

# HUNTER

magazine

 **GIVING** Issue

Hunter  
Professor  
**Dr. Mandë  
Holford**  
Named  
Inaugural  
McNulty  
Chair  
**pg. 10**



Meet **Dr. Nancy Cantor**,  
Hunter's 14th President  
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Cover Photo of Mandë Holford by Denis Finnin/  
American Museum of Natural History



## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends,

In 2023, I said “yes” to Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez when he asked me if I would assume the interim presidency of Hunter College. It seemed like a great opportunity to use my skills as a tech entrepreneur and academic administrator while helping students — the most satisfying part of my career.

Of course, I hardly knew what I was saying yes to. I certainly didn’t know that I would be worrying about 49 elevators, 18 escalators, and 2.6 million square feet of floor space in a crowded vertical campus.

As it turns out, that was the relatively easy part. None of us could have predicted how world events would affect us this year. As hard as that has been, though, I am glad I said yes. I would not have missed my time at Hunter for anything.

Hunter College richly deserves its 154-year reputation as the engine of economic mobility and social integration for generations of striving and immigrant New Yorkers. I saw this wonderful process with my own eyes, and I feel greatly enriched by it.

I saw how our faculty and administrators carefully tended the minds and prospects of our students — and how our students took their educations and soared. I saw how our alumni and friends trained their talents and resources on the task of making Hunter better for successive generations, living out motto: *mihī cura futuri*, “The care of the future is mine.”. Together, we made strides: endowing scholarships, fixing facilities, launching initiatives.

Now I am pleased to turn over this institution to the permanent stewardship of Dr. Nancy Cantor.

But my involvement with Hunter doesn’t end here. I hope to say “yes” to every fresh opportunity to lend my expertise to the college. As I said to our 2024 graduates at Commencement in June: “Your ability to say ‘yes’ is your superpower.”

Warm regards,  
**Ann Kirschner**



Two Presidents: Dr. Nancy Cantor, left, joins Hunter on August 12, taking over for Interim President Dr. Ann Kirschner, right.

## MEET DR. NANCY CANTOR, HUNTER’S NEW PRESIDENT

**H**unter College is honored to welcome **Dr. Nancy Cantor** as its 14th president, beginning August 12.

Dr. Cantor, a social psychologist, brings a wealth of experience and a steadfast commitment to student success and social mobility.

A distinguished leader in higher education, Dr. Cantor boasts a career spanning more than four decades, marked by notable achievements and a tireless dedication to advancing educational opportunities. Her appointment signifies a significant moment for Hunter College, as it prepares to welcome a leader deeply connected to its mission of access and excellence.

Born into a legacy of scholarly distinction, Dr. Cantor is the daughter of two proud CUNY alumni. Her mother, Marjorie, was a member of Hunter's Class of 1943, while her father, Aaron,

graduated from City College. This familial connection imbues Dr. Cantor with a profound understanding of the values that define Hunter College.

Dr. Cantor is recognized globally for emphasizing the role of universities as anchor institutions in their communities, forging diverse collaborations that advance racial equity and equitable growth.

As chancellor of Rutgers University–Newark from 2014 to 2024, she leveraged the university’s diversity, tradition of high-impact research, and role as an anchor institution in Newark, New Jersey to promote pre-K through college education, urban entrepreneurship, economic development, and strong, healthy, and safe urban neighborhoods.

Prior to her leadership of Rutgers–Newark, Dr. Cantor was chancellor and president of Syracuse University, where

her efforts to foster mutually beneficial initiatives between the university and community earned her one of higher education’s highest honors, the Carnegie Corporation Academic Leadership Award, in 2008.

She has been honored with many awards, including the Ernest L. Boyer Award from New American Colleges & Universities, the Anchor Institutions Task Force Community Engagement Award, the Robert Zemsky Medal for Innovation in Higher Education, the Woman of Achievement Award from the Anti-Defamation League, the Making a Difference for Women Award from the National Council for Research on Women, the Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership Award from the American Council on Education, and the Frank W. Hale, Jr. Diversity Leadership Award from the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education.



# A Year of Accomplishments



During a jam-packed year as Hunter president, **Ann Kirschner** did much to advance the college.

With her background as a thought leader and tech entrepreneur, the former dean of CUNY's Macaulay Honors College and business strategist launched a marquee series of talks on the Future of Higher Ed at Hunter's Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute. These conversations brought together university presidents, career experts, college administrators, and journalists to discuss the nexus of education and work (see page 5) and the continued value of the undergraduate experience.

President Kirschner also founded an ambitious career initiative, *HunterWorks!*, to ensure students not only earn a diploma upon graduation but also a full-time job in their career of choice. *HunterWorks!* is partnering with New York-area employers to provide internships to students and hire industry



President Kirschner helped celebrate Hunter's Purple Apron Food Pantry.

professionals as adjunct faculty.

"*HunterWorks!* sends a strong signal to employers: Come hire our talented students!" President Kirschner said.

With Mideast events affecting many students, she strove to improve the atmosphere on campus, establishing a Presidential Task Force on Civility and Controversy charged with ensuring a safe, collegial, and respectful environment in and outside the classroom.

"College is a place for debate, to hear different perspectives, to have fearless encounters with new ideas," she said. "Students come to Hunter College to do all that, to advance themselves and — most importantly — to get an education. We are here to meet those goals."

Hunter also made strides both in establishing new educational programs and better administering old ones. The Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing has received New York State Education Department approval and accreditation for a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist Program. The Department of Nutrition and Public Health has moved into the School of Health Professions.

President Kirschner also had strong fundraising, with \$21 million in grants and endowments coming in.

President Kirschner oversaw arrangements for the transition of Hunter's Brookdale Campus to CUNY's new Science Park and Research Campus. The



## FIX IT NOW!

If Hunter President **Ann Kirschner** is fond of saying that the college has 49 elevators, 18 escalators, and 2.6 million square feet of floor space, it's because she spent a good deal of time during the past year fixing those.

Among the facilities improvements that either occurred or were hatched on President Kirschner's watch are the opening of the new West Plaza subway entrance, the start of renovations on the second floor of the Leon and Toby Cooperman Library (above), the launch of HVAC fixes in Thomas Hunter Hall, and the installation of seating on both Hunter skybridges and several other prime spaces across campus.

The campus also went greener with centralized garbage pickup and recycling, introduced first in the East Building.

"Hunter has a great location, but its aging vertical campus presents some logistical and design challenges," President Kirschner said. "We are determined to make our campus as comfortable and as sustainable as possible."



Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights' 75th anniversary with a dramatic reading by Meryl Streep.

project will transform the East 25th Street campus into state-of-the-art teaching, laboratory, and commercial facilities and will house Hunter's schools of Nursing and Health Professions with related CUNY schools. The president found swing spaces in local office buildings for Hunter's health schools during

the construction and replacements for student dorm rooms.

