

AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Graduation 2012

On Thursday, June 21 at 5pm, the Hunter seniors of 2012 gathered together as a class for the last time. The departing students were treated to words of wisdom from Jean Kwok '86, author of Girl in Translation and this year's Distinguished Alum. Her speech is full of advice for any Hunter alum, new or not, and is printed in full below.

Thank you so much. It's such an honor for me to receive this award. When I was about to graduate from Hunter, I never thought that I would be standing here today. In fact, a lot of things happened to me in the intervening years that I never expected. I've been told that I have ten minutes to talk to you today, and I'd like to fill them by talking to you about the question I desperately wanted answered when I was sitting where you are now: namely, what will my future be like?

Unfortunately, I have no psychic talents whatsoever. However, I do know what happened to me and to most of the rest

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Hunterites in the Service

Today, **Alejandro "AJ" Alves '01** is a Captain in the Massachusetts Army National Guard and a lead instructor for the state's Officer Candidate School. He has five years of active duty with the United States Army Armor/Cavalry branch under his belt, including two tours in Iraq, first as a platoon leader, and then as a troop executive officer and squadron logistics officer. But as Alejandro told *AlumNotes*, military service had never been a consideration until the end of his sophomore year at HCHS.

"I started looking at college admissions and realized that my ambitions had little to do with personal goals or credentials. I was looking for something different, an atypical path, and a chance to do something beyond chasing personal accomplishments. I don't remember how I first came across West Point as a college option, but once I set my sights there, no other school interested me at all. The Academy's history and the chance to serve something bigger than myself really appealed to me then, and still does today."

Alejandro started at West Point in July of 2001. Two months later, on September 11, 2001,



Captain Alejandro "AJ" Alves '01 (right) with an Iraqi officer in 2006

the ramifications of his choice to join the military changed completely. "At the time, my class still had the opportunity to walk away from the Army with no obligations. After the realization that war was really coming, I think the Academy expected many of us to leave, but it never happened. If anything, as a class, our commitment and desire to serve became even stronger."

Of course, Alejandro was not alone; many

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ALUMNOTES

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Letter From The Co-Presidents

Dear Fellow Hunter Alumnae/i,

If asked to pick a phrase to describe Hunter College High School and the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association during this, the HCHSAA's fortieth year, we would select "continuity and change."

One development at the High School which represents both continuity and change is the appointment of Dr. Tony Fisher as the school's permanent principal. Many alumnae/i have met Dr. Fisher during his years of service as Math Department Chair, Assistant Principal, and Acting Principal. We are fortunate to have leaders of our alma mater, including Hunter College President Jennifer Raab '73, Campus Schools Director Randy Collins, and Dr. Fisher, who are so supportive of the Hunter alumnae/i community and the work of the HCHSAA, and we look forward to working with them for many years to come.

Continuity and change also describe Hunter's student body. The topic of Hunter admissions and student demographics has been the subject of press attention these past few years, first prompted by Justin Hudson '10's graduation speech (covered in the Fall 2010 issue of *AlumNotes*) and, most recently, with coverage of Chris Hayes '97's new book *Twilight of the Elites*. And if you graduated from Hunter a few decades ago, today's student body may look different than your group of high school friends. But if you spend any time with today's Hunter students, as we have had the privilege of doing these past few years, you immediately will recognize how much you have in common. Hunter still enrolls New York City's most able students, who excel both academically and in many other endeavors.

Continuity and change are an apt description of how the HCHSAA supports our alma mater. The HCHSAA always has supported Hunter, but the focus of this support has changed over time. At first, alumnae support consisted of fighting to ensure Hunter's survival in the face of budget cutbacks and CUNY's announced intention to shut down our alma mater. Today, we do not have to worry about Hunter's continued existence. But Hunter does not receive financing comparable to that of other schools, and Hunter alumnae/i and parents need to provide Hunter students with more than the bare essentials. Thanks to donations and bequests from alumnae/i, the HCHSAA provided more than \$200,000 in financial support to Hunter and Hunter students in 2011-12. We hope we can do even better this year.

Continuity and change also describe the ways in which the HCHSAA serves the alumnae/i community. We continue to organize reunion activities and events throughout the year including the annual Autumn Reception, theater evenings, and museum tours. Over time, we have added other events to our calendar, such as the annual Gala fundraisers first held in 2008. We are continuing to experiment with other kinds of events, and we are looking for ways to share our events with larger numbers of alumnae/i. For example, we recorded the "Decision 2012: Hunter Journalists Look Forward to the 2012 Election" panel discussion and it is available on YouTube for alumnae/i and other members of the Hunter community to enjoy. We also have a Facebook group with 2,400 members and a LinkedIn group with 1,900 members. A lot has changed since the HCHSAA's founders used a mimeograph machine and rotary-dial telephones to contact fellow Hunter graduates to save our school.

Finally, the Alumnae/i Association itself is changing. This year, the HCHSAA is led by a group of twenty-two alumnae/i, the largest Board of Directors in the organization's history. Eleven of the twenty-two directors were elected at the June 2012 annual meeting, and nine of the eleven have not served on the Board before. The 2012-13 Board also is the most diverse in the HCHSAA's history, including graduates of classes spanning more than six decades.

We look forward to seeing many of you at HCHSAA events this year. Working together we can help Hunter and strengthen the bonds of our alumnae/i community, as we embrace and celebrate continuity and change.

Jason P. Criss '92
President

Christine Wong '95
President

WELCOME CLASS OF 2012!

We're pleased to welcome the Class of 2012 to the Alumnae/i Association.

Over the coming years, as you venture off into the world, the AA will be here to support and connect you to your fellow alumnae/i, and to the school you've left behind. This newsletter is just one way that you can get information on what's happening at HCHS and with Hunterites around the world. When you sign up on our website, you'll be able to access all the latest news, receive email updates, and learn about AA sponsored events in your area, including the annual Reunion in early June, the Autumn Reception, theater parties, museum tours, Young Alum get-togethers, and Author Receptions.

But that's not all – we're also here to help you support the school in return. Every year, the Alumnae/i Association funds improvements to the school's academics and facilities – last fiscal year, we were able to give over \$200,000 in grants to finance needed projects such as the improvements to the music rooms profiled in this issue of *AlumNotes*.

Now in our 40th year, the Alumnae/i Association is proud to be your source for all things Hunter. So, visit our website at www.hchsaa.org to become a member and learn all about what we can do for you. This is your chance to give back, reach out, and stay in touch. This is your Alumnae/i Association. Welcome!

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc. is:

To organize the alumnae and alumni of the School to further the School's activities;

To provide financial support to the School in the form of endowment funds and other funding for the libraries, laboratories, theater, dance, music, art and academic programs, athletic and computer facilities, and other programs and facilities of the School;

To establish scholarships, fellowships, and other student aid programs;

To serve as a resource for students of the School to enhance their education;

To sponsor educational, scientific, literary, and cultural programs in cooperation with the School;

To serve as an advocate for our School within the larger community; and

To create and sustain a social and professional network for alumnae/i of the School to accomplish these goals.

Where did Hunter '12 end up?

Allegheny College	1	Johns Hopkins University	4	SUNY Stony Brook	4
Amherst College	4	Lafayette College	1	Syracuse University	1
Bard College	3	Lehigh University	4	Temple University	1
Barnard College	2	Macaulay Honors College at CUNY	2	The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art	3
Beloit College	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2	The Ohio State University	1
Bennington College	2	New York University	16	The University of Texas, Austin	1
Boston College	3	Northwestern University	3	The University of Texas, Dallas	1
Boston University	7	Oberlin College	3	Tufts University	2
Brandeis University	1	Pennsylvania State University, Erie: The Behrend College	1	University of California at Berkeley	2
Brown University	4	Pennsylvania State University, University Park	1	University of Chicago	8
Carnegie Mellon University	2	Polytechnic Institute of NYU	1	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	3
City College of New York CUNY	1	Princeton University	3	University of Michigan	5
Colgate University	2	Rice University	1	University of Pennsylvania	7
Columbia University	10	Rutgers, New Brunswick	1	University of St. Andrews (Scotland)	1
Connecticut College	1	Skidmore College	1	University of Virginia	1
Cornell University	7	Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education	1	Vanderbilt University	1
Dartmouth College	4	St. John's University - Queens Campus	2	Vassar College	5
Drexel University	3	Stanford University	1	Villanova University	1
Duke University	2	SUNY Binghamton	1	Washington University in St. Louis	2
Elmira College	1	SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry	1	Wellesley College	1
Fordham University	1	SUNY New Paltz	1	Wesleyan University	3
Georgetown University	1			Williams College	2
Georgia Institute of Technology	1			Yale University	9
Harvard University	9				
Haverford College	1				
Hunter College of the CUNY	2				
Indiana University at Bloomington	1				
Ithaca College	1				

Contact us!

Emailing is the best way to contact the Alumnae/i Association. From asking a question or communicating a concern, to submitting news for future editions of *AlumNotes*, email us at info@hchsaa.org. And sign onto the website for all things Hunter: www.hchsaa.org.

NOTES ON REUNION 2012

Reunion 2012

"This reunion weekend also begins a 40th anniversary celebration for the Alumnae/i Association. Founded by a coalition of parents and alumnae when Hunter's future was very much in doubt, today the organization exists to support Hunter and the community of Hunter graduates. But without the students who were here in the early 1970s, the parents of those students, and the alumnae – and of course, there were only alumnae back then – there would not have been a Hunter for me to attend in the late 1980s and early 1990s." – Jason Criss '92

In the midst of a weekend full of activities, Hunter graduates from across a generational spectrum gathered in the high school auditorium to listen to individuals from the milestone reunion classes recount their time at HCHS with fondness, and frequently with humor. **Jason Criss '92**, president of the Alumnae/i Association, opened the event by

pointing out that while "a lot of us think of this building as the quote-unquote new building for the school...in fact, more classes have graduated from Hunter here at 71 East 94th Street than any other building in the school's history." He proceeded to update the audience on the achievements of the Alumnae/i Association, whose funding and support has provided many needed upgrades and improvements to the school, including the renovation of the auditorium, music rehearsal rooms, department offices, and the faculty lounge, as well as the support for academic innovations like the mobile laptop lab for math classes, support and mentoring programs for 7th and 8th graders, and the Hunter TEDx event. "This year," he said, "the AA will give \$200,000 in grants to the high school and scholarships to graduating students," as he thanked the Alums for their generosity, and the Association for putting together the Reunion weekend. On that note, he stepped aside to let **Joan Rosenthal '72** introduce the speakers from each class, highlights from which have been included below.

Save the Date – Reunion 2013

It's never too early to start planning for your reunion, so mark your 2013 calendars for Sunday, June 2. This spring, it will be a Milestone Reunion for all class years ending in 8 or 3, but it will be an especially big year for the classes of '88 and '62, who will be celebrating their 25th and 50th reunions, respectively. Of course, all alums are encouraged to attend, regardless of class year. Stay tuned for more information coming up throughout the year, both in the *AlumNotes* and online at www.HCHSAA.org.



"One of the things that is really amazing... is that there are always things that are different, there are always things that are unique about each year, but there's really a tremendous amount that we find in common."
– Joan Rosenthal '72, opening remarks



1947: "I agree with my former speaker – Hunter changed our lives." –Vera Julia Gordon



1952: "I am so grateful to Hunter for empowering women." –Evelyn Sabino



1957: "Hunter enabled me... Hunter was very exciting when we were there because we were able to do anything we thought we could do. We had the courage to do it."
–Rosalind PERLOW Kaplan



1967: "I'd like to think my class personified... the turbulence and freedom of the sixties."
"They're declaring a war on women....
Now can you imagine a Hunter girl putting up with that? So if there's a war on women, I say bring it on, we're ready for you."
–Shelly SCHNEER Quigley



1972: "For all of our experiences and our diversity, the one thing I can say is that we are all the same. We are all sisters under the skin....I know that I could pick up that email list and email anyone on it tomorrow...and I know that these women will step up and help." –Robin KAPLAN Messer



1977: "It was woven into the very fabric of my life from such an early age that I didn't even know that I was learning and it was all so much fun....You could do anything here – there were no limits, there were no boundaries."
–Kelley SMOOT Garrett



1987: "I'm an academic mathematician, and a third of the academic mathematicians I've met who are women, who have been around long enough to break some ceilings for me, are from Hunter. So I wanted to thank all you Hunter alumnae out there for breaking the ceiling for us." –Christina Sormani



1997: "I, for one, am very glad that the school went co-ed, because otherwise my two children would not exist today. So I wanted to tell you that when I was in labor with Aaron, my older son, we were in the hospital room and the chief resident walks in, and it was Joyce Varughese who was in the class below me. So we were very glad to see each other, we sort of said hello, and then the OB/GYN walks in, and she was also a Hunter alum!" –Adrienne Lapidos (who married classmate Gabriel Mendlow)



Members of the class of 1942.

Class of 1952

BY EVELYN SABINO '52

At our 60th Reunion, I made a few remarks at the general assembly on June 3. What follows is a transcript of my statements then, with additions and edits from friends and classmates.

I want to second remarks made by many here today; Hunter was indeed a defining and shaping experience for us.

Out of their small city neighborhoods, adolescent girls of every socio-economic class, race, and religion came to 68th and Lexington where they mixed well. Bright, articulate, and very anxious to learn, it was not just what was within the covers of their textbooks but also what they gleaned from the diverse environment that stayed with them through the rest of their lives—and served them well. For many, this experience opened new paths for their lives that would not have existed for them otherwise.

Over the last decade I have lived in Alabama, where I have met people who find it difficult to deal with people whose ancestors they feel are strangers to them. As a friend once said to me, “You are a New Yorker. You never met a stranger.” True, but more importantly, I am a Hunterite. And the ease I learned at HCHS is so important on our increasingly shrinking globe.

This leads me to a final point I want to make. Hunter High used to admit students in seventh, ninth, and tenth grades. Those three entrance points have now been reduced to a single year, with new students admitted only in the seventh grade. I can understand the financial benefit to not administering three separate exams each year, but I always felt part of Hunter’s mission was to seek out academically able students who might not otherwise have the chance at this kind of education. Seventh grade is a bit young for many students to be travelling on the subway alone; I myself would not want my child to do that. Furthermore, many parents are not aware that seventh grade is their child’s only chance to go to Hunter. Restricting the exam to seventh grade admission favors a select population and excludes those who are not exposed to the kind of information or discipline that is required to do well on the exam. Finally, there are many seventh graders whose maturity level affects their academic performance, but who – in a few years time – would excel at Hunter.

