writing, a winner of the English Department's Irwin and Alice Stark Award for short fiction, and the Goodman Award

for graduate essay, Costello was a much-loved part of the CCNY writing community. Beyond City College, he was an active member of the James Joyce Society, organizing annual Bloomsday reading events, and of the Irish American Writers and Artists Association. Costello was also host and producer of *The Largest Minority*, a disability affairs radio show on

WBAI. Costello was published in *Harper's Magazine*, *The Village Voice*, *Huffington Post*, *Slate*, and other publications. He is remembered by many as their most impactful creative writing advocate and mentor. He often put his own creative writing work aside to encourage the writing and arts talents and skills of others.

David Diaz (1942-2025)

"A reporter's reporter." "New York City guy." "Charming man." "Legend." Those were some of the words used by colleagues of David Diaz, B.A. Philosophy

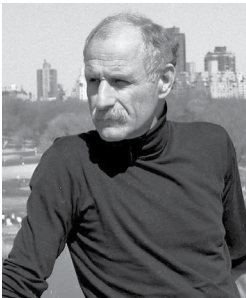


'65 to describe the New York staple, television journalist and educator who spent decades covering New York City and the tri-state area.

Born in Puerto Rico in 1942 and raised in Washington Heights from the age of three, Diaz was educated at Fordham Prep and Columbia University in addition to CCNY. He had been a community activist and newspaper reporter when he was hired by WNBC, where he spent 15 years. He then spent more than 12 years at CBS News New York (WCBS). His coverage of both city news and national events, such as the Oklahoma City bombing, the 9/11 World Trade Center attack and presidential elections earned him numerous awards for journalism excellence. He received five Emmy Awards, two Sigma Delta Chi Awards and an Associated Press Award.

Diaz also found time to give back to his alma mater as a distinguished lecturer teaching mass media and politics, and journalism. He received the Townsend Harris Medal in 1993 from the Alumni Association of The City College of New York for outstanding post-graduate achievement, and was awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters by CCNY in 2017.

M. Paul Friedberg (1931-2025)



Award-winning and nationally-renowned landscape architect M. Paul Friedberg, founder of the CCNY landscape

architecture program, was known for many accomplishments. Believing in the promise of cities to create happier, healthier societies, he felt that public spaces were successful only if people used them, and that parks and plazas should be as inviting and flexible as possible. Inspired by the adventure playgrounds springing up in Europe, where designers had observed children playing in the rubble after World War II, he created innovative adventure playgrounds at New York City Housing Authority projects in the 1960s in partnership with the Astor Foundation, most famously for Carver Houses and Jacob Riis Plaza. After graduating with a degree in horticulture and art from Cornell University in 1954, Friedberg spent two years in the U.S. Army in Korea before returning to New York to start his own landscape architecture business. In the late 1960s, the American Society of Landscape Architects asked him to develop an academic program in urban landscape design, the goal of which was to get urban dwellers invested in the city, and to open the profession to minorities and women. He was successful; he approached CCNY, founding an undergraduate program in urban landscape architecture in 1970, serving as the director for the next 20 years. The program became a national model for the recruitment of minorities and women. Among his other local projects are: the Winter Garden at Battery Park City; Roberto Clemente State Park; East 67th Street Playground; and Pershing Park in New Jersey. He also designed Fort Lincoln Park and The Yards in Washington; Peavey Plaza and Loring Greenway in Minneapolis; and many other projects in the U.S., Canada, India, Israel, and Japan.



Heartfelt Thanks

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to this year’s annual report.

We appreciate your help in making The City College of New York’s lively, hardworking narrative come to life.

In particular, thanks to:

- President Vincent Boudreau for your vision;
- Senior Vice President, OIACER, and Foundation Executive Director, Dee Dee Mozeleski, for your creativity and detail-oriented management;
- Donors for your generosity and faith in our singular mission;
- Board members for your careful stewardship;
- Faculty members for your hard work creating the news reported on in this issue;
- Staff members for your dedication ensuring the effective management of student success programming across our campus; and
- Team members of the Office of Institutional Advancement, Communications and External Relations—you go above and beyond to get the word out about CCNY.

We could not do it without you!

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of New York