Despite the turmoil of world events, there were fun ceremonial moments, such as a press conference on Hunter's food pantries and a 75th-anniversary celebration of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with a dramatic reading of Eleanor Roosevelt's words by **Meryl Streep**.

"Looking back, some lessons have been hard, even painful," President Kirschner said, "but all in all Hunter is the best public college in the best city in the world."



President Kirschner greets a student on the first day of the fall semester.

## HUNTER HOSTS FIVE WOMEN COLLEGE PRESIDENTS FOR HISTORIC PANEL ON HIGHER ED

If you doubt whether a college education is worth the cost and effort, take it from Bill Clinton. That's according to New School **President Donna E. Shalala** — a former Hunter president and Clinton official — who told a story about surprising a class with a visit from the former president.

A student stood up and asked, "What courses should I take if I want to be president?"

Clinton, Shalala said, told them that only a broad liberal education would prepare them.

"Do not be too narrow, because when you are the president, you have no idea what is going to come at you," he said.

The anecdote came during a historic panel discussion with five New York City university presidents that Hunter hosted on March 27 in celebration of Women's History Month.



From left: Presidents Donna E. Shalala, Linda G. Mills, Ann Kirschner, Tania Tetlow, and Minouche Shafik, with SUNY Board Chair Merryll Tisch.

Along with Shalala, the event, "Innovate, Elevate, Lead: NYC's New Presidents Define the Future of Higher Education," brought together for the first time presidents **Ann Kirschner of Hunter**; **Linda G. Mills** of New York University; **Nemat (Minouche) Shafik** of Columbia University; and **Tania Tetlow** of Fordham University. SUNY Board of Trustees Chair **Merryll H. Tisch** moderated.

Tisch noted that Mills, Shafik, Shalala, and Tetlow are the first women to lead their institutions.

"In years past, when a moderator would get up and say, 'I am here tonight with the president of NYU, the president of the New School, of Fordham, of Columbia — maybe not Hunter — they would say, 'gentleman,'" Tisch said. "Tonight, we start with, 'Welcome, ladies!'"

The women discussed their circuitous

paths to the presidency of the schools, which collectively educate hundreds of thousands and generate many billions for the city's economy. They also discussed their future legacies.

President Kirschner said she hoped she brought an urgency to Hunter. "Fix it now," she said. "Don't tell me it has always been this way. Don't tell me that is the way you did it last year. Do it differently and do it fast."

The panel was the fourth event in Hunter's series "Mapping the Future of Higher Ed." Earlier events have featured CUNY Dean Emeritus **John Mogelescu** and William E. Macaulay Honors College Dean **Dara Byrne** on CUNY's role in New York City, analysts **Ben Wildavsky** and **Daphne Kis** on college and careers, and authors **Ryan Craig** and **Melissa Korn** on apprenticeships and career training in the academic setting.





# Commencement 2024

## MORE THAN 5,500 GRADUATE AT HUNTER COLLEGE'S 227<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT

Thousands packed Brooklyn's Barclays Center on June 4 as Hunter College conferred degrees on more than 5,500 graduates at its 227th Commencement.

"Today, we celebrate every one of you," Hunter President **Ann Kirschner** said. "You embody the ambition, the energy, and the sparkling diversity of New York City."

Kirschner congratulated the class — 265 of whom earned degrees in Nursing, 638 degrees in Social Work, 80 in Public

Health, 1,027 in Education, and 3,401 in Arts and Sciences — on joining the family of more than 178,000 Hunter alumni.

"Graduates, you think you know your story. You think that your career will be linear," Kirschner said. "It isn't. Some of the plot twists in your life will bring joy, some will bring sorrow. Always be prepared to write yourself a new story."

She counseled them to "say 'yes' to that unexpected new opportunity. Your ability to say yes is your superpower."

CUNY Chancellor **Félix V. Matos Rodríguez** noted that the Class of 2024 started college during the pandemic.

"The CUNY community is enormously proud of you," Matos Rodríguez said.

"Despite the many hardships and disruptions, you stayed focused and made it here today. Looking out and seeing you in your caps and gowns gives me immense pride. You are not only joining the Hunter College alumni family but you are part of the great story of The City University of New York."



Above left: Valedictorians celebrate. Above right: President Kirschner, Dr. David Julian Hodges, and Chancellor Matos Rodríguez.

Hunter conferred honorary degrees on **Johnetta B. Cole**, a former president of two historically black colleges; **Dr. David Julian Hodges**, an esteemed anthropologist and promoter of civil rights; and Judge **Carlton W. Reeves**, a trailblazing federal judge known for his landmark civil-rights rulings. Cole and Hodges are both veterans of Hunter's faculty. Reeves delivered the Commencement's keynote address (see page 6).

The ceremony, which combined the winter and spring commencements, ended with a speech by one of Hunter's

20 valedictorians, **Naiomi Sampson** (see sidebar).

Then, President Kirschner intoned the magic words:

"With the authority granted by the Charter of the State of New York to the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York, and delegated to me, I confer upon you the bachelor's degrees, master's degrees, doctorate degrees and certificates you have earned — with the rights, privileges, and responsibilities which accompany them."

The crowd went wild.



## A SPEECH FROM THE HEART

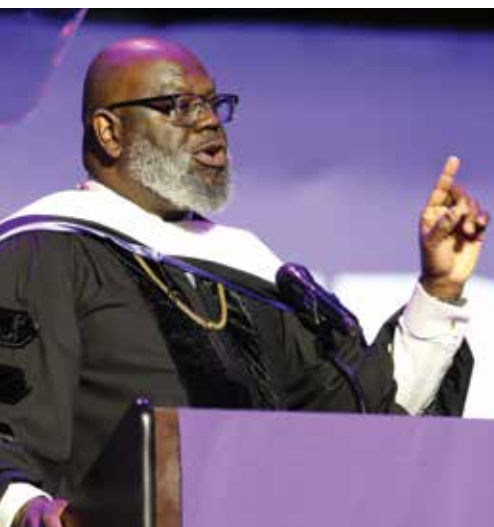
Hunter College's impressive graduating Class of 2024 produced 20 valedictorians, most of them from Queens and Brooklyn and families with immigrant backgrounds. Several are immigrants themselves.

**Naiomi Sampson** of Queens, an undocumented immigrant from Guyana, gave the valedictory address. Sampson came to the United States at age 15 with her sister and single mother, who worked for \$5 an hour to support the family.

An Economics major, Sampson plans to attend law school in 2025.

"With hearts full of appreciation for all who helped shape our journey, we now look forward to the new roads that await us," Sampson said. "We will confront new problems and barriers to achieve our goals. However, I am confident we will overcome these hurdles in the same manner we have these last four years so that we can stand here today poised to throw our graduation caps in the air in utter jubilation!"