Of course, there are those of my classmates who disagree, and who believe that talented children will find a way, and that the school cannot bend over backwards to accommodate everyone. That may be true, but my request remains: Hunter should consider providing the same opportunities to today’s students that so many of my classmates enjoyed.

Class of 1977

BY BETH HARPAZ '77

The Class of '77 celebrated 35 years since graduation with a three-day party: a Friday evening buffet organized by Rebecca MARKLIN Fine, attended by more than 45 of us; an all-day Saturday party hosted by Caren COTTONE Rei at her gorgeous Rockaway beach home, attended by more than 50, with a few spouses and children joining us; and a dozen of us at Sunday’s official events at the school. Activities included endless conversations and catching up, lots of eating and drinking, and a walk on the beach, plus a Spit card tournament where we channeled our 14-year-old selves, won by Linda SAUNDERS Trepanier; a re-reading of our smart, sensible, sophisticated, sublime (and silly!) Senior Proclamation by Lorraine CAPALDO Ballen; and even a meeting of the monthly book club we started a year and a half ago (this month’s book was *My Korean Deli*).

Classmates came from as far away as England (Carolyn CHOY Hookway), France (Lee Yanowich), California (Justene Adamec and Rachel Gardner) and Tennessee (Carol NANNARONE Rosenstein). Kelley SMOOT Garrett, who lives in Texas, spoke on behalf of the class at the Sunday gathering, noting that outside of New York, “being smart is not always appreciated” and adding that Hunter taught her “there were no limits, no boundaries,” which helped her manage a career in the male-dominated oil industry.

Although our most famous classmate, Justice Elena Kagan, did not attend, we began reconnecting on Facebook in 2010 partly as a result of our common interest in Elena’s nomination. A series of gatherings, including a joint 50th birthday party, have deepened and rekindled our bonds. A special thanks to Claudia Krefetz, who has doggedly organized many of our get-togethers. Next on our group calendar is a second annual group weekend at Club Getaway in Connecticut, scheduled for this fall.

NOTES ON REUNION 2012

Class of 1962

BY DORIS MEIBACH WALLACE '62

The glorious class of 1962 celebrated our golden anniversary on June 8 and 9. Sixty-three of us partied above the newly chic Madison Square

at Gynuity, a non-profit presided over by Beverly Winikoff. The Saturday luncheon was at Bistango Restaurant. We not only renewed friendships, but we dedicated a portion of the afternoon to our departed members with a poem by Heather Dubrow. The poem follows, along with our good wishes for long and happy lives, and a gift to the school.

Roll Call In Memoriam by Heather Dubrow '62

*Who will be there
To speak of us again
(Hunter College High School song)*

i
We are returning on June 8 by subway and cab.
They outwit doormen by returning unannounced
in the unhinged doors of midnight
in the syllables of light rain
on the fingertips of memory

ii
Under the leadership of the Reunion Planning Committee
he leadeth me

Our reunion breakfast will feature
comfort food
may we be comforted among the mourners of Zion

Please fill in the appropriate boxes and
return this slip to make your reservation
no later than May 27
they filled different boxes

Some committee members will show up early at the reunion luncheon in order to
And some class members left all too early.

iii
Who
Phyllis Gladstein Bernadine Healy Peggy Jones de la Cour Carol Osborn
Betsy Postow Lynn Reynolds Seaman Marta (Dina) Rozankowskyi
Deborah Rubin Berniker Pamela Sibilio Norgalis Sarah Wallace Ronda Weiss

will be there

You will be here

Phyllis Gladstein Bernadine Healy Peggy Jones de la Cour Carol Osborn
Betsy Postow Lynn Reynolds Seaman Marta (Dina) Rozankowskyi
Deborah Rubin Berniker Pamela Sibilio Norgalis Sarah Wallace Ronda Weiss

as our honored guests.
Charon took all your spare change
but don't worry about contributing to our class gift:
you've already made so many contributions
and paid your dues.

"GRADUATION 2012"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of my class, and I hope that by sharing those experiences, and by making some extremely rash and unfounded predictions, I may be able to shed some light on your own futures.

Let me begin with myself; who I was before, during, and after my Hunter experience.

I was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to New York City with the rest of my family when I was five years old. I didn't speak a word of English. We started living in an apartment in Brooklyn that was overrun with roaches and rats. The worst thing was that it didn't have any central heating and in the wintertime, the windowpanes were covered by a layer of ice on the inside. It was brutally cold. My family started working in a garment factory in Chinatown and I did as well, even though I was only five. It wasn't a case of my family trying to use me as child labor. It was the simple reality of a family in which everyone needs to work day and night in order to simply make ends meet, and no one has the luxury of staying home with a small child. Since I was at the factory anyway, I worked to help as much as I could.

Perhaps like many of you, I was bright. I was extremely not-bright in many ways and I was a disaster as a Chinese daughter at home, but I could do school. When I was working in the factory, I did all of my homework on the train and during breaks. I never told anyone what my life outside of school was like. No one would understand, and I was ashamed of it. In Social Studies, we had current events quizzes, which I failed every day, because I was at the factory until 9 or 10pm at night. Our work station was next to the steamers, which emitted a high-pitched whistling sound every ten minutes. It was impossible to listen to the radio or watch the news. There were no English newspapers in my house. Once I got home, I collapsed and slept. Did I ever tell my teacher the truth? No. Was that extremely unwise of me? Yes, it was.

I went to a public elementary school and somehow tested into Hunter. That was the first big step toward becoming who I wanted to be someday.

At Hunter, I felt at home. I had teachers who were hard but it was because they believed in me. I had friends – sometimes

we laughed together, sometimes we debated, sometimes they hurt me with the things they knew and didn't know about me. Sometimes we hurt each other. But they still understood me better than anyone had before, including my own family, unfortunately. And I wasn't perfect either. I think probably my worst fault when I was at Hunter was that I was arrogant. Or at least, I came across as arrogant sometimes. I was bright and ambitious and I was ready to leave and rule the world. Underneath it all, I was deeply afraid. Afraid that I wasn't nearly as bright as I pretended to be, afraid I wasn't actually "gifted" in any way, afraid I would fail – my teachers, my family, and most of all, myself.

So I was accepted early to Harvard and I entered as a Physics major. I took Advanced Standing and was ready to do my masters in Physics in four years. I loved being at Harvard but somehow, I realized when I was there that I didn't actually love Physics that much. That was one of the first unexpected turns in my life. At the time, it felt like a tremendous failure. I became an English major and decided to become a writer, which was what I had always wanted to do, although I hadn't dared to admit it to myself. After I graduated, I landed a job as a professional ballroom dancer – because after all, writers need a day job.

That was unexpected turn number two. I loved it but believe me, most of my fellow students were earning much more than I was. After dancing in competitions for a few years, I went back to school to get an MFA from Columbia in Fiction. Around that time, I fell in love with a Dutch guy. That was major unexpected turn number three. Remember, I'd already been through one extremely dif-

“Finally, no graduation day speech would be complete without my giving you some unsolicited advice, which you are free to take or ignore as you will. I would say: first, don't be afraid to fail, because every single extremely successful person fails again and again and again.”



Jean Kwok (photo by Mark Kohn)

ficult immigration experience as a child, from Hong Kong to the US, and now I found myself confronted with yet another move to a new country and culture. I was terrified.

To make a long story short, I moved to the Netherlands and it worked out. I married the guy, wrote a novel called *Girl in Translation* and became a *New York Times* bestselling author. Today, my book's been published in 17 countries and won a number of awards. In the past 12 months, I've been abroad 10 times – to Ireland, to Finland, most recently to Oxford University in the UK because I was shortlisted for an international competition. Some of you possibly saw me a few months ago when I was being followed around by a Dutch camera crew here at Hunter because they were filming a documentary for television about my book and my life.

So after having told you the story of my life, let me go on to make my rash predictions about your lives based upon my own experience and that of the other people from my class. First of all, when you leave Hunter, you will never truly leave Hunter, for good or for bad. You will be recognized. You will be stamped as a Hunterite. People will whisper about you – mostly good things, and you will be respected and feared. I can tell you from personal experience that there are boys and men who tend to fall in love with female Hunterites, any female Hunterite. I'm sure the inverse exists as well.

I never realized until I left New York City and Hunter what a tremendous advantage I had. I was not the big fish from a tiny pond in the middle of nowhere; I had already swum

among the sharks, so to speak. And years later, you and other Hunterites will find each other again and realize that you have a very special bond with each other, one that will survive both time and distance.

Most of you will become better. Happier, kinder, more compassionate, more confident, and very successful. By successful, I don't mean necessarily in the way of monetary success but rather the success that comes from fulfilling your promise and understanding what truly makes you happy. You will find yourselves, your truest selves, you will understand who you really are and embrace your talents. Kids that hid in the back, throwing spitballs and never uttering a word, will blossom and become professional comedians, directors of the greatest medical facilities in the US, cooks, artists, teachers, surgeons, parents. You will learn to truly appreciate your own parents and teachers. Many of you will marry for love, some will joyously throw themselves into the throes of multiple sexual partners, whom you will still hide from your parents.

A few of you will become worse. Harder, more ruthless, embittered and ready to pay any price to serve your own ambition and desires. Those of you will console yourselves by making lots of money.

Finally, no graduation day speech would be complete without my giving you some unsolicited advice, which you are free to take or ignore as you will. I would say: first, don't be afraid to fail, because every single extremely successful person fails again and again and again. They just don't tell everyone in the world about those failures. Second, embrace the twists and turns your life will take – you are not expected to know everything. And third, I would say to you – work hard. Take your talent seriously. And don't say, “I don't know how much talent I have.” Listen, I don't know how much talent I have either. I believe that it's not my job to judge myself or my work because the world is filled with people (otherwise known as book critics) whose job it is to judge me. My job is to generate the work, as well as I can.

Is hard work fun? Actually, not really – dancing, parties, roller coasters, those things are fun. But I personally don't need the work I do in my life to be fun, I need it to be satisfying. And to be satisfied, I need to know that I am doing what I was put on this earth to do, as well as I can. That satisfaction brings me true happiness. And I wish for all of you that you will find your deepest possible happiness.

SUPPORT YOUR ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION

Gifts to the Alumnae/i Association allow us to create and sustain a social and professional network for all alums of the high school, and serve as the funds from which we are able to provide operating and endowment support to the school itself. The AA helps finance programmatic support, scholarships, fellowships and other student aid programs, and serves as a resource for the school by sponsoring educational, scientific, literary and cultural programs in cooperation with faculty and administration. We are tremendously grateful to those alums who have already made us a part of their philanthropic plans.

Gifts to the AA may be unrestricted or directed. Unrestricted gifts are among the most valuable, because they allow us to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest, and to take advantage of unique opportunities as they arise. Directed gifts allow you to designate your gift to a specific program, a support group, or a priority area at the high school. When you make a directed gift to HCHSAA, you enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting a program that is personally meaningful to you.

Gifts of cash can be made online using your credit card or by sending in a check. Gifts of appreciated securities, stocks, and bonds also provide considerable tax advantages when transferred to HCHSAA before they are sold. If you have held your securities for more than one year, you may find that your gift will provide a twofold tax benefit, creating an income-tax deduction as well as helping avoid the capital-gains tax that would have been due on their sale.

Ways to Give

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

The Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association serves more than 12,000 alums around the globe. Membership dues support the ongoing operations of the office and enable us to maintain our website and online Alumni Directory, produce three issues of *AlumNotes* annually, and present free and low-cost events such as the annual Autumn Reception and Reunion weekend. Your membership in the Alumnae/i Association makes you part of the HCHSAA community and

strengthens your ties to other alums and friends — and your ties to the school.

Joining is easy and affordable and contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Dues-paid members receive benefits and discounts and are eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting in June.

If your dues are current, thank you for your support. If it is time to renew or you would like to join, please refer to the Payment Form on the back page or go to our website at www.HCHSAA.org.

Projects Funded by Alums in FY12

Administration

School Psychologist (Consultant) Fees	\$ 15,000
Writing Lab Development	15,000
Eighth Grade Advisory Program	20,000
Robotics team registration fees, hotel rooms, materials, tools and parts	12,000
Hunter <i>Then and Now</i> Photo Project	7,560
New Student Lockers	4,295
Principal's Discretionary Fund	5,000

Art and Music

Technology Component of Music Room Renovation Project	25,000
Mac Lab	11,926

Health and Physical Education / Athletics

Weight Room Renovation and New Equipment	26,038
"Hall of Fame" Wall Honoring Student Athletes and Coaches: Photos and Plaques	3,500

Counseling

Table/Storage Unit for Counseling Office	300
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External Programs

Travel expenses for community service trip	5,000
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Foreign Language

Office Renovations	13,000
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Information Computing & Information Technology

Digital Art Lab Upgrade	27,239
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Math

Mobile Laptop Lab Including 15 laptops and Storage/Charging Cart	10,518
--	--------

TOTAL	\$ 201,376
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AA awarded scholarship funds:

Thomas Hunter Award: Tai Bendit-Shtull '12, Emma Hartung '12

Mildred Busch Award: Sophie Nicolich-Henkin '12, Matthew Gurevich '12

GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND

Contributions to the Annual Fund are unrestricted, 100% tax-deductible contributions that provide direct support for high school programs and activities. The AA's Annual Fund helps us to better serve students, address faculty and administration requests for support, and capitalize on new opportunities. By making a gift to the Annual Fund, alums provide a vital and necessary stream of academic and student support. In fiscal year 2012 the Alumnae/i Association made 16 grants to the high school totaling \$201,376. For a list of projects funded in FY12, see above.

MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies have Matching Gift programs that match charitable contributions made by their employees. To find out if your company has a Matching Gift program please check with your human resources department. Matching Gifts can double or even triple your gift to the Alumnae/i Association. We are pleased to recognize the following Matching Gift companies in FY12:

Aetna Foundation Matching Grant Program
AIG Matching Grants Program
Bank Of America
Deutsche Bank Americas
Ford Foundation
Fortress Investment Group LLC
Goldman, Sachs & Co.
Google Matching Gift Program
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
IBM
JP Morgan Chase & Co.
Moody's Foundation
Morgan Stanley
NBC Universal
Oracle Corporation Matching Gifts Program
PepsiCo Foundation
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program
Random House Publishing Group
Sony Corporation of America
The Standard Employee Giving Campaign
Susquehanna International Group
UBS Employee Giving Program
Wells Fargo Community Support & United Way Campaign
Yahoo! Employee Funds

HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH A GIFT IN THEIR NAME

A Tribute or Memorial Gift is an especially meaningful way to recognize friends, family, business associates, and special occasions, while at the same time supporting the programs of one of the city's greatest schools. Tribute Gifts mark special occasions such as weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations. Memorial Gifts express your sympathy or remember a loved one. Contributions are acknowledged with a personalized letter sent to the honored individual or family without reference to the amount of the gift. We are grateful to

the following donors who made these gifts in FY12:

In Memory of Miriam Burstein '41:

Clarice DEBRUNNER Anderes '54, Kathleen BRADY Bonte '80, Susan DEIN Bricklin '66, Jonathan Brown '84, Barbara Burstein, Leone EDRICKS Bushkin '53, Caroline TRACY Charney '59, Deborah Dorfman '51, Leslie Fishbein '64, Jane JAFFE Giddan '58, Rhoda Honigberg '43, Miriam Kimmelman '66, Cecelia EATON Luschnig '59, Roberta J. Morris '67, Margaret BETZ Perrin '55, Lois J. Radisch '68, Naomi COHEN Sacks '69, Ronnie Schenkein '68, Jean Tom '80, R.D. CAMPISI Wasserman '57, Elaine POSTELNECK Yamin '54

Additional Gifts In Honor of Roberta (Bobbi) GROSSMAN Drosnin '65: Susan G. Kupfer '65

In Honor of the Class of 1997: Nicole L. Duignan '97, Jeffrey F. Lane '97, Ian McGinley '97, Samuel Shweisky '97, Christine PON Chin '97

In Honor of Janine Craane and Matt Blumenfeld: Andrew Bellak '84

In Honor of Lori Ginzberg '74's Guggenheim Fellowship: Beth C. Weitzman '74

In Honor of Sheila Krilov, my fabulous math teacher: Rachel Herschenfeld '84

In Memory of Rebecca Lister, Class of 1928: Susan COHEN Esquilin '63

In Memory of Gloria Kagan: Elizabeth TAXIN Nemiroff '95

In Memory of Gloria C. Onque, Class of June 1947: Nell COCHRANE Taylor, Jan. '47

In Memory of Jorene F. Robbie '66: Deborah Bloom '66, Cheryl L. YOUNG Deknatel '66, Laura E. Drager '66, Suzanne Fass '66, Deborah SCHOR Gardner '66, Gretchen SLOATE Garrett '66, Claudia J. Justy '66, Miriam Kimmelman '66, Florence LAI Lau '66,

Rosa BLITZER Oppenheim '66, Bella Pace '66, Diane M. Sharon '66, Rita Sherman '66, Frances L. Stern '66, Susan Warshauer '66, Janet Winikoff '66, Dale WOLINSKY Wolff '66

In Memory of Muriel Wolf '37: Angelina CAIOLA Gange, Jan. '37, Mary E. WICKS Ulrich, Jan. '37

PLANNED GIVING

Contribute to the Alumnae/i Association's future by planning for a special kind of gift. The lasting impact of bequests—both large and small—has helped shape today's Alumnae/i Association. For many alums, a charitable bequest is the easiest and best way to make a gift. By means of your will or other estate plan, you can name HCHSAA as the beneficiary of a portion of your estate, or of particular assets in your estate. A bequest also allows you to honor a loved one, while providing critical support to the high school. Giving by bequest costs nothing now, yet it may give you a great deal of satisfaction to know that your future gift will live on. To learn more, request a copy of the AA's new publication *Estate Planning* or call executive director Elyse Reissman at 212-650-3349.



Estate Planning Tip

An easy way to include HCHSAA in your estate plan is to name the Association a beneficiary of your retirement plan, IRA, or life insurance policy. Doing so is as simple as filling out a beneficiary designation form from your plan provider. Best of all, such a gift qualifies you for membership in The Thomas Hunter Society.

WELCOME NEW ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Each year the Association publishes an invitation to alums interested in serving on the board of directors. We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Alumnae/i Association board:

Maureen L. Campbell '77 was born and raised in Harlem and earned a BA from Vassar College, a tutorial at Oxford University, an MA from Teacher's College and her administration credits from CCNY. She has been working with public schools for two decades, serving children as a teacher, district director, principal, district deputy superintendent and most recently as Director of Recruitment and Outreach for the Hebrew Charter School Center. She has focused on advancing innovative and effective models in education and administration while incorporating a tenacious joy in community outreach and engagement.

Amy Farber '71 is general counsel to The Painted Sole™, an e-tailer selling hand-painted shoes, handbags and accessories, and its affiliate TPSCreates, a company that designs and sells after-school art programs designed to foster creativity in children. Additionally, she operates a boutique law practice focusing on the protection of real and intellectual property interests, including trademark and copyright, licensing, and advising on retail and office leasing strategies and negotiations, financings, and the purchase and sale of commercial and residential real estate, as well as handling general corporate/commercial matters. Amy received a BA from the University of Rochester, Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude, and holds a law degree from New York University. Amy has served two terms on the Board of Directors of the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, serving at different times as Secretary and Treasurer.

Carol HUTTER Greitzer, Jan. '41, has degrees from Hunter College and NYU. After working in the editorial/advertising fields, she became active in Greenwich Village politics. She was one of the founders of the Reform Movement, serving first as a Democratic District Leader and then as a City Council Member. She introduced major laws in the women's rights, transit, and environmental

fields. She served as first president of NARAL and was a founder of the Parks Council and 1000+ Friends of NYC Parks. She is on the board of Protect the Village Historic District. She lives in the Village with her attorney husband, Josh Vogel.

Florence ROSENFELD Howe, Jan. '46, author, editor, publisher, and teacher, is an internationally recognized leader of the modern feminist movement. She became closely involved with the women's movement after her participation in the civil rights and anti-war movements in the 1960s. Described by colleagues as "the Elizabeth Cady Stanton of women's studies," Howe began teaching women's studies courses even before they had that name. Howe founded the Feminist Press and published such notable writers as Rebecca Harding Davis, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Agnes Smedley, Kate Chopin, Tillie Olsen, Grace Paley, Paule Marshall, Marilyn French, Alice Walker, Louise Meriwether, Shirley Geok-lin Lim, Ama Ata Aidoo, Lauretta Ngcobo, Zoe Wicomb, Dacia Mariaini, Savyon Liebrecht, and Zora Neale Hurston, many of whose works had been out of print for decades. Howe is the author or editor of more than a dozen books and more than 120 essays published in such works as the *Harvard Educational Review*, *The Nation*, *The New York Review of Books*, *PMLA*, and *The Women's Review of Books*, and in a variety of anthologies.

Evelyn Konrad, Jan. '46, entered 10th grade at Hunter College High School in September 1943, and by February 1946, had gathered a lifetime of memories about superb teachers and super-bright classmates. Her AB and MA from Stanford University were the start of a lifelong love of learning. She raised four children and enjoyed careers dedicated to fighting corruption wherever she found it, as a business journalist, a corporate public relations executive, a management consultant, and then, after starting law school at age 73 and earning two law degrees, as a land-use litigator. She is so happy to be part of the HCHS family again.

Jessica Leonard '04 graduated from Harvard in 2008 and then joined JPMorgan Chase, working in New York and Singapore. In

2011, she transitioned to a role in Real Estate Strategy, covering a portfolio of 7,700 assets globally. In addition to her core business responsibilities, she serves on the Global Board of a JPMC Employee Group, supporting diversity initiatives in 20 US cities. Externally, she serves on the Board of Directors for Neighborhood Housing Services of NYC, a non-profit focused on affordable housing, mentors a student through iMentor, and manages a business course at seven public high schools through Tomorrow's Business Leaders, Inc.

Hannah I. Lipman '89 is Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine at Albert Einstein College of Medicine/ Montefiore Medical Center, Associate Director of the Montefiore-Einstein Center for Bioethics, and Chief of the Bioethics Consultation Service. She received her BA in Economics from Northwestern University and her MD from Columbia University. She trained in internal medicine at University of Michigan, cardiology at Tufts New England Medical Center, and geriatrics and palliative medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She helps clinicians, patients, and families navigate difficult health care decisions and teaches bioethics. She lives in Riverdale and enjoys running, listening to most types of music, and watching sports.

Louis F. O' Neill '86 practices law at White & Case LLP and combines leadership of the firm's global pro bono program with his practice in international arbitration and dispute resolution. After graduating from HCHS, he studied at Stanford University and Harvard Law School, with a Fulbright Scholarship to Moscow State University in between. He served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan DA's Office from 2001-2004 and was a White House Fellow in 2004-2005. From 2006-2008, he served as Ambassador and Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova. He is on the Board of Directors of Gresham Investment Management LLC.

Nicholas Skiptaris '82 is a board-certified cardiologist and electrophysiologist and an assistant professor of medicine and cardiology at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He graduated from Dartmouth College and received

his M.D. degree from the Dartmouth-Brown Program in Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at Bellevue Hospital Center and completed fellowships in cardiology (NYU Medical Center) and electrophysiology (Bellevue Hospital Center). He is a member of the Hellenic Medical Society of New York and a fellow of the Heart Rhythm Society.

Susan Spector '64 is an alum of HCES and HCHS, Syracuse University School of Speech and Dramatic Art, Teachers College of Columbia University, NYU Graduate School of Education and Cardozo School of Law at Yeshiva University. She was a teacher and teacher trainer at the New York City Board of Education and a consultant and author for IBM's educational publishing division. She practiced law in New York City government, retiring in 2002. She has also worked at the Television Bureau of Advertising, off-Broadway, in Corporate Development at the Metropolitan Opera Association and as a volunteer in American Ballet Theatre's membership department. She served on the HCHSAA Board of Directors from 2005 through 2010 as a member-at-large and served as Vice President from 2010-2011.

Are Your Dues Due?

Already a member? Check to make sure your dues are up to date by logging into the website at www.hchsaa.org, going to the Connect tab and clicking on the link to our Online Directory. If you have not logged into the directory in the past year, you may be prompted to create a new username and password. Once in the directory, you can check your status, make corrections to your information, and pay your dues (if they're due!).

Dues are tax-deductible and are used to support the operations of our office – including production of *AlumNotes*, maintenance of our website and online directory, and organization of the various social events we hold throughout the year. Support your Alumnae/i Association by becoming a member, and help us give back to you!

"HUNTERITES IN THE SERVICE"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lives were altered that day. Among them was **Gerard Decatrel '89**, who was interviewed last year for an article in *The New York Times*' series entitled *The Reckoning: America and The World a Decade After 9/11*. At the time of the attacks, Gerard was 30, living in Manhattan with his wife and two children, and working as a foreign exchange trader at Morgan Stanley. Gerard didn't know anyone who had died in the towers but, as he told the *Times*, "I don't know, but I took it personally. I'd been a New Yorker all my life. I drew a line. I could bear it if New York became like Jerusalem and there were conventional attacks going on all the time. But if there were any biological or chemical attacks, I said I would join the military."

Just one week later, letters containing anthrax spores began showing up in Florida, Washington, DC, and New York. The letters were mailed to U.S. Senators Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy, as well as several news media offices. Five people died after coming in contact with the letters. Gerard's line had been crossed. Three weeks later he applied to become a Marine Aviator. Gerard ultimately gave eight years of his life to the military, flying over 250 missions as the pilot of a Cobra attack helicopter over the course of three seven-month deployments in Iraq.

Gerard is back in the states now, a veteran proud of his service. Although he recently retired and relocated to Athens, GA, he spent the first two years after the conclusion of his military career back at Morgan Stanley here in New York. He says that his time in the service changed him, or at least it changed his outlook. As he told *The Times*, "I feel I have more confidence and a different perspective. Something goes wrong in the market and everyone's freaking out. Well, I'm not. No one's dying. The market can't freak me out."

After his own return from Iraq, Alejandro Alves spent one year with an Army Recruiting Battalion in Chicago. Just walking down the street in his dress uniform, it wasn't uncommon for passersby to thank him for his service. He would typically encounter the same warmth from fellow HCHS alumni, often followed by "I know a couple of other Hunter grads serving. Do you happen to know...?" Each time, however, the names were different. "I started to wonder how many of us there really were out there," says Alejandro, "and why we had not already made a point of identifying each

other and keeping in touch." He had a feeling that there might be more HCHS servicemen and women out there than anyone would expect. "Most people would probably not associate HCHS with a long line of military service; however, the school does instill a drive to contribute, to have an impact, to do good things for our society. I had a feeling that in some people this desire to contribute would naturally lead to military service, and I thought, if Hunter as an institution can inspire people to serve their country in this way, that contribution should be recognized."

So Alejandro began to ask around, finding fellow veterans mostly through mutual connections, or friends of friends. "Not so much through formal research," he says, emphasizing that his search up to this point has been "far from exhaustive." Each new veteran he's contacted seems to know of two or three others, but nobody seems to know just how many Hunterites have served through the years. The HCHS Alum Directory has helped him to locate a few alumni veterans and active duty personnel, but, he says, "for the most part I've been limited to my direct network and the people active on Facebook/Twitter/LinkedIn whom I could easily reach via social media messaging." As of now, he has located 29 living alumni, including himself, who have served in the military. The list of names Alejandro has compiled is on page 14.

A number of these Hunterites have had long military careers, some even attaining the rank of Colonel in the Army and Air Force, or of Captain in the Navy, "which carries significant influence in the military," says Alejandro. "I have not yet found any who have made it into the General or Admiral ranks, however. I'm very curious about whether HCHS has produced any officers of that level."

One of Alejandro's discoveries actually came in the form of an obituary published in the Fall 2010 issue of *AlumNotes*. **Margaret McCARTHY Ruhlmann '46**, who passed away in late 2009, "is so far the earliest HCHS veteran I've found." In 1950, after graduating from Hunter College with a bachelor's degree in political science, Margaret was one of the first women ever to receive a direct appointment into the Women's Army Corps (WAC). She entered into the service as an active duty Second Lieutenant in the Military Police and was stationed at Governor's Island during the Korean War. In September of 1954, Margaret

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

The Alumnae/i Association's Board and Staff extend sincerest thanks to those individuals who donated to the Alumnae/i Association directly or through the Hunter College Foundation in support of the AA fund or the high school's endowment fund in fiscal year 2012. We are pleased to recognize all donors who gave \$100 or more – whether to the annual fund, milestone class giving, tribute and memorial funds, spring gala, or the Our Foundation Our Legacy campaign, between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions.