Left: President Kirschner, Johnetta B. Cole, Chancellor Matos Rodríguez.



Judge Carlton W. Reeves addresses Hunter's Class of 2024.

## EVOKING HUNTER'S CIVIL-RIGHTS LESSONS

Hunter College's 227th Commencement keynote speaker, Federal Judge **Carlton W. Reeves** of Mississippi, evoked the example of Hunter alum and civil-rights pioneer Pauli Murray '33 in charging students to go out and make a better world.

Raised under Jim Crow, Murray, the author of the civil rights "bible" *States' Laws on Race and Color*, "learned to create that change right here at Hunter," Reeves said.

"Learning together. Struggling together. Overcoming together. That was how Murray earned her degree here," Reeves said, noting that when Murray graduated "she entered a world that betrayed equality and stifled resistance. Where leaders spread fascism and tried to destroy democracy. Where people were targeted and tortured and killed for having the wrong religion, the wrong skin color, the wrong sexual identity. A world, in other words, much like the one you all are entering."

Yet Murray was armed with the "degree that you now hold in your hands." That degree, he said, "represents an unquenchable desire to make things better."





# Arts at Hunter

## HUNTER THEATRE INSTRUCTOR'S PLAY WINS FIVE TONY AWARDS



A scene from the hit play *Stereophonic*, which takes place in a recording studio.

**H**unter Theatre Department instructor and playwright **David Adjmi** was the man of the hour on June 16, as his smash-hit Broadway play, *Stereophonic*, won five 2024 Tony Awards, including Best New Play and Best Direction.



**David Adjmi**

*Stereophonic*, set in 1976–77, depicts the epic tumult during recording sessions as members of a rock band try to cut a hit record without cutting each other's throats. It is Adjmi's first Broadway production. Known as something of a provocateur, he has staged several earlier plays at downtown theaters. "David Adjmi is an exceptional talent, and this monumental play so beautifully captures the agony and ecstasy of artistic creation," said **Christine**

**Scarfuto**, the director of Hunter's Rita and Burton Goldberg MFA Playwriting Program. "It's a masterful work and absolutely deserving of these accolades. David's been writing plays off Broadway for two decades, so it's moving to finally see him getting the recognition he has long deserved. He is also a gifted mentor, and we are so grateful to have him teaching in our program."

Adjmi has taught playwriting at Hunter since 2021. He's a good fit for Hunter's highly selective and rigorous two-year program, which has a reputation as an incubator of top talent. He teaches Playwriting I, an individualized first-semester course in which students write a full-length play while getting reading recommendations and advice.

"They learn to develop their voices, silence their inner critics, and write the plays only they can write," in Scarfuto's words. Adjmi spends considerable time mentoring students

in and outside the classroom.

"It's important to have a teacher like David who can set the tone for the rest of their time in the program, and David does just that," Scarfuto said. "Students emerge from his class feeling more confident in their voices and with a strong sense of who they are as artists and thinkers."

Previewing the awards in a podcast with *The New York Times*, Adjmi stressed the importance of letting young playwrights uncover their authentic selves. Describing meetings with a censorious teacher at Juilliard, he said that he spent years doubting his abilities and feeling like an imposter before banishing those feelings by writing three plays "that were about really bad pedagogical experiences."

*Stereophonic* won several other "Best Play" awards this season, including the Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, New York Critics Circle, and Drama League.

## JODY ARNHOLD'S LATEST MOVE AT HUNTER



**T**he "Doyenne of Dance" has done it again! **Jody Gottfried Arnhold**, who established the Arnhold Graduate Dance Education Program at Hunter College



in 2010, is helping AGDEP expand its degree offerings with a \$237,000 gift.

The contribution will support partial scholarships for two new programs. The first, a Dance Education Advanced Certificate, will provide an affordable pathway for professional dancers and dance artists to become K-12 certified dance teachers. The second initiative, the Dance Education CLASS

Leadership program, will confer a master's degree that enables experienced dance teachers to become senior school administrators.

"These innovative programs, spearheaded by Ana Nery Fragoso, will continue to enrich the dance education landscape in NYC," Mrs. Arnhold said. "I'm so proud to support it."

## ALUMNA ENDOWS LATIN AMERICAN ART SCHOLARSHIPS

**E**stellita Brodsky MA '94, one of America's top art collectors, has made a generous commitment through The Daniel and Estrellita Brodsky Foundation to support scholarships for Hunter students studying Latin American art.

The new Estrellita Brodsky Scholarship Fund furthers Brodsky's long-standing commitment to the study of Latin American art at Hunter and in America.

"My experiences as a student and a supporter of

Hunter's Latin American scholarship program have made me acutely aware of the importance of offering quality education at a public university," Brodsky said. "I am thrilled to see how Hunter's many talented students have expanded scholarship in the field of Latin American and Latin diasporic art history and can now continue to do so."

Dr. Brodsky is a curator, collector, and philanthropist and an advocate for artists and the art from Latin America and its diaspora.



**Estrellita Brodsky MA '94**

She serves as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden and is a founding member of The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Latin American Art Initiative and Tate Americas Foundation.

## Brooklyn-Based Artist Tapped as Stanton Chair of Art & Art History Department



**H**unter College has named interdisciplinary artist **Sara Greenberger Rafferty** as the inaugural Ruth Stanton Chair of the Department of Art and Art History.

Rafferty — whose work spans painting, sculpture, photography, installation, and performance — assumes the post in the fall.

The Ruth Stanton Chair was created last year for the late Ruth Schloss Stanton, a child refugee from Nazi Germany who became a noted art collector and whose philanthropy centered on those affected by war or economic hardship. At Hunter, her foundation has generously supported scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who aspire to careers in the arts.

Rafferty comes to Hunter from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, where she was professor and director of graduate studies in Photography.





Dr. Mandë Holford

Hunter College is pleased to announce that the McNulty Foundation has established the Anne Welsh McNulty Chair of Science Innovation and Leadership at Hunter.

With the support of Hunter and the Foundation, CUNY has named **Dr. Mandë Holford**, a pioneering marine biochemist at Hunter and the CUNY Graduate Center, as the inaugural McNulty Chair.

The McNulty Chair recognizes a prominent scientist, who has distinguished themselves through their teaching, research, scholarship, entrepreneurial activities and partnerships, as well as awards and grants. Importantly, they have demonstrated a deep commitment

to advancing women in STEM fields throughout their career. This is the first chair for a scholar at Hunter dedicated to outstanding leaders in science and, as a named professorship, is the highest honor the college can bestow upon a faculty member.

“We thank the John P. and Anne Welsh McNulty Foundation for endowing this professorship and are excited to host a chair honoring outstanding innovation and leadership in science,” said Hunter College President Kirschner. “Hunter has produced many world-ranked female scientists during its 154-year history. Dr. Holford’s appointment will further that legacy.”