\$100,000+

Joan GEENSBURG Jagow '48
(deceased)

\$15,000-\$99,999

Harriet STAROLITZ Fruim,
Jan. '41 (deceased)

\$10,000-\$14,999

Jason P. Criss '92
Janine L. Craane '77
Beryl F. Herdt '50
Joan D. Rosenthal '72
Matt Sirovich '83

\$5,000-\$9,999

Charles Ardai '87
Adam E. Cohen '97
Estate of Ann M. Domidion '40
(deceased)
Erica Greenbaum Gerson '96

\$2,000-\$4,999

Eli Adler '03
Jonathan Brown '84
Vera Julia Gordon '47
Christopher Hayes '97
Evelyn Hu '65
Parents of Jeremiah Lane '97
Anonymous

\$1,000-\$1,999

Alicia Bannon '97
Surya S. Bhattacharjee '92
Natalie M. Bowden '77
Peter S. Brodsky '88
Miriam Burstein '41
Leona FEIFER Chanin '34
Ohn Choe '01
Bridget Collins '81
Harriet KRONMAN Fein '44
Gena Feist '87
Marjorie LANDSBERG
Goldsmith '61
Beth JACKENDOFF Harpaz '77
David Isaacson '97
Feygele Jacobs '77
Emily Klein '90
Vanessa Lee MCKINLEY
Klivecka '97
Dorrieth Leipziger, Jan. '47
Michael MacDonald '97
Lawrence Miller '97
Agnes I. Park '97
Kim MAXFIELD Pillemer '92
Laurie SCHLANSKY Piotrkowski
'71
Margreth Schmitt '61

Kathleen O'CALLAGAN Scott
Mona ANDERSEN Selover,
Jan. '47
Amy F. Solas '77
Donna Soohoo '82
Anita E. Springer '72
Mary Tibbetts '71
Timur Yontar '87

\$500-999

Elizabeth Bernstein '97
Ashok Bhalla '94
Louise Braver '57
Emily BERKMAN Brunner '97
Gloria Coruzzi '72
Patricia BARBER Crais '55
Jonathan Criss '97
Marie DeRosa '76
Alexandra Essey '09
Amy Farber '71
Caroline ROSS Grossman '93
Diane Halberg '82
Barbara C. Hunt '61
Douglas E. Julie '97
Andrew Kaminski '05
Kristin Lane '93
Anna Law '84
Sasha Leinster '97
Jessica B. Liberman '89 and
Keith Wilcox '89
Leonard Mangini '84
Rebecca Min '93 and Sasha
Blair-Goldensohn '94
Roberta J. Morris '67
Andrew Obus '99
Jason Ourman '91
Robert Pedrero '84
Vivian ALTMAN Quintanilla '77
Paul B. Radvany '85
Gail Roboz '86
Cheryl Rubin '75
Rosemarie Salerni '60
Jean C. Schulman '72
Wen Shen '87
Matthew J. Shenker '90
Brenda Sirovich '81
Aida BRAITMAN Slabotzky '47
David Stallbaumer, Parent '08
Indraneel Sur '95
Susan Warshawer '66
Jonathan Wolff '97
Tai Wong '88 and Judy CHIN
Wong '88

\$250-\$499

Halina KORMAN Alter '70
Rita ALTCHER Angel '56
Harriet WHITMAN Aufses,

Jan. '44
Robin Bernstein '74
Bruce Cadenhead '82
Eunice DONG Chee '60
Christine PON Chin '97
Tarah J. FULLER Davis '95
Deborah Dorfman '51
Kara E. Dyrack '85
Francine ABRAMS Eisen, Jan.
'42
Susan COHEN Esquilin '63
Josephine CHIANINI Falkner '55
Laurie A. Friedman '76
Katherine FRINK Hamlett '82
Ellen Germain '80
Rachel Goldbrenner '97
Anne MARMO Goldsmith '55
Susan E. Gottlieb '70
William Hao '96
Richard S. Julie '93
Rosalind PERLOW Kaplan '57
Laura Kay '77
Kenneth Kloner '89
Andrea Krantz '80
Ann FOLK Kurinskas '73
Raphael P. Kuyler '91
Marilyn Lee '67
Gloria I. Lerner '60
Aileen Leventon '70
Deborah G. Levison '97
Gladys BALBUS Lipkin, Jan. '42
Nicole Marti '96
Melissa STARLIGHT Metz '82
Andrew Miller '92
Maureen K. Molloy '49
Linda Mui '82
Lynn SILVERSTEIN Najman '68
Elizabeth TAXIN Nemiroff '95
Karen Ng '90
Elizabeth M. Olmsted '70
Aaron D. Panken '81
Kabe Park '97
Dorothy Perko '54
Debra ZIMET Peters '74
Jennifer S. Pressman '76
Richard Reich '92
Rose WIESEN Reiss '60
David S. Rhee '94
Arleen BRENNER Rifkind '56
Esther H. Rose '71
Matthew Rosenthal '84
Joy M. NEILI Samanich '93
Richard Laurence Samuels '96
Howard Shiau '84
Paul Simonoff '84
Vanessa Southern '86
Gail A. COHEN Steen '54
Jill COHEN Steinberg '82

Carol KAHN Strauss '62
Judith SURATT Swanson '73
Nicholas P. Tagher '06
Juanita LEE Tam '83
Diane LEVINE Umemoto '61
Beth C. Weitzman '74
Ginger COHEN Wild Greenblatt
'58
Ida Wong '76
Elizabeth BERMAN Zuch '71
Anonymous '68
Anonymous '77
Anonymous '97 (3)


\$100-\$249

Marilyn Abraham '68
Alejandro Alves '01
Kristen Ampela '88
Clarice DEBRUNNER Anderes
'54
Martina ARROYO DeMaure,
Jan. '53
Josephine MACY Atliss '43
Sharon OLSEN Ayres '94
Lorraine CAPALDO Ballen '77
Joan Diana DESSER Banko '60
Louis Barash, Parent
Lisa KURCZ Barclay '50
Janis GLICKSTEIN Barth '70
Colette RAUNER Bartholomew
'51
Denise FRANK Battat '69
Tobe Becker '71
Gail DANIELS Beckford '72
Varun Bedi '88
Linda GROSSMAN Beins '67
Sarah Bender-Nash '98
Nora J. Bensahel '89
Paulette Benson '62
Beth D. Berenbaum '71
Mary BECKER Berger '42
Elana Rosenfeld Berkowitz '97
Margaret HEINSOHN Bezy '60
Helen DENNEHY Blank '49
Irene KULMAN Blaustein '47
Shirley ZEBROWITZ Bleaman
'39
Deborah Bloom '66
Jill Bogard '69
Susan BRICKLIN Dein '66
Ellen Brodsky '71
Vivian Burke '49J
Craig Capeci '97
Miranda FLORY Capra '90
Marilyn ROANE Cayce '53
Marni Centor '80
Jocelyn FEINGOLD Chait '52
Trudy Chan '97
Coreina Chan '93
Margaret Chan '75
Phyllis Chang '72
Monica FISCHER Chapin '71
Caroline TRACY Charney '59
Melissa P. Chase '71
Lila SCHLESSINGER Cheskin
'42
Susan N. Chevlowe '77
Ava CHIEN Pliessnig '79
Diana K. DIEL Choppin '83
Joan MOI Chow '74
Jesse Christensen '93
Karen P. Clayton '95
Martha L. APPLEBAUM Cohen
'82
Barbara N. COHEN Stratynner
'68
Rose ABRAMOVITZ Cohn '42
Jonathan H. Cole '90
Sophia Constantinides '01
Edward Cooper '97
Lisa Costello '84
Patricia Crown '65
Rachel Dawson '92
Jeanne M. Del Casino '70
Matthew Diaz '05
Adele CAPORALE DiChiara '60
Kathleen SCOPP Distler '71
Barbara BLAHO Doonan '54
Laura E. Drager '66
Beth LEVINE Driks '75
Ann KEOGH Droure '81
Heather Dubrow '62
Matthew Dusenberry '03
Wendy S. ADER Edwards '68
Andrea J. Elberger '69
Sloane Elman '73
Mimi Eng '84
Paulette BERND Erde '71
Kathy YORKE Esernio '78
Sue Faerman '72
Raymond G. Falci '82
Veronica Farje '88
Suzanne Fass '66
Cindy Cheng '97
Alexis Fermanis '94
Betty L. Forest '42
Ralph A. Fragale '83
Yakira HAGALILI Frank '39
Jeffrey Frank '83
Susan SCHUSTACK Frankel '71
Barbara H. Fried '69
Barbara D. Fried '83
David Friedlander '91
Ellen Fuerst '75
Rosalind J. ZUKOFF Gabin '51
Nancy VOCHIS Gabriel '43

Gisela RITTER Gall, Jan. '44
 Alexandra Garbarini '90
 Elaine MARVIN Garfield '49
 Betty Young Gee '71
 Barbara L. GERBER Krasner '58
 Jane JAFFE Giddan '58
 Felicia R. Gironda '70
 Alex A. Goldmark '97
 Wendy Goodman '72
 Gail Gordon '73
 Suzanne SOLOMON Gossett '59
 Charles Graybow '86
 Gail Green '57
 Linda C. OPPENHEIMER Greengrass '63
 Amy Greenstadt '84
 John Greenstein '86
 Karen Grinthal '73
 Thomas Gross '98
 Rochelle Gunner '73
 Camille WISE Haberle '53
 Josephine CHEN Habiby '70
 Lauren Hacker '75
 Linda KARNISCHKY Harbuck '64
 Lorraine Richardson Harper '39
 Bernice WOMAN Hauser '49
 Dawn Hayami '73
 Lucille Hebard '59
 Maria L. Hekker '80
 Helen WINARICK Henderson '42
 Rachel Herschenfeld '84
 Amy Ho '98
 Ruth KAHN Hochberg '41
 Sheila Isabel ELKBACH Hochman '55
 Abigail Hornstein '90
 Florence ROSENFELD Howe, Jan. '46
 Ingrid Hriljac '84
 Judy Huang '87
 Deidre Jackson '79
 Mary WORTSMAN Jacobs '42
 Judith MASLANKO Jacobson '50
 Peter Janowski '00
 Rachel Beth GERSTEIN Jarrett '91
 Georgette Jasen '65
 Jane A. ROTHENBERG Jewel '60
 Rita Jones '71
 Claudia J. Justy '66
 Mildred Kalik '65
 Peter B. Kang '88
 Benita TALL Kaplan '48
 Deborah BURSTEIN Karp '39
 Susan E. KATZ Serby '68
 Anita FINK Kaufman '53
 Holly Kaye '64
 Phyllis Kaye '63
 Geraldine WAGNER Keipe '52
 Sally LITHELAND Kent '55
 Judd Kessler '00
 Margaret LYNCH Kiley, Jan. '42
 Emmett Kim '11
 Dorie Klein '67
 Eleanor ROSS Kleinberg '62
 Hilda STANGER Klyde '43
 Joseph H. Ko '92

Anna R. Kovner '92
 Anne Krantz '68
 Mary Helen Lynn Kreitzer '66
 Susan G. Kupfer '65
 Ella Kusnetz '67
 Cecile E. Kuznitz '85
 Ann ERDE Lansing, Jan. '49
 Petra Laohakul '07
 Eun H. NAM Lee '96
 Bernard Lee '89
 Silchen NG Lee '85
 Mary CHU Lee-Brody '79
 Helen REES Lessner '59
 Laura GOLDSTEIN Levin '49
 Naomi Levin '76
 Angela Liang '91
 Miriam P.BERGERr Lieberman '42
 Monique G. Lipton '77
 Susan E. Lorsch '68
 Joyce GARSKOF Losen, Jan. '50
 Cecelia EATON Luschnig '59
 Samantha Mandor '93
 Paula J. Martin '64
 Nedda Marus '49
 Alice ROSEN Mason '45
 Jeffrey Mass '82
 Eileen Matluck '71
 Carmen BELL Matthew '49
 Jesse Matz '85
 Sarah McCoy '88
 Ian McGinley '97
 John McGoey '97
 Michele GERAGHTY McGovern '76
 Madeleine ZIMMERMAN McGuinness '51
 Julie GEGNERr McVay '42
 Malamo C. CORNIOTES Megalos, Jan. '47
 Dr. Gabe Mendlow '97 & Dr. Adrienne Lapidis '97
 Jean ULITZ Mensch '44
 Paula NCHOLS Menyuk '47
 Jeanette BIRIBAUERr Merkl '43
 Roberta GABOR Merrens '59
 Alida ROGNONI Mesrop '48
 Marilyn BAND Meyers '59
 Carol Miller '72
 Betty Mintz '71
 Kathi Ann Mintzer '71
 Lisa Molho '72
 Rona REIGELHAUPT Montag '76
 Mei and Christopher Morin '82
 Johnny Moy '95
 Beth Mucatel '74
 Anita VALENTE Mule '55
 Susan H. SCHIFFRES Nachamie '59
 Shulamit TEPLIZKY Nemec '68
 Cathy CANEPA Neuspier '69
 Laura Nieder '97
 Herb Niemirow
 Michele D. FAST Noris '85
 Leslie C. Norman '71
 Casimir Nozkowski '94
 Anita STEIN Olinzock '69
 Rosanne Olken '94
 Shirley KNOPF Olthick '52

Louis F. O'Neill '86
 Rosa BLITZER Oppenheim '66
 Sondra FEINSTEIN Osipow, Jan. '54
 Kenrick Ou '93
 Jane Owen '63
 Lilly Pappas '51
 Christopher Park '97
 Anne STERN Peskin '42
 Charlotte OSCAR Pesklak, Jan. '51
 Diane HENDERSON Petterson '55
 Mollie NEUBAUER Pflumm '59
 Evelyn Placek '71
 Laurie FERBER Podolsky '69
 Ellen HERWITZ Pollack '54
 Lucille BLOCK Poskanzer, Jan. '51
 Adam Powell '88
 Laverne LANE Prager '52
 Barbara KORN Puccia '72
 Stephanie Quinn '65
 Jennifer J. Raab '73
 Mary Racelis, Jan. '51
 Lois J. Radisch '68
 Betti REISS Ravel '61
 Elaine HANAUER Ravich '66
 Lillian Regelson '44
 Julia Rhi '97
 Diane SUSAN Sarner '60
 Clare ZAGRECKI Riley '82
 Pamela J. Roach '71
 Beatrice LORGE Rogers '64
 Emily Rosenberg '71
 Phyllis GREEN Rosner '63
 Marcia Ross
 Amy ABBAZIA Rowland '94
 Greg Rowland '93
 Lucille WALDMAN Rubin '54
 Gisela RUMMEL Vogentanz (former faculty)
 Judith Sachs '64
 Naomi COHEN Sacks '69
 Juliet POLUCCI Salony '56
 Melanie BRIMMER Samuels '71
 Judith E. Schaeffer '70
 Geraldine POPPA Schechter MD '55
 Ronnie Schenkein '68
 Ronnie LEVINE Schindel '56
 Sara ROBBINS Schoenwetter '65
 Charlotte B. WAREMBAT Schreiber, Jan. '49
 Priscilla COOKE Schwabe '63
 Eli Arthur Schwartz, (faculty)
 Ellen Schwartz '69
 Amy Seplin '81
 Marcia Settel '70
 Judith Shapiro Shapiro '51
 Elizabeth KRESS Shashoua '64
 Brian Shelley '83
 Gladys G. OESTREICH Sherman '60
 Linda Shostak '66
 Esther BASSETT Shuster, Jan. '47
 Doris EINSTEIN Siegel '42
 Lisa FOLICKMAN Siegel '88
 Helen ARENSBERG Silverstein '60
 Martha MANLEY SkrivaneK '40
 Ellen Smithberg '74



Help Us Go Green!