## ANNE WELSH McNULTY CHAIR OF SCIENCE INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP ESTABLISHED AT HUNTER

In 2023, Dr. Holford became the first CUNY faculty member to win the National Institutes of Health Common Fund Health Pioneer Award for her trailblazing research exploring the therapeutic opportunities and properties of venoms from cephalopods and other marine mollusks.

She is also a longtime mentor of Hunter’s John P. McNulty Scholars, a prestigious program that identifies high-achieving undergraduate students in STEM majors and supports them in becoming leaders in their fields.

“We are honored to recognize Dr. Holford, an extraordinary scholar and innovator,” said **Anne Welsh McNulty**,

President of the McNulty Foundation. “Her work has revolutionized our understanding of venom and the potential uses of its compounds, and her influence goes far beyond, as a visionary and advocate who has played a key role in accelerating women and others in STEM at Hunter and across other professional and academic institutions.”

Ms. McNulty and the Foundation created the McNulty Scholars Program at Hunter in 2010 in honor of her late husband, John P. McNulty, a son of immigrants from Ireland who, like many Scholars, was the first in his family to attend college. The program trains and supports undergraduate women to lead in STEM fields. Many have gone on to publish scientific papers, pursue MDs, PhDs, and MD-PhDs, and build careers in STEM. The McNulty Chair builds on this impact by providing a vision for Women in Science at Hunter (WiSH), an initiative to support Hunter College’s extraordinary women STEM faculty in their research and careers.

The McNulty Chair will collaborate and develop strong relationships with a broad constituency of stakeholders, within and outside of Hunter College, including the WiSH Program, McNulty Scholars Program, and Hunter’s STEM faculty. The chair will also raise the profile of Hunter with other public institutions nationwide by developing programs that foster excellence and inclusion in STEM.

“I am honored to be selected as the inaugural McNulty Chair,” Dr. Holford said. “It has been my mission to inspire Hunter students’ love of science and enable them to participate in cutting-edge research that advances new knowledge and spurs discoveries that will enhance human and planetary



From left: McNulty Foundation President Anne Welsh McNulty, Dr. Mandë Holford, Hunter College President Ann Kirschner, and journalist Kate Zernicke.

health. Also, Anne McNulty is a trailblazing woman with vision. Her gift is transformative and her generosity allows us to think boldly and take risks to elevate our science and Hunter’s platform.”

Hunter is the only college in the world to graduate two women winners of the Nobel Prize in Medicine, Gertrude Elion ’37 and Rosalyn Yalow ’41. The

chair continues this legacy of outstanding achievement.

The appointment was celebrated at a special event at Hunter’s Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute, featuring a conversation between Dr. Holford and **Kate Zernicke**, *New York Times* reporter and best selling author of *The Exceptions: Nancy Hopkins and the Fight for Women in Science*.



From left, McNulty Scholars Danielle Elterman, Cedrica Samuels, McNulty Chair Dr. Mandë Holford and her daughter Nova Holford-Cuadrado, executive director of the program Krysta Battersby, Scholars Jeslyn Mei, Adrienne Nemchik, Swara Patel, and Alanna Fields.



# AROUND CAMPUS



Bashir Juwara is served Thanksgiving dinner by Ann Kirschner and Eija Ayravainen on Nov. 20.



Students display T-shirts at Hunter's Final Fever street fair on May 14.



U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, center, spoke to Hunter and Cornell students on November 2 at the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute.



Ron Spurga and students stand next to the plaque dedicating the Marie Colwell Terrace on November 1.



NYC Housing Commissioner and Hunter alum Adolfo Carrion Jr., second from right, visited with Hunter pre-law students on May 13.



Students enjoy cones outside the Kaye Playhouse at Hunter's Ice Cream Social on May 9.



Mala Waldron performs at the Billie Holiday Symposium on February 9.



Judy Collins and Meryl Streep at Roosevelt House after Streep performed as Eleanor Roosevelt on December 6.



Andrew Polsky was toasted on May 13 after stepping down as Dean of School of Arts and Sciences.



Pre-Law Program Director Elise Jaffe, left, and students with Kirkland & Ellis Partner Amal El Bakhar MHC '11, second from right, on April 8.



Deloitte CEO Joseph Ucuzoglu sat down with President Ann Kirschner on May 1, for a fireside chat about corporate careers.



# Prestigious Scholarships

## RUTH NEWMAN'S VISIONARY GIFT TO STUDENTS

Since **Ruth Newman '54** endowed the directorship of Hunter College's Office of Prestigious Scholarships & Fellowships, awards to students have increased.

After **Stephen Lassonde** arrived as director in 2016, the number of Hunter students winning a nationally competitive fellowship has risen by 133 percent over the previous eight years.

Hunter students have won almost every major fellowship and have had several "firsts": Rhodes, Marshall, Gates-Cambridge, and NIH-OxCam MD-PhD fellowships, and Schwarzman, Gaither, and Damon Runyon scholarships.

"It has been an honor and a pleasure having a role in their success," Mrs. Newman said. "Dr. Lassonde is elevat-



From left: Ruth Newman, Stephen Lassonde.

ing our students – and Hunter College."

Recently, Mrs. Newman augmented her gift by another \$1 million. Dr. Lassonde, meanwhile, has detailed his approach for making Hunter's diverse, low-income students competitive with their Ivy League counterparts in a new

book, *Helping Your Students Write Personal Statements: Framing the Narrative for Fellowships and Other Opportunities* (Routledge).

Lassonde, who sees more than 700 students a year in individual appointments and works closely with 120, pushes students to think deeply about their experiences.

"The personal statement is the part of the fellowship application that has the power to transform a strong application into a memorable one," he said. "Many applicants have impressive resumes, so what an applicant says, and how they say it, can make the difference between being a contender and a winner."

For examples of recent scholarship winners, see the stories below.

## PROFESSOR ENDOWS MARINE BIOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS IN WOODS HOLE, MASS.



The Woods Hole laboratory, where Hunter students will study.

**Dr. Shirley Raps**, a longtime professor and former chair of the Hunter Department of Biological Sciences, has endowed a \$400,000 internship fund, enabling two biology majors to conduct research each

summer at the Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory. Scholars will work in the lab of Drs. Scott Brady and Gerardo Morfini, who have provided substantive research experiences for Hunter undergraduate Biology majors.

"The students report they are growing as researchers. Many have been coauthors on journal articles," said Dr. Raps. "I want to continue this exceptional research experience."

The scholarship fund is Dr. Raps's most recent investment in Hunter College. Her significant philanthropy includes an earlier major gift, the Dr. Shirley Raps Manhattan Hunter Science Study Lounge, in the Leon and Toby Cooperman Library.

## Hunter Names Its First Bluhm Professor



Bronwen L. Wickkiser

Hunter College's Classical Studies Program has named **Bronwen L. Wickkiser**, a scholar of Greek and Roman medicine, as its inaugural Solomon Bluhm Professor of Ancient History.