Want to help the Alumnae/i Association become more environmentally friendly? It's easy! Visit our website at www.hchsaa.org, and click on the "Go Green!" link to opt out of receiving the print edition of *AlumNotes*.

In order to "Go Green," you'll need to sign into the Online Portal. Please note that this is different from the username and password you need to access the rest of our website.

Don't have a username and password? Just click New User Registration, and you'll be prompted to create a username and password – if it's easier, feel free to make it the same as the one you already use for the rest of the website!

By receiving all your future newsletters via email, you'll help us minimize the amount of paper we use by reducing the number of copies we print, thereby shrinking the Association's carbon footprint. The Online Portal also allows you to reconnect with your fellow alums through online class directories, set up your own alum profile, and register for events and reunions. By joining the online alumnae/i community, you can become better connected to the extended Hunter network, and know more than just what's being printed in the newsletter. It's just so easy being green.

Rachael GORDON Smolow '90
 and Mr. Michael Smolow
 Sue Smyle '61
 Neal A. Sotsky '84
 Marilyn M. LANDBERG Spechler Ph.D. '53
 Pat Steele '74
 Jean R. Sternlight '75
 Kathleen WEINMAN Stockhammer '44
 Claudia Strauss '80
 Eileen GREHAN Sullivan '40
 Ruth FRANKELI Swift '54
 Lidia Szajko '77
 Leona AVERY Tabell '60
 Brenda BARRY Tanner '62
 Lucien Tenn '86
 Michael Thaddeus '84
 Dahlia NAVEH Thompson '97
 Jean Tom '80
 Virginia S. Tong '74
 Raymond Tsao '84
 Ursula WOLFFF Ulrich '55
 Gloria NISHON Van Gieson '39J
 Marilyn Varghese '08

Lucille Virzi '71
 Maria Von Hartz '82
 Jessie SHERR Wallerich '34
 Pearl Mary Waltzer '64
 Judith RUSKIN Wasserman '60
 Hannah BRAND Wayne, Jan. '52
 Moira G. Weigel '02
 Alex Wein '88
 Karen D. ROTHBERG Weinberg '71
 Janet LANDON Weiss '66
 W. Marie CARTER White '52
 Sari Wilde '97
 Regina ROUSSO Wilmes '76
 Carole FRITTS Wilson '60
 Beverly Winikoff '62
 Mariana F. Wolfner '71
 Christine W. Wong '95
 Betty A. Wong '76
 Easter Z. Wood '97
 Elaine POSTELNECK Yamin '54
 Anonymous '76
 Anonymous '82
 Anonymous '97
 Anonymous '03



Captain Margaret McCarthy Ruhlman, '46

was even the subject of an article in the *New York World-Telegram*. The article begins, "Miss Margaret McCarthy, a demure, well-brought-up young lady from High Bridge, the Bronx, can cook and sew and knit. She will also blushingly admit that she can fire a machine gun and a bazooka! Tall and willowy with a soft musical voice and shy blue eyes, Miss McCarthy is one of the Army's few lady MPs. But officially, she's First Lieutenant McCarthy, wears the crossed pistols MP insignia on her lapel, and is an accredited criminal investigator." The article also explained that Margaret, who came from a law enforcement family, had dreams of becoming a policewoman "as a schoolgirl at Hunter High." As an MP, one of her primary duties was criminal investigations of other WAC members stationed on Governor's Island. But, "sounding just a shade disappointed," Margaret told the *World-Telegram*, "they've got a fine bunch of WACs over here." In 1954 she was assigned to duty in Los Angeles as a recruiting officer for Southern California, where she was promoted to Captain. And in 1956, Margaret finally got the sort of assignment she'd always dreamt of; receiving orders to Japan, she served on Okinawa and in Tokyo as a member of the 1st Cavalry Division.

Although Margaret concluded her military career in 1958 to start a family, her son Raymond tell us that "she remained exceptionally proud of both her time in the service and at Hunter High." When asked how his mother might have felt that another Hunter alumna, Rhodes Scholar **Alexandra Rosenberg '06**, would one day graduate first in her class at West Point, Raymond says, "Mom would have loved it. If she had been available for it, I could even see her going to West Point to attend the graduation ceremony!"

Alexandra says that she and her sister, **Marya ROSENBERG Leong '03**, both attended West Point seeking a "very interesting 'college experience,' that emphasized commitment to service and a well-rounded skill set." "Being together at West Point was a real gift," she says of the year they overlapped at the Academy, "because our shared experiences made us much closer and much more appreciative of each other, and her emotional support was valuable." Marya is currently a Captain in the Adjutant General Branch, and was recently selected to be a Foreign

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Margaret McCarthy Ruhlman '46

Susan Boiko '70
Air Force, Major

Chris Becker '83
Navy, Captain

George Gatling '84
Army, Lieutenant Colonel

Andre Pauka '84
Army, 1st Lieutenant

Marie Giudice '84
Air Force, Master Sergeant

Om Prakash '85
Air Force, Colonel

James Imanian '85
Navy, Captain

Harry Schroeder '85
Army, Sergeant

Paula Schasberger '86
Army, Lieutenant Colonel

Daniel Berenbaum '87
Navy, Lieutenant

Michael Porcaro '89
Army, Specialist

Gerard Decatrel '89
Marine Corps

Chen-Li Sung '90
Army, Major

Raphael Kuyler '91
Navy

Brian Laguardia '92
Army, Staff Sergeant

David Chen '96
Army, Captain

Michael Budabin '99
Marine Corps

Rory Minnis '00
Marine Corps

Alejandro Alves '01
Army, Captain

Justin Gogel '01
Marine Corps, Captain

Noah Segal '02
Army, Captain

Mark Xue '02
Marine Corps, Captain

Jacob Samuels-Kalow '03
Army, Specialist

Marya ROSENBERG Leong '03
Army, Captain

Lynn AIRD Grady '04
Air Force, First Lieutenant

Joshua Sacasa '04
Air Force, Sr. Airman

Jesse Sloman '04
Marine Corps, First Lieutenant

Alexandra Rosenberg '06
Army, First Lieutenant

ALUM EVENTS

Fellow Alums Visit With Elena Kagan '77

BY CAROL OPPENHEIMER WOLINSKY '65



Alums with Elena Kagan

On Wednesday, March 14, 2012, a group of 90+ graduates of HCHS who reside in the DC metropolitan area met with Justice **Elena Kagan** at the Supreme Court. Our visit began with a public tour of the room in which the

Justices hold formal proceedings and deliver decisions. We were subsequently ushered to an upstairs meeting room containing portraits of the Chief Justices for a private session with Justice Kagan.

Justice Kagan spoke about both her early experience as a law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and as a Justice. She offered

“behind the scenes” insights into the confirmation process, collegiality among the Justices and the extent to which life at the Supreme Court has changed since her time as a law clerk. She graciously answered questions from the group and spent almost an hour speaking to us.

Interest in the program was extremely high; consequently, we had to limit the group’s size to suit the meeting room at the Court. To our knowledge, this was the largest gathering ever of Hunter College High School alums in the DC area.

Everyone agreed it was a delightful afternoon. If you live in the DC area, **Paula GOLDFARB Post '54** and **Eva Tewel '66** are your new alumni co-leaders.

Major League Gala 2012



Top: Mark Feinsand congratulates Jon Daniels.

Bottom: Jennifer Raab and Jon Daniels.

Hunterites braved the rain to come out in celebration of fellow alum **Jon Daniels '95**, General Manager of the Texas Rangers. Amid flat-screen TVs broadcasting the Yankees-Rangers game in the Jay-Z lounge at The 40/40 Club, Jon Daniels recounted how his days at HCHS – where he learned to think outside the box and take risks – have helped him in the world of professional baseball. He was introduced by **Mark Feinsand '92**, the Yankees beat writer at the Daily News, who detailed Jon’s many accomplishments, including his two-year rise from the team’s baseball operations assistant to Assistant General Manager, and becoming the first General Manager to take the Rangers to the World Series. Also in attendance were **Jennifer Raab '73**, president of Hunter College, who thanked the Alumnae/i Association for hosting the event, and AA board president **Jason P. Criss '92** and **Christine Wong '95** who introduced each of the speakers. By the end of the evening, the

Jon Daniels recounted how his days at HCHS – where he learned to think outside the box and take risks – have helped him in the world of professional baseball.

guests had reconnected over drinks and food, the auction items had been distributed, and the rain had stopped long enough for the Yankees to beat the Rangers 3-0.

“There’s no magic formula. It’s about the people you surround yourself with who force you to think about things a little differently... That defines Hunter...people from different places getting the chance to exchange ideas.” – Jon Daniels

ALUM EVENTS

What A Difference 40 Years Makes!

On May 31, alums of all ages came together at a reception at Hunter College to celebrate the start of the Alumnae/i Association's 40th anniversary year. The turnout exceeded our expectations; the PTA's current and upcoming co-presidents were in attendance as were most of the Association's founders, including those who worked with the AA's first president, **Mildred Speiser, Jan. '49**, to produce the first editions of *AlumNotes*. Principal Dr. Tony Fisher addressed the guests and talked about his optimism for HCHS going forward. He thanked the AA for all it has done and continues to do to support the school. **Joan Rosenthal '72**, the AA's Executive

Vice President, led a round of applause for the Association's founders, who formed the AA to rally support for the school and save it from closure 40 years ago. Mildred Speiser then gave a speech in which she congratulated **Jason P. Criss '92** on being the first male AA president, saying "just think, in 2052 the Alumni will be celebrating your 40th Anniversary!" She also offered her own version of the Ten Commandments for Jason in 2013, suggesting that he "proclaim an exciting new series on controversial issues at Hunter," and "take a survey of Hunter High graduates who have never been heard from or may have had negative experiences there – an alum is always an alum," among others. Mildred



Alums at the 40th Anniversary Celebration

concluded by acknowledging "all the women, those sitting here today and those no longer here, who spent endless hours determined to save Hunter."

Students Get an Education for the Real World

On Saturday, April 28, 87 students from the junior and senior classes gathered at HCHS for a day of personal financial management training with the Financial Backpack outreach program, hosted by the Financial Women's Association.

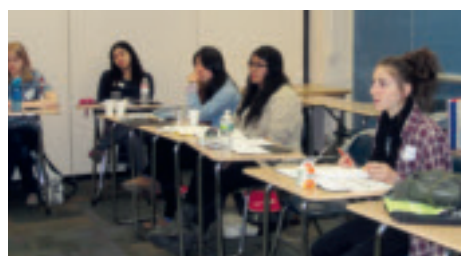
The students were split into six groups and, over the course of seven hours, took four different classes: Financial Literacy, Banking Basics, Investing, and Financial Planning. Classes were team taught by a mix of professional women from the world of business and finance (including, among others, the Business Development Manager at Lyons Mortgage Services, and the Vice President of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney), specially trained faculty, and college student volunteers who infused the onslaught of information with personal stories and anecdotes.

Each class taught different practical skills that are necessary to the students' future in the world outside of Hunter. In Financial Literacy, the students were introduced to the concepts of personal finance, and learned the value of making SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) decisions and goals in their personal and financial lives. In Banking Basics, they learned about the differences between banks, banking accounts, credit cards, and loan

options, and how to protect themselves from identity theft. Investing covered stocks, bonds, mutual funds, assets, and risk management. And Financial Planning taught them how to invest in themselves and their dreams through personal vigilance and management.

Founded in 1956, the Financial Women's Association (FWA) is a leading executive organization of over 850 members committed to shaping leaders in business and finance with a special emphasis on the role and development of women. The FWA serves its members through educational programs and networking opportunities, and serves the community through its nationally acclaimed scholarship, mentoring and training programs.

The FWA has been running its Financial Backpack program for the past four years in various schools around the city. Sponsored by a five-year, \$900,000 grant from HSBC, the FWA has partnered with Virtual Enterprise International, Harlem Children's Zone, and the WISE Institute at the High School of Economics & Finance. Hunter was introduced to the program through AA Board Member **Gloria I. Lerner '60**, who came up with the idea for the partnership and reached out to her friend and classmate **Lily KLEBANOFF Blake '60**, former president of FWA. Ms. Blake then connected FWA with



Top: Gloria I. Lerner, Tony Fisher, Gigi Collins, Lily Klebanoff Blake. Bottom: Hunter students in a Financial Backpack seminar

HCHS and worked with the AA to organize the event, all at no cost to the school. "Hunter's a great match," raved Gigi Collins, the Financial Backpack program manager, "because the kids are motivated and they take their studies seriously." Dr. Tony Fisher was also enthusiastic about the event, and he and Ms. Collins are working together to partner HCHS and FWA again for this school year.

Decision 2012

You can see more photos from these events online at www.HCHSAA.org

With the 2012 election season upon us, and political debates escalating all over the country, the Alumnae/i Association held a panel discussion in April, featuring Hunter journalists debating the major issues facing politicians and the American public, and answering questions from the audience. “Decision 2012” was held at The New York Times Building and was attended by over 80 people, including a few current students from HCHS. The panelists were an impressive array of Hunter alums: **Nicholas Confessore** ’94, a political reporter for *The New York Times* currently covering the 2012 presidential campaign, whose recent work focuses on the rapidly evolving world of political fundraising and campaign finance; **Amy Davidson** ’88, a senior editor at *The New Yorker* where she writes the Close Read blog and contributes to the magazine, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations; **Christopher Hayes** ’97, the Editor at Large of *The Nation* and host of *Up With Chris Hayes* on MSNBC, whose essays, articles, and reviews have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Time*, and *The Guardian*, among other publications; and **Aaron Retica** ’84, the political editor of the opinion section of *The New York Times*, who edits the *Times*’ daily Campaign Stops column and weekly conversation between Gail Collins and David Brooks. The discussion was moderated by **Sewell Chan** ’94, deputy Op-Ed editor at *The New York Times*, who succeeded in keeping the conversation civil and informative, and encouraged discourse between the panelists and attendees. “Decision 2012” also served as a chance for alums to meet the new high school principal, **Dr. Tony Fisher**, who introduced the program at the top of the evening.