Wickkiser comes to Hunter from Wabash College in Indiana, where she chaired the Classics Department and taught Greek and Latin as well as the history and material cultures of Greece. She will join the Hunter faculty in the fall.

The Solomon Bluhm Professorship was endowed by **Lois and Arthur Stainman** in the name of Mrs. Stainman's late grandfather, a lover of the Classics who taught Education at Hunter from 1930 to 1951.

The \$2 million endowment builds on the success of Hunter's \$2.5 million Solomon Bluhm Scholars Program, which the Stainmans established in 2014 to support high-achieving juniors and seniors majoring in Greek, Latin, Classical Archaeology, or Classical Studies. The program provides scholarships and supports research, conference participation, and local cultural and scholarly events.

## MEET SOME PRESTIGIOUS SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Each year, hundreds of Hunter College students get scholarship awards with help from our Newman Office of Prestigious Scholarships and Fellowships. Here are some notable examples:



**Jennelle Ohene-Agyei MHC '24** won a Schwarzman Scholarship, a one-year, fully funded master's program at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

The Political Science major, who comes from a family of Ghanaian and Jamaican immigrants, also dances professionally in New York City's Continuum Contemporary Ballet Company.

She studied Mandarin, teaches English to Chinese immigrants, and studied abroad in Taiwan.



**Jady Chen MHC '27** earned a Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship, a highly selective award that chooses among freshmen and sophomores at New York City colleges with strong academic records but also proven leadership skills and a demonstrated commitment to the common good.

Chen is majoring in Urban Studies because of her interest in city design and health disparities. She interns at the New York City Economic Development Corporation.



**Phill M. Campbell '25** won a coveted Beinecke Scholarship worth \$35,000 in support of his graduate education.

The Beinecke Scholarships provide exceptional students funds for graduate study in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. An artist, photojournalist, poet, activist, and historian of African-American culture, Campbell has been working his way through Hunter as a photographer for the Co-op City Times. He plans to get a PhD in American Studies.

## A VERY GRATEFUL MOTHER'S DAY

Hunter College's Mother's Day Scholarship Campaign changed this year to thank donors more directly, mailing a personalized video with a message of gratitude from Mother's Day scholars for named-scholarship gifts of \$2,750 or more.

Hunter created the Mother's Day Scholarship Fund in 2005 to honor its many remarkable women graduates. In the almost 20 years of the campaign, it has raised more than \$10 million for thousands of deserving students and secured more than a dozen endowments and almost 100 named scholarships in honor of Hunter graduates.

Supporters of the campaign embody the spirit of the Hunter motto: *Mihi cura futuri*, "The care of the future is mine." Through their contributions, they honor the memory and legacy of the women who pioneered pathways to higher



The personalized video mailed to donors this year.

education and economic mobility. Some supporters are alumni who received the award as students.



## QUESTIONS FOR DR. MAYA CLARK-CUTAIA



**Dr. Maya Clark-Cutaia started work in January 2024 as the inaugural Associate Dean of the Evelyn Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program at the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing. The program was created by a \$52 million gift from Leonard A. Lauder in honor of his late wife, Evelyn Lauder HCHS '54 HC '58. It seeks to improve health outcomes in underserved New York City neighbor-**

**hoods. We recently spoke with Dr. Clark-Cutaia about the new program.**

**What's happened since you arrived at Hunter?**

I have been surveying what we have available in the School of Nursing, getting to know the faculty, and trying to understand where the gaps are and how my new role and the Lauder gift might fill those gaps. To focus on health equity, we need an understanding of how much training and experience already exists and what the infrastructure is to broaden that exposure and education.

**What is happening with the Evelyn Lauder Nurse Practitioner Fellows?**

The first group of 11 Fellows graduated in May and are taking their board exams over the summer and fall. Many have done clinicals at New York City Health + Hospitals while working in community settings. Once they obtain their board certifications, they will be able to work at Health + Hospitals or

continue in community settings.

**The Brookdale campus (where the Lauder Program is located) is being replaced by CUNY's SPARC campus in 2025. Where will you be working during the transition and what do you know about the new facilities?**

We're moving to a swing space at 63 Madison, just a few blocks from the Brookdale location. Because of the wonderful gift from Mr. Lauder, we will be recreating what we have now in the swing space—all the offices and simulation rooms will go with us to the swing space. The same will be true for SPARC.

**What do Hunter's nursing students bring to the table and how are you interacting with them?**

There are a lot of first-generation students, and so much diversity! We come from differing backgrounds and cultures, we have different socio-economic statuses, we speak different languages, and we have different religions. And I love that aspect. But I think some of the things

that Hunter students bring to the table—where I think we meet—is that all have experienced what health inequities can do. We also have had some trauma related to health care provision, and the treatment that we've received, or that someone that we love has received, so it makes us want to do better for everyone. That desire to do better is how we've connected so far, and that there's this huge need and the desire to learn about health equity and how to apply it in a way that has an immediate impact in our clinical practice, in a holistic way. Because the students are hungry for it, it's been a great transition.

**What is the Lauder gift enabling you to do?**

I would like to say how grateful we are, and that I recognize the importance of its potential impact, and that we really want to make sure that we do it justice, and most of all, to do justice to the communities we serve. This is about so much more than our Fellows. I want it to impact the School of Nursing at large, our partners at NYC Health + Hospitals, and our New York City community. We're going to make sure that we strive for the greatest impact and continue to dream big.

## HUNTER NURSING STUDENTS STUDY ABROAD IN SOUTH AFRICA



**Hunter Nursing students on a hike in South Africa.**

**T**welve Hunter College Nursing students spent just over two weeks during January studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa—thanks to a grant from sisters **Sandra and Linda Bloch**.

The experiential learning trip, during which students lived with local families and did rotations at hospitals and clinics, was organized through Child Family Health International.

The trip was the first of what Hunter hopes will become an established and growing experiential-learning program in the Nursing school and others. It certainly showed the value of experiential learning.

With more than 60 hours of clinical experience, it was designed to give the students an immersion in global health work; they learned firsthand about the cultural and ethical issues of working with underserved populations and the barriers to health and healthcare delivery. The students also had the opportunity to take in sights.

"Our students learned an incredible amount about population health,

health equity, and social justice," said Hunter Nursing Professor **Dr. Carolyn Sun**, who accompanied the students. "We are so grateful to the Bloch family for providing the funding. Their contribution not only transformed the lives of individual students but also elevated the stature and impact of our institution. The Blochs are helping us create a resilient and skilled nurse and nurse practitioner workforce, essential for addressing the healthcare challenges of tomorrow."

The students said that the trip was life-changing.

"We were able to ask questions, interact with patients, observe direct patient care, and so much more," said **Katelyn Waldvogel**, a junior Nursing major and a member of the Hunter Bellevue School of Nursing Honor. "We were staying with a local family, doing clinical rotations in local hospitals, and eating home-cooked meals—giving us a feel of life in Cape Town and a deeper understanding of the people and patients we encountered."

## HUNTER GRADUATES FIRST EVELYN LAUDER COMMUNITY CARE NURSE PRACTITIONERS



**Nursing students with Leonard Lauder, center, at Roosevelt House.**

**T**he Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing celebrated its first convocation on May 29, 2024, featuring fellows from the Evelyn Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program, marking a new era in the school's history to address New York City's health inequities in minoritized communities.

The program, created by a transformative \$52 million gift from **Leonard A. Lauder** in memory of his late wife and Hunter graduate, Evelyn Lauder HCHS '54, HC '58, provides Lauder Fellows with up to \$30,000 in stipends for tuition and living expenses. The support eases the financial burden of advanced clinical training and opens direct paths to employment through partnerships with NYC Health + Hospitals. Eleven Lauder Fellows were honored in the class of 2024.

The first graduating class of Lauder Fellows underscores the program's goal to support the education of nurse practitioners who will be leaders in

advancing the well-being of the women, men, and families they serve. Almost all Hunter nursing graduates stay in New York City, where they bring their skills and dedication to the community, enhance the healthcare system, and meet the local demand for qualified healthcare professionals.

"The Evelyn Lauder Fellowship is a life-changing initiative for our students and New York City. The generous support from Mr. Lauder allows us to address the primary care shortage and equip our graduates to make a significant impact in underserved areas," said Dr. **Ann Marie P. Mauro**, Joan Hansen Grabe Dean of Nursing. "We are incredibly proud of our first cohort of

Lauder Fellows and their dedication to providing world-class care."

The Evelyn Lauder Community Care Nurse Practitioner Program offers advanced clinical training and education focused on advancing health equity from diagnosis to ordering and interpreting tests to prescribing medication.

In addition to the Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing convocation, Hunter College celebrated graduates from its four schools—the Silberman School of Social Work, the School of Education, the School of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Nursing—on June 4 at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.



# Alumni

## HUNTER'S SOUTH FLORIDA SHINDIG



Roosevelt House Director Harold Holzer, center, signs his latest book.

For the first time in many years, Hunter College hosted alumni events in Florida!

On March 12, alumni who graduated in the 1950s, 1960s, 1980s, and even the 2010s gathered for a cocktail reception and intimate discussion with Hunter President Ann Kirschner. Then,

on March 13, Hunter hosted an alumni luncheon and book launch party at The Colony Hotel for **Harold Holzer**, the Jonathan F. Fanton Director of the Roosevelt House Public Policy at Hunter College.

Harold's new book, *Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration*, is the latest of

more than 50 that he has authored, co-authored, edited, or co-edited, and attendees enjoyed a discussion between President Kirschner and Harold over The Colony's famous coconut cake dessert.

Alumni from both the Manhattan and Bronx campuses were in attendance, and one table of alums realized they had gone to Hunter Elementary, Hunter High, and Hunter College, all within a few years of each other!

Everyone shared their joy to be reconnecting with their alma mater, and plans are already in the works for another alumni event in Florida next winter, and the long-awaited return of Hunter Reunion Weekend at Hunter's 68th Street campus in April 2025.

If you or a fellow alum would like to be invited to attend Hunter alumni events, please email your contact information to [al\\_relns@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:al_relns@hunter.cuny.edu).

## MACAULAY ALUMNI MEETUP

The Hunter Macaulay Honors Alumni gathered again this spring for an evening of networking and fellowship, and to devise a plan for how to "Say Goodbye to Brookdale" in spring 2025.

Next year Brookdale, home of the Hunter Macaulay Honors dormitory, will be torn down to make room for a billion-dollar public-private partnership named the "Science Park and Research Campus." SPARC will transform Brookdale



Hunter Macaulay alumni meet up for their Spring Soiree on May 7.

into state-of-the-art facilities with more than 1.5 million square feet of academic, public health, and life sciences space, including a new home for the Hunter School of Nursing.

Eager to give their former Hunter home a proper send-off, Macaulay alumni are

planning a party in the atrium, complete with music, refreshments, photo ops and an auction to benefit the current Macaulay students' programming fund.

If you'd like to get involved — or on the invite list — please email [spevents@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:spevents@hunter.cuny.edu)

## HUNTER ADDS NINE TO ITS HALL OF FAME



From left, Hunter alumnae Fredda Wigder '74, Antoinette Mims-Brown '09, Pamela Schneider '88, Marta Lebreton '93, and Marcia Caton '85 attend the Hunter Alumni Hall of Fame Luncheon on April 20.

Hunter College's Alumni Association inducted nine new members to its Hall of Fame at a gala luncheon on April 20. The large number of inductees reflected a lag from the Covid pandemic; the event had not been held for several years. The association, which has existed since 1872, established the Hall of Fame in 1972 to celebrate its centennial and honor distinguished alumni.

The nine inductees are:

- **Gloria T. Frank BA '90**, the first female Port Authority Police Department three-star chief
- **Dr. Frances Gaskin BSN '62**, a nurse, educator, scientist, and inventor
- **Martha S. Jones BA '83**, an historian, writer, and commentator on Black Americans
- **Dr. Maryanne F. Lachat BSN '72**, a perinatal care and women's health specialist and benefactor of the School of Nursing and Scholarship & Welfare Fund
- **Dr. Jillian McLeod BA '94**, a Mathematics professor at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy
- **Miguel Angel Payano MFA '21**, a prolific painter and sculptor
- **Arnold Serotsky BA '68**, a science educator
- **Lyn Kennedy Slater MSW '93**, a social worker and expert in the New York City Family Courts



(Clockwise from top left) Jillian McLeod '94 speaks. Fabio Bertoni '91 with an alumni plaque. Hunter alumnae Helene Goldfarb '51, Sandra Wilkin '79, and Michaela Walsch '71 attend the luncheon. Frances Gaskin '62 celebrates her induction with Leslie Lieth '72, and Kimberly Hafner '95. Lieth, inductee Maryanne Lachat '72, and Hafner.



# Giving at Hunter

## TWO NAMED AS CO-CHAIRS OF HUNTER FOUNDATION BOARD

A long-serving trustee who “loves giving back” and another who co-led the monumental \$35 million campaign to renovate Hunter’s library were named as co-chairs of the Hunter College Foundation’s Board of Trustees earlier this year.

**Dr. Michael J. Dean ’73**, a retired family practitioner and top healthcare executive, and **Abby Miller Levy**, an entrepreneur and business adviser in the wellness industry, were elected by the 24-member board.