Quotes from Decision 2012

“I think my favorite line from the campaign... is a knock that Newt Gingrich directed at Mitt Romney. He said ‘If you want someone who’s going to be a competent manager of American



Panelists answer questions at Decision 2012

decline, Mitt Romney’s your man.’ And I thought it was actually a pretty brilliant thing to say because... it didn’t work... but the subtext of the entire general election is a deep, society-wide fear of American decline and a sense that maybe, finally, the sun is setting.... The emotional core of that, the way that eats at people’s sense of American exceptionalism, the way that people have a deep, intuitive sense - I think across the political spectrum - that fundamentally the game is rigged.... that is the driving subtext of the election.” – Christopher Hayes

....“I’m super excited for Chris’ book [Twilight of the Elites: America After Meritocracy] because I’ve actually given a lot of thought to inequality... because I think of myself as the product of two great institutions of social mobility in America: Hunter High School, and a rent stabilized apartment. I think it’s fair to say that without those two things, I’m not sure I would have gone on to a good college, and be working for The New York Times.... If we are at a moment in our history where the engines of social mobility are essentially paralyzed... because we can’t generate a political consensus either on the problem or even on the solutions, and that we all feel that in our bones, then that really is what all these elections are about.” – Nicholas Confessore

Merrily We Roll Along

Lin-Manuel Miranda ’98 is probably best known as the creator and star of the Broadway musical *In the Heights*, for which he won a Tony for Best Musical Score in 2008. This winter, however, alums had the opportunity to see the multi-talented artist perform in a musical that he didn’t write himself. This past February, 75 alums saw Mr. Miranda perform in the limited run of Sondheim’s *Merrily We Roll Along* at New York City Center. The show chronicles the life and career of a musical theater composer turned Hollywood producer, and starred Mr. Miranda, Colin Donnell, and Celia Keenan-Bolger. Afterwards, alums congregated at the mid-town restaurant Faces and Names to talk shop with Mr. Miranda and catch up with each other.

ALUM UPDATES

The Alumnae/i Association recently received a letter from **Anna Lee FILTZER Culp '43**. Mrs. Culp wrote to tell us about her friend and fellow alumna **Betty BARTH Elman**, who just celebrated her 100th birthday! Betty Elman graduated Hunter the year that Anna Lee was born – 1927. “She is such a vital person,” writes Mrs. Culp, “and it would be such a joy to her to see *AlumNotes* acknowledge her triumph.” Warm wishes and congratulations from us all, Betty!

A new biography of **Pearl Primus '35**, a revolutionary and prolific dancer and teacher,



was published by Yale University Press last year. The book, written by Ms. Primus' friends and colleagues Peggy and Murray Schwartz, chronicles her life from her childhood through her death in 1994,

and details her impact on American culture, dance, and education. Ms. Primus burst onto the scene in 1943 with her controversial and inflammatory solo dances that commented on racism, poverty, lynching, and sharecropping. After a trip to Africa in 1948 and multiple research trips to the American South and the Caribbean, she became one of the first dancer/teachers to bring African dance to Americans. Over the course of her long career, she performed at the Negro Freedom Rally, as a member of the New Dance Group (whose motto was “Dance is a weapon”), earned her PhD in anthropology, and taught as the headmaster of SUNY Buffalo's Cora P. Maloney College of Afro-American Studies, and as a professor in the collaborative dance department program between Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, Smith, and the University of Massachusetts. “Pearl's life was so complex and rich,” author Peggy Schwartz said in an interview. “It touched on the civil rights movement, on the cultural history of New York City, and on the complicated relationship between blacks and Jews.” The book is titled *The Dance Claimed Me: A Biography of Pearl Primus*.

A new collection of poems by **Rosaly DeMAIOS Roffman '55** entitled *I Want to Thank My Eyes*, is now available from Tebot-Bach publishers and online at Amazon. Ms. Roffman, whose work includes collaborations with composers, dance companies, sculptors, and other poets, is the Professor Emerita and founder of the Myth and Folklore Center at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. *I Want to Thank My Eyes* was first read out loud by Ms. Roffman before a creative writing class at HCHS which contained current student editors of *Argus*, the school magazine that first published her writing back in the 1950s!

Rose Hartman – also class of '55 – is expecting the publication of her book of photographs this coming November by ACC Editions. *Incomparable: Women of Style* showcases over 200 images from more than three decades of Ms. Hartman's work as a photographer and chronicler of fashion icons known for their impeccable taste and style. From Jacquelyn Kennedy Onassis to Paloma Picasso to Diane Furstenberg and beyond, *Incomparable* is a book for anyone who loves fashion, photography, and popular culture. Ms. Hartman's photographs have been featured in *Vogue*, *Glamour*, *Vanity Fair*, *Art & Auction*, *Art News*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Panorama*, *Der Spiegel*, and *Elle*, as well as in her first book, *Birds of Paradise: An Intimate View of the New York Fashion World*.

What They Saved: Pieces of a Jewish Past, the memoir published last year by **Nancy KIPNIS Miller '57**, has won the Jewish Journal Book Prize for 2012. Ms. Miller, a Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the CUNY – Graduate Center, describes her book as a reconstruction of her family history using the mysterious objects passed down from her father: “locks of hair, a postcard from Argentina, a cemetery receipt, letters written in Yiddish.” *What They Saved* is her most recent in a long line of publications, including books on feminist criticism and women's writing, as well as other memoirs and biographies.

Congratulations to **Ina ALSTER Gravitz '65** on her election as the Vice President/President-Elect of the American Society of Indexing! The American Society of Indexing

is the only professional indexing society in the country. A former Reference and Young Adult librarian, Ms. Gravitz' history indexes for kids can be seen on the program cover of the 2007 Philadelphia ASI Conference.

Valerie HAYNES Perry '75 has just self-published her third novel, *Members*, about a black girl from the projects who has the opportunity to attend elite schools, an experience which will test the stability of her roots and her sense of herself. Mrs. Perry's other books, including *Tanner Blue* and *Painted Deserts*, and *Music for the Dream – Seven Short Stories*, have won national and international awards from USA Book News as well as finalist status. You may find out more about these books by visiting www.tannerblue.com

Sarah Kovner '91's new book, *Occupying Power: Sex Workers and Servicemen in Postwar Japan*, has just been published by Stanford University Press. The book is Dr. Kovner's first, and examines how the Allied Occupation of Japan upended a three-hundred year old system of state-regulated sex work, which had long been accepted and even celebrated as “the floating world.” Sadly, outlawing prostitution only made sex workers less visible and more vulnerable. Dr. Kovner is an assistant professor of History and Asian Studies at the University of Florida, and is currently a fellow in International Strategic Studies at Yale University.

HCHS has two alums listed in *Crain's* 2012 “40 under 40” – an annual chronicle of people who have achieved success in business before the age of forty. In accepting this award, **Brad Bender '91**, the Director of Product Management at Google, and **Bobby Lopez '93**, of *Avenue Q* and *Book of Mormon* fame, join the illustrious company of executives, CEOs, theater producers, orchestra conductors, and many others.

Michael Nevradakis '02 will be heading to Athens, Greece, this year after being awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for 2012-2013. A PhD candidate in Media Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, Mr. Nevradakis will use his Fulbright to research the impact of social and new media on the political communication in Greece.

ALUMS IN THE NEWS

Many HCHS graduates are doubtless newsworthy, having attended such a unique school with such high academic standards. But some alums do end up being quoted in the news more than others, and we thought we'd point out a few recent examples.

Mildred SPIEWAK Dresselhaus, Jan. '48,

is known as the "queen of carbon" for her extensive research and development in the field of energy. This former Director of the Office of Science at the US Department of Energy, and current professor of physics and engineering at MIT, has had a red-letter year so far; she was awarded not only the prestigious 2012 Kavli Prize in Nanoscience, but also the Enrico Fermi Award, presented to her by President Obama. Dr. Dresselhaus adds these laurels to a long list, including the National Medal of Science, the presidencies of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and twenty-eight honorary doctorates. In a recent interview with *The New York Times*, Dr. Dresselhaus credits HCHS as "a real turning point for me...it was an excellent school with excellent teachers." "I'm still at the forefront of carbon science," she said in another interview with *LaserFest*. "One of my granddaughters is an undergraduate working on carbon nanotubes – just like grandma! I'm having a great time watching her. If I had to do the whole thing over again, I'd do it exactly the same way."

The "queen of carbon" isn't the only Hunterite to be dubbed science royalty. As one of the leading researchers studying metabolism and its effect on diabetes, **Barbara McCALL Corkey '54** has been called "the queen of metabolism" by Ronald Kahn, the past president of the Joslin



Diabetes Center and a professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School. In a recent article

in BU's *Bostonia* profiling Dr. Corkey, he said that "she helped keep the field alive," referring to her largely unpopular and disregarded work during the early years of diabetes research. Her theory that type 2 diabetes was caused not only by insulin resistance, but by a breakdown of pancreatic beta cells, was dismissed for decades but is now widely accepted as fact by the scientific community. Last year, as a result of her exhaustive research and determination over a career that began relatively late in life (she received her doctorate in 1981 from the University of Pennsylvania), Dr. Corkey was awarded the Banting Medal for Scientific Achievement Award, the American Diabetes Association's highest scientific honor and one of the world's top science awards. She adds this accolade to an impressive list; she is the vice chair of research at the Boston University School of Medicine department of medicine, the Zoltan Kohn Professor of Medicine, the former director of the Obesity Research Center at Boston Medical Center, and a recent past editor of the medical journal *Obesity*. "It is almost unprecedented to start a scientific career so late and achieve so much," says Richard Bergman, director of Cedars-Sinai Diabetes and Obesity Research Institute in Los Angeles. Dr. Corkey's work is now focused on the theory that the obesity epidemic is caused not by over-eating and lack of exercise, but by various environmental factors and food additives. Most people in the United States disagree with her, but as she said when she was studying the beta cells, "I just thought the whole United States was wrong," and then she proved that she was right.

Two articles have recently come out about **Jennifer Raab '73** – one in *New York Press*, and the other in *Education Update*. As president of Hunter College, Ms. Raab has always been deeply committed to the belief that Hunter is "a place where every day we get to see the American dream come true." In her eleven years as president, Ms. Raab has presided over a tremendous period of growth for the college. Under her leadership, Hunter College has expanded into new areas all over the city, including East Harlem, with the School of Social Work and CUNY School of Public Health; onto a floor of the Cornell Weill Medical School – the hospital recently received a \$50 million "translational research

grant," which will be used to strengthen the bond between Cornell Weill and the hospital, linking faculty with doctors and the community and enhancing research and internship opportunities; the newly renovated Roosevelt House, which now serves as a public policy institute; and soon, Tribeca, with a "21st century arts school" to be completed in January 2013. In recognition of her dedication to, and enhancement of, Hunter College's impressive liberal arts programs, Ms. Raab received a much deserved 2012 Our Town Thanks You Award for her contribution to the community.

We all know **Cynthia Nixon '84** from *Sex and the City*, where she played the tough lawyer Miranda Hobbes. But before making her mark in TV



and film, the actress was already a mainstay on New York stages. Making her television debut as a child actor in an ABC afterschool special, she was able to transition seamlessly into adult roles, with her Broadway debut at 17 in a revival of *The Philadelphia Story* at Lincoln Center. After enrolling at Barnard, Ms. Nixon's stage career really took off, and she appeared in *Hurly Burly* alongside William Hurt and Sigourney Weaver, and with Jeremy Irons and Christine Baranski in Tom Stoppard's *The Real Thing*. More recently she won a Tony award for her performance in *Rabbit Hole*, and received an Emmy for her role in *Sex and the City*. She also has a recurring role on the TV show *The Big C*, and can be seen in the new Woody Harrelson movie *Rampart*. In January, Ms. Nixon made a triumphant return to her Broadway roots when she starred in *Wit*. The play opened on January 26 to excellent reviews, and *The New York Times* praised Ms. Nixon's performance, calling it "large and lucid and dedicated at the same time."

Math Teacher Honored

Six years after joining Hunter as a math teacher, **Eliza Kuberska** is gathering accolades, winning not one, but two teacher awards in 2011. In June, Ms. Kuberska was one of 18 honorees who received a Blackboard Award for excellence in education. Every year, the award, which was established by the publishing company Manhattan Media in 2002, honors schools, teachers, and principals who are making outstanding contributions to New York education. The candidates are chosen from recommendations and nominations submitted by students and parents. Then, in November of 2011, the Polish-born Ms. Kuberska picked up her second award when she was recognized as one of seven best math and science teachers in New York by the Fund for the City of New York and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The annual award comes with a \$5,000 check, with an additional \$2,500 given to the teacher's school. The award specifically recognizes teachers who inspire students to take up careers in math and science. And Hunter math students say Ms. Kuberska is exactly that—inspiring. “She makes it less about the competition, and more about the love of math,” says one of her students. “She pushed me harder than any teacher I’ve ever had...her contagious passion for math made me love the subject,” says another. Thanks to teachers like Ms. Kuberska, we may see a few more mathematicians in our future!

Hunter College High School Names New Principal

Two years after the resignation of Eileen Coppola, Hunter High has found a new principal among its own in **Dr. Tony Fisher**, following his tenure as acting principal. Dr. Fisher has been a HCHS faculty member for six years, beginning with his position as the mathematics department chair. He then took on the newly created position of assistant principal for grades 7 – 9, and in 2010 he

took over as acting principal while a nationwide search for a new head of the school was conducted.

Dr. Fisher has earned three degrees in mathematics: a BA from Yale, and an MS and a PhD from the University of Chicago. Before starting at Hunter, Dr. Fisher spent 15 years as a private school teacher and administrator in New York, including at the Collegiate School and Little Red School House & Elisabeth Irwin High School. At Hunter, Dr. Fisher has been especially lauded for creating a middle-school ethos. He relaunched the 7th grade seminar, created the 8th grade advisory, and started 7th and 8th grade study halls. He has also supported faculty spending more time on co-curricular activities, and has been actively developing the curriculum. Dr. Fisher is committed to further developing interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students, and integrating new technologies into the curriculum. Dr. Fisher also supports a broader outreach program to expand Hunter's applicant pool, and plans to create a stronger support system for struggling students.

After five years of administrative turmoil which saw three changes at the principal position, Hunter and its alums can now look forward to a more stable time.

Awards and Accolades Across The Spectrum

From science and history to sports and music, academics and extracurricular activities, the Hunter Hawks proved their prowess once again. Here are just a few of the successes Hunter students had this year:

Music

After a rigorous audition process, three **HCHS Chamber Music Ensembles** were selected to perform at Lincoln Center this past spring by The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. The two grade 9 – 12 ensembles were **Serena '15** and **Alison Chang '12**, performing the Rachmaninoff *Suite for Two Pianos*, and **Jean Kim '12**, **Sueun Hong '14**, **Sylvia Lee '12**, **Jeremy Gershonowitz '14**,

Michael Davidman '15, and **Lucas Zheng '12**, performing the Prokofiev *Overture on Hebrew Themes*. The grade 7 and 8 ensemble was comprised of **Emma Toh '16**, **Emma Bertke '16**, and **Katrina Gonzales '16**, performing Weber's *Trio for Flute, Cello and Piano*. The competitions were open to junior and senior high schools throughout the tri-state area.

Science

There have been many things to celebrate in the HCHS world of science recently. **Kalia Firester '15**, won the American Museum of Natural History's Young Naturalist Award, a nationwide, research-based science competition for students in grades 7 – 12. Kalia's project was an investigation into developing effective plant-based, non-chemical insecticides. Meanwhile, **Cheyenne Hua**, also '15, competed as a national finalist in the 3M Discovery Challenge with her project of a smart speed bump. Her speed bump is designed to pop up from the street when it senses a speeding car. Both Kalia and Cheyenne were also part of a group of Hunterites who won at the New York City Science and Engineering Fair, where Kalia won an ISEF Finalist – First Alternate/ NYCSEF Award, and Cheyenne won the NYCSEF Third Award. The other winners were **Andre Arslan '13** (ISEF Finalist/ NYCSEF First Award/Yale Science and Engineering Association), **Anna Blech '14** (NYCSEF First Award), **Olivia Briffault '13** (NYCSEF First Award), **Priscilla Guo '14** (NYCSEF Second Award), **Ada Huang '14** (US Metric Association), **Eric Mannes '12** (NYCSEF Award), **Maxine McGredy '13** (NYCSEF Second Award), **Chen Wei '12** (NYCSEF First Award).

In the world of energy, three HCHS teams competed at the New York section of Chemagination in March. **Analise Rhode '12**, **Isabel Udo '14**, **Miru Osuga '14** won first place in the Alternative Energy category with an article about how anaerobic digestion could be used as an alternative energy source. **Mira Nagarajan '14** and **Fandi Tang '14** won first place in the New Material category with an article about polyisoprene's potential for use in contra-



Robotics Team

ception. **Sophia Siu '14**, **Purva Vaidya '14**, and **Stephen Leong '14** competed in the Health/Medicine category with an article about the use of shuttle molecules in breaching the blood-brain barrier. The two winning teams went on to compete in the regional competition at the University of Maryland this past June.

The Science Department would also like to congratulate **Lily Chen '12** and **Willy Chen '13** on earning qualifying scores on the Regional Chemistry Olympiad, to **Chen Wei '12** and Lily Chen for reaching the semifinals in the Biology Olympiad, and to **Aaron Landesman '12**, **Andre Arslan '13**, Lily Chen, and **Jenny Nitishinskaya '13** for becoming semifinalists in the United States Physics Olympiad.

Robotics

Sponsored in part by a generous \$12,000 donation from HCHS Alums, the **HCHS Robotics Team – The RoHawks** – built a robot that can shoot baskets, maneuver around a playing field, and balance on obstacle bridges. Not only that, but this robot led The RoHawks to victory in March 2012 during the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science

and Technology) Robotics Competition Chesapeake Regional Rebound Rumble in Baltimore, a competition in which two alliances of three teams each compete to score as many baskets as possible during a two-minute match. As a result of their engineering abilities and strategizing skills, the RoHawks (under the mentorship of Alliance Bernstein and comprised of **Adam Eckstein '12**, **Will Thompson '13**, **Willie Ha '13**, **Sindy Tan '13**, **Rachel Mikofsky '14**, **Cody Dong '14**, **David Moon '13**, **Isabelle Wong '15**, **Alex Feldman '15**, **Richard Lee '13**, **Eric Mei '14**, **Alexander Epstein '14**, and **Noah Miller '14**) became the Regional Winners, and were invited to compete in the National Competition in St. Louis, MO in late April.

Sports

After a terrific season, both the girls **Fencing Team** and **Epee Team** took the gold in their respective categories at the PSAL Girls Fencing City Championship. Led by captain **Yujin Jung '12** and coach **Nadia Nazarova**, the undefeated **Fencing Team** beat out Stuyvesant with a final score of 45-16, while the Epee Team had a 45-32 victory over LaGuardia.

Quizzes and Games

Hunter's **Chess Team**, coached by **Sunil Weeramantry**, won by half a point over I.S. 318 from Brooklyn in the 2011 National K-12 Championships. This year's tournament, hosted in Minneapolis, MN, was one of the toughest ever, with over twenty-five students from across the country playing at the master level or above. Both Hunter and IS318 are considered co-champions by the US Chess Federation. Congratulations to **Alec Getz '12**, **Alex Ostrovskiy '12**, **Aaron Landesman '12**, **Lilia Poteat '16**, **Ben Katz '16**, **Yuta Kakutani '14**, **Matthew Zafra '17**, and **Musa Jamshed '15**!

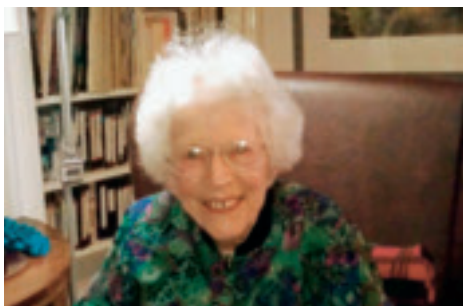
And with the help of a generous grant from the PTA, the **Hunter Quiz Bowl A-team** of **Lily Chen '12**, **York Chen '12**, **Richard Yu '12**, and **Zihan Zheng '13** won the PACE National Scholastic Championship in St. Louis after earning second place at the Texas Invitational earlier in the year. Lily Chen was also selected as the National Science Player of the Year. The B-team finished at the top of the second tier, and the C-team also had some upset wins.

The Social Studies Department congratulates York Chen, **Paul Mochetti '12**, Richard Yu and Zihan Zheng on winning the National History Bowl Championship in Washington, DC. The **History Bowl Team** competed with 140 high school teams from all over the country. Furthermore, Richard Yu took second place in the individual History Bee.



Hunter Quiz Bowl A-Team

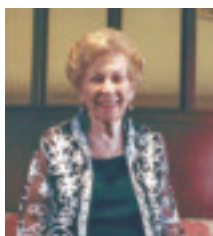
IN MEMORIAM



Louise MORLEY Cochrane '36, author of various biographies, histories, and children's television shows and books, died on February 13, 2012. Louise's career started back at HCHS, where her primary pursuit was politics. She was the winner of the League of Nations Prize, attended the World Youth Congress in Geneva, and after Hunter, graduated magna cum laude from Bryn Mawr College. Her interests in the world of politics paid off with a recruitment to the International Student Service, where she worked closely not only with Mrs. Roosevelt, but also her future husband, Peter Cochrane, who was serving as the representative of the British Army. Louise and Peter married after she was offered a job by the Office of War Education in the US Embassy in London. Her political career turned into an artistic one after the birth of her two daughters, when she started to work at the BBC as a writer on the children's show *Rag, Tag and Bobtail* for the *Watch with Mother* series. She also wrote a number of children's books. Her writing career continued later in her life when she wrote *Adelard of Bath: the First English Scientist*, a major history of the subject's contribution to the introduction of Arabic numerals to Europe. She also wrote a biography of her father's friendship with Buckminster Fuller, entitled *The Sense of Significance*. Her greatest pleasure, however, came from her husband, two daughters, and her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Miriam NACHEMOV Pressman '38

passed away peacefully, surrounded by her children and grandchildren on July 31, 2012 in Los Angeles. She was predeceased by her husband, Henry S.



Pressman, DDS. Miriam was most proud of her work for ORT America, serving in various positions on the national level. Miriam and Henry traveled extensively and spent their retirement years in Florida with friends and family.

Former students, colleagues, and friends mourn the death of **Jean Binnie, Jan. '42**, retired chairperson of the Health and Physical Education Department. She succumbed to the painful and debilitating effects of a decade-long struggle with various auto-immune diseases on May 17, just months short of her 87th birthday. She had been in hospice care at home and under the attention of close and loving friends. Jean was a woman of grace, strength, and courage. In her thirty-four years of teaching at HCHS, she touched the lives of thousands of young women—and, eventually, young men. With humor and a wry wit, she energized reluctant bodies and lethargic minds to healthful activity. Her commands and directions were often punctuated by the silliest of jokes or actions (Gladly the cross-eyed bear? or perhaps a roar from a non-scary lion?). In the classroom or the gym, she urged students to seek balance in their thinking and behavior and to avoid extremes. She worked to set an example. After HCHS, Jean went on to graduate from Hunter College, and obtained a master's degree in Health Education before beginning her career teaching at Hunter High School. During her later teaching years, she also received a master's degree in Guidance and School Counseling. She loved teaching, and especially appreciated Hunter students' eagerness to learn. When Jean retired in 1981, she had already completed evening studies in psychotherapy at Washington Square Institute and was ready to begin a second career as a psychotherapist, and in just a few years, she established a private practice on Long Island. She was an active member of her community, volunteering at the Hampton Bays Library and with the Literacy Volunteers of Suffolk County as well as at the local senior center. Jean also rediscovered an earlier interest in Zen Buddhism and resumed study of it, finding the comfort and enlightenment she sought. She embraced a particular Zen principle, the one that tells us that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us and who nurtured, helped, and challenged us.

At the end, her abiding gratitude was for her many friends, whose calls, cards, letters, and email gave her strength and comfort.

Norma MERRICK Sklarek '44, a pioneer for African American women in architecture, died on February 6, 2012 at the age of 85. Born in Harlem, Norma accomplished a number of firsts over



her illustrious career; she was the first African American woman to receive her architect's license in the United States – both in New York and California – and in 1966 she became the first African American woman to be elected a fellow of the American Institute of Architects. After graduating from HCHS, Barnard College, and Columbia University's architecture school, she worked for the architectural and engineering firm Skidmore, Owins & Merrill, before moving to California to join Gruen Associates. Her most visible achievement, however, began in 1980, when she became the project director for the creation of Terminal 1 at LAX – a \$50-million project that culminated in 1984. She retired in 1991, and is survived by her husband, Dr. Cornelius Welch, and three grandchildren.

Sophie (Sue) WINTER Machlin '50 passed away on June 23 at the age of 79. Born in Berlin, Sue came to New York at the age of five and remained for the rest of her life. She was a graduate of both Hunter High and Hunter College, where she studied journalism. She very much enjoyed her experience there and made a lot of lifelong friends. After college, she initially worked in the field of publications and public relations, but then spent over 20 years working as an ESL instructor and literacy teacher. She also volunteered as a mentor for several young women. She was a poet and a member of several poetry organizations, and enjoyed writing as well as reading. She also loved nature and the New York parks, traveling, and all the cultural events the city had to offer. She was a free spirit who put her stamp on the world in her own way, and a very giving person who was always there to help people in need. She is survived by her husband, Al, three children, Loraine, Ken, and Dan, and two grandchildren, Jonathan and Jeremy.

Diane RASKIN Jan '50, a former teacher, died on December 24, 2011. A graduate of both HCHS and Hunter College, with master's degrees from Washington University and Pratt Institute, Diane spent her career teaching all over the city. She taught history at New Utrecht High School, English as a second language at Washington Irving High School, was a religious education instructor and member of the parish council at St. Charles, and was the assistant director of student information services in the city's Board of Education. She was predeceased by her husband, William, and is survived by two sons, a daughter, and four grandchildren.

Betty Potash '51 died at home on November 13, 2010 following a long, courageous battle with cancer. She was attended by her dear long-time friend Rose Chukwukere and her family to whom she was known as "Auntie Betty." Betty graduated from the Columbia University School of General Studies, earned her MA at the University of Chicago and her PhD from NYU. She taught anthropology at Vassar College and Lehigh and Syracuse Universities, and then spent five years teaching in Nigeria and doing research on the Luo in Kenya. She was also the editor of *Widows in African Societies: Choices and Constraints*. When she returned to the USA, teaching jobs were scarce and, after teaching at Medgar Evers College, she worked in the New York City government. Up until the end of her life, Betty attended as much opera, theater, and art as she could fit into her schedule and budget, and was well known for her enthusiastic lifelong activism in liberal and humanitarian causes in both her public and personal lives. She made many dear friends along the way and counted her Hunter friends among her dearest. Well-attended memorial events were held in May 2011 in her honor. Betty is survived by her brother Herb and his family.

Joan GOLOMB Goodwin '60, who was a food writer, editor, and journalist under the name Naomi Wise, died on December 15, 2011. Joan was born in 1943 in Queens, and attended the University of Michigan. She first used her future pen name as a teenager when she signed up as a performer in order to see a folk music concert in Greenwich Village for

free. Joan married Michael Goodwin in 1963, and they moved to San Francisco. Joan loved to travel, and her many trips took her to Chile, Nepal, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and numerous other countries, all of which developed her interest in food and foreign cuisine. She wrote an unauthorized biography of Francis Ford Coppola and worked as a film critic and social worker, before becoming a successful food critic and writer. She published four cookbooks, and served as the restaurant critic for the *East Bay Express* and the *San Francisco Weekly*. In 2000, Joan left San Francisco to become the Food Editor and lead restaurant critic for the *San Diego Reader*, and her positive reviews were always prominently displayed by favored restaurants. Joan lived with her long-term boyfriend, T.J. Byers, until his death in 2007.



Marjorie Gamso '61, a dancer and revolutionary choreographer, passed away on December 8, 2011. After attending Hunter, Marjorie graduated from Columbia University in 1968. She then spent three years in California, where she studied ballet with Carmelita Maracci, performed with Steve Paxton and Yvonne Rainer, and presented her first work, *Octopus City* at the University of Southern California. After her return to New York, she studied with James Waring and Merce Cunningham, and in 1973 she founded her dance company, The Energy Crisis. She also co-founded a series of groundbreaking events at P.S. 1 in Queens. In a tribute to Marjorie, *Dance Magazine* wrote: "Choreographer Marjorie Gamso's dances were characterized by their delicate physicality and conceptual rigor. They were suffused with her wild imagination, outstanding intellect, and artistic toughness. For her, making dances was a way to discover hidden

knowledge about the world." A memorial for Marjorie took place on March 4 at the Merce Cunningham Studio in Greenwich Village.