With a BS from Hunter and an MD from SUNY Downstate, Dr. Dean, now retired, is board-certified in Family Medicine and Medical Management. He has served as Chief Medical Officer for John Hancock’s Preferred Provider Organization and Prudential’s Medical



**Dr. Michael J. Dean and Abby Miller Levy.**

Management Division. He also helped establish ChubbHealth, a New York City-based HMO, serving as its chief medical officer. Dr. Dean spends most of his charitable efforts on youth.

“I love to give back, and Hunter is the perfect vehicle for bettering the lives of young people,” he said.

Miller Levy, who co-chaired the library campaign in its formative years, is

the Managing Partner of Primetime Partners, a venture capital fund backing companies focused on older adults. She was founding president of Thrive Global, a technology company focused on employee productivity and wellness. Miller Levy

was also a senior executive at SoulCycle, where she oversaw business development and new digital products. She is a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Business School.

“I work in the high-flown field of venture capital, but never have I seen young people as smart, capable, and motivated as Hunter students,” Miller Levy said.

## HUNTER COLLEGE FOUNDATION ELECTS THREE NEW TRUSTEES



**From left: New trustees Jack Bierwirth, Carol Crossdale, and Michele Golodetz.**

The Hunter College Foundation has elected three individuals with broad and diverse experience as members of its Board of Trustees.

“We are delighted to be able to draw on the expertise of these incredible new members,” said foundation Executive Director Alexis L. Eggleton.

**Jack Bierwirth**, a retired educator, has worked as the superintendent of schools in three districts on Long Island and in Portland, Ore.

He also has nonprofit experience, including on the boards of The Bronxville

Historical Conservancy, the Bronxville Beautification Council, and the Macaulay Honors College Foundation.

He attended Yale and received his doctorate of education from UMass Amherst.

**Carol F. Crossdale ’91** is the founder and CEO of Crossdale Search, a boutique legal search and compliance firm focused on recruiting for industries including private equity, financial services, technology, logistics, consumer products, media and entertainment, life sciences, and manufacturing.

A graduate of Harvard Law School, Crossdale serves on the board of its Black Alumni Network. She was a board member of its Alumni Association in New York City and a co-chair of the New York chapter of the Harvard Law Women’s Alliance. She was also chair of Hunter’s Pre-Law Advisory Board and has acted as a judge for its Moot Court.

**Michele Golodetz** is a prominent private and angel investor with extensive experience in Latin America.

A 24-year resident of Santiago, Chile, she returned to New York in 2018. In Chile she served for nine years as CEO of SIF Sociedad Inversora Forestal SA, which promoted reforestation of degraded lands. Golodetz was also vice president of ChileGlobal Angels for two years, and a member of New York Angels, both angel investing organizations focused on startups. Golodetz received her BA from Northwestern University and MBA from Harvard Business School.



**Susan Gardner and husband Devon Ross at the opening of an office honoring the late Prof. Beatrice F. Hyslop on April 4.**

## GARDNER GIFT MEMORIALIZES HISTORY PROFESSOR

Was she a spy? An accomplished (and mysterious) 20th-century Hunter History professor has been memorialized in the Leon and Toby Cooperman Library, thanks to a gift from **Susan Gardner ’63**.

Gardner’s \$25,000 gift to the Library Campaign erected plaques in a faculty office in honor of the late Beatrice F. Hyslop, who taught and mentored generations of Hunter women from 1936 to 1969.

Hyslop (1899–1973), a professor of European and French history who specialized in the Revolutionary period, was honored by France with its ultra-prestigious Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur and Officier in the Ordre des Palmes Académiques.

According to Gardner — an editor, book publisher, and Hyslop mentee — Hyslop, who looked like “the stereotype of the maiden professor in navy blue and dark grey suits with flared skirts” always seemed to be in the right place at the right time to affect history.

“No way did she get these enormous French prizes for her work on Revolutionary-era notebooks. Not a possibility. She was a spy for France!”

Was Hyslop a spy? We will never know for sure. But now, thanks to Gardner, people will know how much she was loved and respected.



**From left: Chief Librarian John Pell, Susan Gardner, Devon Ross, Provost Manoj Padasani, and Vice President of Institutional Advancement Alexis Eggleton cut the ribbon.**

## STUDY ROOM DEDICATED TO JEANNE EINHORN ’43



**(Above) President Ann Kirschner, Michele Russell-Einhorn, and Malcom Russell-Einhorn.**

**(Right) Jeanne Einhorn, center, at age 97 with her, clockwise from top left, daughter Michele, son-in-law Malcolm, granddaughter Becca, great-grandson Omri, and grandson Daniel.**



She would have loved it! A study room on the fifth floor of Hunter’s Leon and Toby Cooperman Library was dedicated on May 29 for late alumna Jeanne Singer Einhorn ’43, who died in 2020 at age 98.

The room, where students may study privately, apart from any traffic in the library, will help Hunter’s commuter students with a quiet place to complete their work.

“We thank the Einhorn family for this generous and useful gift,” said Hunter President **Ann Kirschner**. “We know their mother would have been delighted.”

Einhorn’s daughter **Michele Russell-Einhorn**, an expert on medical ethics and legal compliance, and Michele’s husband **Malcolm Russell-Einhorn** were on hand for the naming ceremony, which unveiled a plaque in Michele’s mother’s honor.

The room is a fitting tribute to Einhorn. An industrious and learned woman, she graduated Hunter with a degree in Home Economics and raised three children with her husband of 63 years, the late Joseph Einhorn. Together they founded and managed a furniture company.



# Alumni Highlights

## PANOPLY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR HUNTER ALUMS



**M**FA Playwriting alum **Jesse Jae Hoon '23** won the prestigious Terrence McNally Award of the Rattlestick Theater's Terrence McNally New Works Incubator. The award, which honors the late American Theater Hall of Famer Terrence McNally, often called "the bard of American theater," supports ambitious early-career playwrights. Hoon was selected from 500 applicants for the prize, which entails a \$7,500 stipend and a three-week workshop and public presentation of a work at the Rattlestick Theater.

"Jesse is a bold and imaginative artist with a singular voice, and we are so thrilled he's receiving this recognition," said Christine Scarfuto, director of the Rita and Burton Goldberg MFA Playwriting Program at Hunter's Theatre Department.



**N**ew Yorker, theater critic, and 40-Under-40 honoree **Vinson Cunningham '14** published his first novel, *Great Expectations*, about a young Black man's work on a presidential campaign for a candidate like Barack Obama.

The book got a great review in *The New York Times*. "From Malcolm Little to Forrest Gump, American literature is filled with common young men who find

themselves, through chance and serendipity, immersed in the slippery world of choice and privilege," wrote reviewer Damon Young of the novel. "Rarer is a debut that announces a talent like Cunningham's."