Jorene FRENKL Robbie '66 passed away on January 2, 2012. After graduating from Barnard College, Jorene received her library degree from Columbia University, and then went on to Fordham Law School, where she earned her JD and later served as the reference librarian from 1988 until her death. While at Fordham, she created, wrote, and named the library's "Learned Handy" research guides, supervised the compilation of the Fordham Law School Centennial Bibliography, and served as the editor of Law Lines newsletter for two years, as well as teaching basic legal research and advanced legal research courses in tax law.

Christopher Chong '90 passed away on January 21, 2012. A graduate of both Hunter College Elementary and High School, Chris then received a chemical engineering degree from MIT and an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Chris had a successful career in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries, most recently in the Primary Care business unit at Pfizer and as Director of Commercial Strategy at Gilead Sciences, Inc. in Foster City, California. A beloved son, brother, husband, father, and friend, Chris will be remembered for his exceptional warmth, kindness, intellect, and wicked sense of humor. His love of sports (volleyball, golf, tennis) extended to being a devoted fan of New York teams, especially the Yankees and the Knicks. In the fall of 2011, he was diagnosed with late stage angiosarcoma, and passed away after a courageous battle. He is survived by his wife, Sophia, and his daughter, Zoey. He will be greatly missed.

Sylvia BROOKS Storch (class year unknown) died on January 13, 2012. She was 96 years old, and lived in Battery Park City in lower Manhattan. Sylvia was a graduate of both Hunter High and Hunter College. In the late 1940s, she moved to Washington DC, where her husband was working, and became a freelance journalist. But it was upon her return to New York that she found her true calling as an English and Journalism teacher, first at Far

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

HCHS Couples

We received overwhelmingly positive feedback to our winter 2012 feature article on Hunter College High School couples (“Mrs. and Mr. Sarah Maria Jones”). Thank you to everyone who responded, especially those who pointed out mistakes or added to our list. Here are some couples we didn’t know about then, but do now:

Christina Sormani ’87 sent in a picture of her first date with now husband **Warren Chang ’88**. That was the Hunter Prom on May 31, 1988, and they’ve been together ever since, marrying on the tenth anniversary of that day – May 31, 1998.



Christine Sormani ’87 and Robert Chang ’88 in 1988

Carrie Kei Heim and **Peter K. Binas**, both ’91, dated for most of their Hunter years, including seventh grade, and were married in 2005. Their daughter, Katie, will be five years old this April.

Yasmine Kirkorian ’00 writes: “I was delighted to read Benjamin Losi’s article about Hunter couples in the recent *AlumNotes*. I wanted to let you know that my fiancé **Daniel Gonen ’98** and I are yet another couple. We actually didn’t know each other at Hunter at all, but we met three years ago thanks to another alum, **Arthur Lewis ’98**. We met at one of Arthur’s performances with his band, and we got engaged last weekend after another one of his shows (I guess he’s an accidental Hunter Cupid).”

The class of **1989** has many couples! **Jessica Liberman** and **Keith Wilcox**; **Nicole Becker** and **Andrew Ment**; **Lily Shapiro** and **Michael Siff**; and **Marya Gilborn** and **Nicky Miller**. And trailing that number is the class of **1997**, with **Johanna Dizon** and **Chi-Lin Chang**, and **Adrienne Lapidos** and **Gabriel Mendlow**.

We also found out that **Cheryl Baker ’85** and **David Schweitzer ’85** were reunited after leaving HCHS. Sadly, however, David passed away in February of this year.

And there are a few corrections to the article, as well:

Vanessa NADAL Miranda, who is married to **Lin-Manuel Miranda ’98**, graduated not in his year, but in **2000**.

Vicki Rosenzweig ’81 and **Mark Rosenzweig ’84** are indeed related, but not through marriage – they’re brother and sister.

And finally, we received a Letter to the Editor regarding the lack of homosexual relationships and marriages chronicled in the article. We at *AlumNotes* would like to take this opportunity to apologize to anyone who was offended by the article. The editors did not mean to exclude or denigrate these couples – as stated in the article, we were simply unable to find any records of these marriages or partnerships at the time of printing. However, we acknowledge that the article may have been unintentionally insulting to members of the LGBTQ community, and we are printing the following letter in recognition of that fact.

Dear Editor,

I am a graduate of HCHS, Class of 1970, and a lesbian. I found your cover article in the current AlumNotes, “Mrs. & Mr. Sarah Maria Jones” to be highly offensive, although I am sure it was merely intended to be a cutesy fluff piece. The offense starts with the very title of the article, which limits the story to heterosexuals, ignoring from the outset the many lesbian and gay alums of HCHS, and thus denigrating us as second class citizens. This message is reinforced early in the piece

itself, which states that “since boys weren’t admitted to HCHS until 1974, any discussion of wedded alumna/alumnus couples has to start with the classes from the 1980s.” The article then throws a little sop to lesbians, noting that “we can reasonably assume that in Hunter’s long history as an all-girls institution, there were occasions when two alumnae fell in love and maintained a romantic relationship over many years.” A “romantic relationship”? Do you think that’s all a marriage is? How insulting. What about, “life partnership” or any other phrase akin to marriage? My partner (not a Hunter grad) and I have been together for 34 years, and while there’s plenty of romance, there’s a whole lot more. Your quaint language choice (again, unintentionally insulting I’m sure) feeds right into the conservative lie that being gay is just about sex, and that our lifelong relationships simply aren’t good enough to be called marriages.

Also, did it ever occur to you that two alumnae who graduated before HCHS became co-ed may have “fallen in love” years ago and might now be married? My partner and I were legally married in Toronto, Canada, on our 26th anniversary in 2004. Plenty of long-term, middle-aged, same-sex couples have similarly taken advantage of the opportunity to marry (finally!) well into our relationships. The notion that your story could not start before the “classes from the 1980s” is ludicrous.

Finally, the article goes on to state that since same-sex couples can legally marry in a number of states (not to mention other countries), you breathlessly “anticipate” learning “about more married alumna/alumna and alumnus/alumnus couples going forward.” I can hardly wait for the next installment.

People who went to high school together marry each other all the time, all over the country. They’ve been doing it since there have been high schools. It’s not newsworthy. Apparently, what made it newsworthy for AlumNotes is that, thanks to “the classes from the 1980s,” there were male alums who could marry female alums.

I realize there is no Letters to the Editor section in AlumNotes, but I respectfully request that you publish my letter in your next edition. The lesbian and gay alums of HCHS, literally invisible in the photographs in your article and demeaned in the text, deserve no less.

Sincerely,
Judith E. Schaeffer ’70

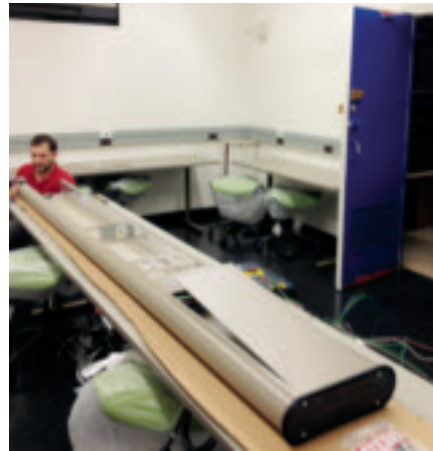
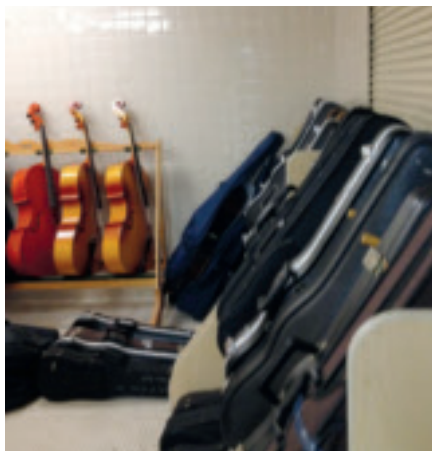
Music Rooms Get Tune Up

“Put the bass violin over there by the sink.” That was the odd refrain sung out in orchestra classes at HCHS for years, as the music department made do with strange and ill-equipped classrooms. From that dead space around the left-over sink to cinderblocks in the instrument storage closets, the three rooms at the department’s disposal were less than ideal for musical instruction. But no longer. Thanks in large part to a grant from the Alumnae/i Association, in partnership with the PTA, HCHS students returned to school this fall to find their music rooms transformed.

Each classroom is now clearly and solely dedicated to the pursuit of musical endeavors. The sink and the cinderblocks are gone, and in their place are brand new instrument storage units with compartments for instruments of all kinds, as well as sliding shelves for books and slots for sheet music. The acoustics of the rooms have been drastically improved as well; carpets and acoustic cord cover the floors and walls, insulating them from the noise of the hallways and cafeteria, and absorbing the sounds within to prevent cacophony. There are chairs for instrumental instruction that can be converted into desks for music theory and classroom work. “The rooms just feel different,” said Julie Reifer, the chair of the department. “The kids come in and they feel inspired.”

It’s not just that the rooms are now clearly designed for learning and practicing music in general, but that each room serves a particular function within the music department as well. Room 227 (the one with the sink) is now exclusively for jazz and concert bands, while the basement classroom (which had wall-to-wall mirrors used for a dance studio) serves the stringed instruments. Room 333 is as yet unfinished, but will be dedicated to choral instruction, with L-shaped risers around the perimeter to allow for more singers – a reaction to an increase in student interest in recent years.

The grant from the Alumnae/i Association has funded more than these necessary refurbishments and renovations,



however; it has also allowed the faculty to improve and transform the way they teach the subject itself. iPads will be available for use in every music room – an educational development that some private and public schools in the city have been adopting – and Bob Sabin, a member of the jazz ensemble faculty, attended iBootcamp to learn how best to use these technological innovations as effective teaching tools. Gone are the days of chalkboards – teachers now have access to smart boards for instruction. Students of music theory and music composition will be able to create their *magna opera* not only on the iPads, but also on the new Mac computers in the Digital Art and Music Lab, which has finally been equipped with slimmer tables to accommodate a number of additional

student work stations, and ergonomic chairs for a more comfortable learning environment. Members of the music faculty have been exploring state-of-the-art facilities of major conservatories – from Oberlin to Iceland – and are modeling their new territory according to the high standards of their vision. These incredible improvements have allowed the long-suffering music department to enter the 21st century of performance and appreciation with aplomb, and given the students and faculty the facilities and tools they so rightly deserve.

Area Officer for the South East Asia region. Alexandra used her Rhodes scholarship to achieve her master's degree in social policy at Oxford, and just started medical school at Duke. Her plan is to return to active duty as an Army doctor because, "among other things, I am very supportive of the Army's socialized medical system."

Alexandra's philanthropic spirit is common in many of the alums who have served. As Alejandro Alves is quick to point out, his list is "not really about bringing attention to veterans so much as it is recognizing all the ways that Hunter inspires graduates to do good in our world."

HCHSAA Board Member **Dan Berenbaum '87** concurs. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Dan spent five years as a nuclear-propulsion certified Surface Warfare Officer aboard some of the Navy's most impressive ships, including the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. Now an equity analyst specializing in semiconductor technology, Dan considers the contributions to the military by HCHS graduates in the context of his favorite quote, from Sir William Francis Butler: "The nation that will insist upon drawing a broad line of demarcation between the fighting man and the thinking man is liable to find its fighting done by fools and its thinking done by cowards." But Dan says that "even I was surprised when I saw the breadth of roles in which Hunterites have served - and continue



1st Lieutenant Gerard Decatrel '89 with his Cobra Helicopter

to serve. I certainly credit my Hunter education with giving me a different perspective than many of those with whom I had the honor to serve, and it's great that the Hunter community is being made aware of the contributions made by so many alumni."

Thanks to Alejandro, these alums will now have ways in which to connect to one another as well. "I have not done anything yet with any of this information," says Alejandro, "although when I have some time on my hands I suppose I'll send out some messages to the group to help find others, and to see if we'd like to organize some sort of networking event, or a

recognition of our high school's contribution to the military services." In recent years, Alejandro has kept busy completing his masters at the Harvard Kennedy School. He is now working in the Police Commissioner's office in Cambridge, MA, advising on the implementation of youth engagement programs, and expects also to take a legislative advisor job with the Massachusetts State Senate in the coming months. While he will maintain his rank and title in the National Guard, he says of his work with Cambridge and Massachusetts, "This is the first job in my adult life that doesn't involve putting on an Army uniform."

"IN MEMORIAM" CONTINUED FROM
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Rockaway High School, where she worked until her retirement at age 65. Sylvia then went on to earn her PhD, and taught English for 25 more years at Pace University, St. Joseph's College, and the Borough of Manhattan Community College. As Sylvia neared her nineties, her full-time teaching schedule still included a weekly 6-hour course on problem solving. Sylvia taught until she was 90 years old. As a proud alum of both Hunter High School and Hunter College, she asked that donations be made in her name to both her alma maters.

The Alumnae/i Association has also been advised of the deaths of the following alums:

Erna ROTHSCILD Rosenberg '28
Josephine Catapano, Jan. '36

Bernice OKEN Lemberg '36
Sarah MEYER Sieger '36
Dorothy KARGER Gottfried '37
Muriel GREENEBAUM Wolf '37
Mary E. REDDEN Gallagher '38
Gertrude GALLANT Sanders '38
Ann J. ERHARDT Tomecek '38
Laura CAPOBIANCO Albert '39
Ruth TEITELBAUM Bachrach '40
Lorraine GOVERMAN Wechsler, Jan. '42
Lotte ROSENBERGER Kunstler '42
Adeline AXELROD Shapiro '42
Jean ACKERMAN Hastings, Jan. '44
Corinne S. NOTT Trachtenberg '44
Muriel PLUDE Ebeling, Jan. '45
Joan FLUG Ross, Jan. '47
Miriam SANDBERG Pellman '47
Joan GEENSBURG Jagow, Jan. '48
Madeleine May MILLER Lucas '49
Evelyn SASS Handler '50
Helen T. Kinslow, Jan. '51

Marion HOLAK Schick '54
Sheila GLICKSTEIN Hakner '55
Martha E. TWAROSCH Erickson '57
Susan FORGAN Fields '57
Borisse B. Paulin '57
Marjorie AARONS Mesirov '59
Sheila BRASS Chadwick '60
Harriet KASLOFF Berman '66
Katherine Sacksteder '76/'77 ICY
Ariadne Capsis '77
Rita Coleman '77
Marcia Glicksman '77
Alberta Wright '77
Kimberly Brisbon '77/'78 ICY
David Schweitzer '85
Amy C. Lewis '96
Irene Reyes '01



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