**I**n another arts-related kudo, MFA in Playwriting alum **Minna Lee '24** won the Dramatist Guild prestigious Lanford Wilson Award. The Wilson award, established by the estate of Lanford Wilson, is presented to an early career or "emerging" playwright. Lee joins past Hunter MFA Wilson awardees Charly E. Simpson '17 and Mariam Bazeed '18.

"Minna Lee is emerging as one of the most imaginative young dramatists of their generation," said Associate Dean for the Arts Gregory Mosher. "We wish them much success."

A Hmong-Vietnamese American playwright and animator, Lee has created several award-winning productions.



**S**andra Wilkin BSN '79, the founder and CEO of Bradford Construction Corp./Bravo, was named to City & State NY's 2024 Construction Power 100. Wilkin, the vice chair of the CUNY board of trustees, where her committee assignments include Facilities, Planning and Management is also co-founder of the Women Builders Council. She helped pass New York City's Local Law 1 of 2013, which has been transformational for MWBE procurement in city government.

She showed her Hunter colors by attending our Commencement on June 4.

# In Memoriam



**Marilyn Morris Berliner '48**, an art teacher, children's book author and illustrator, and active alumna, died on January 16, 2024, in Rockville, Md. She was 97.

Born in Far Rockaway, Queens, Berliner majored in Art History and Art Education at Hunter and obtained an MFA from New York University in 1976. She exhibited her work at many museums

and galleries, including The Cork Gallery at Lincoln Center, Broome Street Gallery, the Central Park Arsenal Gallery, and the Lowe Art Museum in Florida.

Berliner wrote and illustrated 28 children's books, including *Sky Sketcher*, *Split Second Rescue*, *Slender Birds*, and *What's New at the Zoo*. Her illustrations for the theater appeared in the publication *The Soul of the American Actor* for 20 years.

Berliner taught art to hundreds of students in New York City and Yonkers.

When living in south Florida, she served as president of the South Florida Chapter of the Hunter College Alumni Association from 1971 to 1973 and created the official seal for the chapter in 1967.



**Georgetta Gittens '80**, a passionate Hunter booster who led a campaign to create a study lounge in memory of Dr. John Henrik Clarke, a pathbreaking Africana scholar, died on September 13, 2023 in New York City. She was 84.

Gittens, who was an equal employment opportunity specialist and affirmative action officer at the Fashion Institute of Technology,

found time to be the consummate Hunter volunteer.

She was member of our Alumni Association Board of Directors, Wistarians Alumni Chapter president, 2011 Hunter Hall of Fame inductee, and recipient of our Distinguished Service Award. As president of the Wistarians Chapter, she chaired its 40th and 50th anniversary celebrations and the Wistarians' Black Scholars Committee, an endowed lecture series.

Gittens was also a Democratic district leader; an executive board member of the Ansonia Independent Democrats; a member of Manhattan Community Board 7; and an executive board member of the NAACP's mid-Manhattan branch.



**Dr. Barbara Ella Milton, Jr. DSW '09**— an author and social-justice advocate — died on October 9, 2023, in Secaucus, N.J., at 64.

A national expert on at-risk youth and families of color, Milton earned her Bachelor of Social Work from Seton Hall University, a Master of Social Work from Rutgers's University, and a PhD from CUNY, where she

studied at Hunter College.

For her doctorate, Milton studied archival narratives of formerly enslaved individuals to develop a blueprint for the healing and survival of young people of color in contemporary society. Her research led to her 2023 book, *Inherited Wisdom: Drawing on the Lessons of Formerly Enslaved Ancestor to Lift up Black Youth*.

Milton's 2021 memoir, *Heeding the Caregiver Call: The Story of Barbara Ella Milton, Sr. and Alzheimer's Disease*, is being used as an academic textbook.

Milton also directed Citizen Action of New Brunswick. She received Seton Hall's Distinguished Alumni Leadership Award.



**Anita Arrow Summers '45**, a Hunter Economics major who became a renowned professor at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and authority on urban economic development, died on October 22, 2023 at her home in Lower Merion, Penn., at age 98.

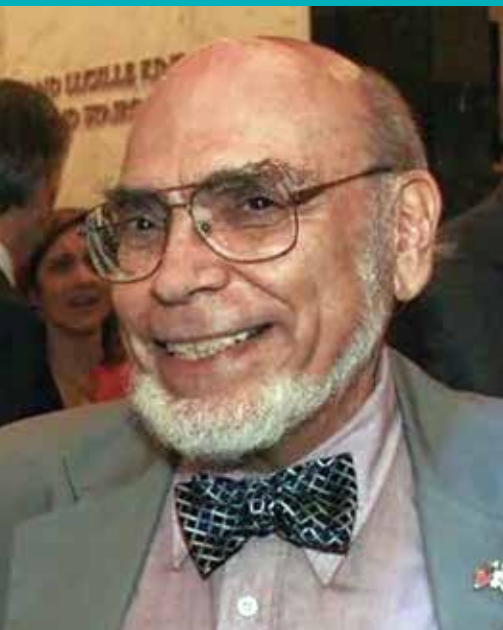
Summers was a major presence at alumni reunions and helped launch Hunter's

Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute.

She began teaching economics at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania in 1967 and later led urban economic development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia from 1971 to 1979. At Wharton, she founded the first public-policy department, which she chaired from 1983 to 1988.

A native New Yorker of East European Jewish descent, Summers earned an MA from the University of Chicago in 1947. She married economist Robert Summers, producing three sons, one of whom, Lawrence, became a U.S. Treasury secretary and chair of the National Economic Council.





## CIVIC ACTIVIST MEMORIALIZED WITH SCHOLARSHIPS, LECTURE

The family of the late activist **Roger Herz HCES '45** has given Hunter College \$1.6 million to memorialize the longtime civic gadfly through scholarships, internships, and public programming.

Carol Herz Brull, Roger's sister, said that he often signed his correspondence, "Better futile than passive," an ethos she applies to these gifts, which she fervently hopes will help to make the world a better place for all.

Herz, a perennial fixture wherever public policy was being made in New York City, died at age 88 in 2022. A former staffer at city and state agencies and commissions on urban planning and budgets, he used his background in public law and government to work tirelessly for a better New York.

A bicycle activist who took up riding during the 1966 transit strike, he biked everywhere and was a staunch advocate of transit, reproductive rights, and environmental protection. He was also an active philanthropist, supporting the New York Hall of Science in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park and the Bronx High School of Science Alumni Organization.

The gifts from Herz's estate will support STEAM education at the Hunter College Elementary School, and the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College. At Roosevelt House, the gift will allow Hunter to offer:

- An annual lecture on an issue of environmental, transportation, or other policy reflecting Herz' special areas of interest and advocacy
- Student internships
- A roundtable series
- A student travel fund
- A public lecture series on issues related to the environment and preparedness
- A cohort of Herz public-policy scholars

Gifts from the late activist Roger Herz's estate will support the Hunter College Elementary School and the Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute at Hunter College.