AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION, INC.

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Hunter Alums Are... Involved

t is certainly no secret that Hunter alums take a great deal of pride in their alma mater. Nearly every day, the Alumnae/i Association office is contacted by Hunterites of all ages who convey their deep appreciation for the transformative years that they spent at HCHS. In this issue of AlumNotes, we have sought to highlight some of the ways that alums give back by devoting their time and talents to Hunter, directly impacting the education of students. While we cannot hope to do justice to each of these individuals in this limited space, especially given that alums have always been involved at the high school in one way or another, we hope that by recognizing some of the alums currently serving our students we show our appreciation for all of those who have given of themselves over the years.

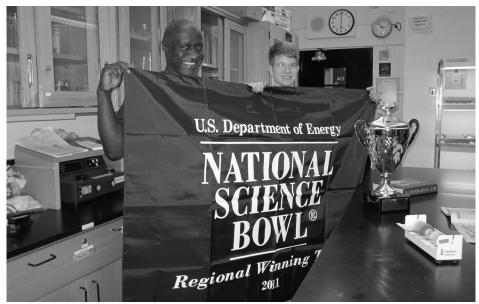
To start, we must acknowledge those alums that have returned to HCHS as faculty and staff. These alums, now part of the venerable history of great Hunter teachers and administrators, literally give themselves day-in and day-out to the school and to the bright young minds that flourish and grow within it. Today, nine alums work at HCHS, representing nearly every department – six in all – as well as the Admissions office. Audrey Maurer '51, who has taught Foreign Languages at HCHS since 1979, says it is "both a pleasure and a privilege" to have a role in "preparing [her] students to be leaders of tomorrow." The appreciation she feels for

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Reunion 2011 Schedule

See Page 3

Hunter Science Research Program Takes Off!



The day after winning the National Science Bowl's Northeast Regional competition, Coach Asumana Randolph and team member Andrew Sherlock '12 pose proudly with their banner and trophy.

utting edge science research opportunities for New York's smartest kids - that's the motivation behind an innovative expansion of the HCHS science curriculum. The 2010 - 2011 school year has seen the Science Department unveil three important new initiatives to increase the number of students doing independent research as well as the quality of student projects: the creation of a laboratory for independent student projects, a new Research Biology course for ninth graders, and additional opportunities for advanced research both within and beyond HCHS's walls. According to Science Department Chair, Dr. Philip Jeffery, alumni support is playing an important role in these developments.

Thanks in large part to Alumnae/i Association funding, there is a new student laboratory for extracurricular scientific research. Last summer, a former storage room on the third floor was converted into a space where students can conduct longer -term experiments that prepare them for science competitions and science internships outside of school. "The space is critical to our longterm success," said Dr. Jeffery. "Without it, our students would still be limited to projects that last only one or two periods." Working in Hunter's new science lab provides a unique and valuable transitional step from the high school classroom to the professional research laboratory. Ninth grade students are using the autoclave and incubator for sterile bacteriology work. Brine shrimp, hydra, and fruit flies are all being cultivated. Tools for amplifying and analyzing DNA are now in students' hands. "The power of having this research facility," according to Dr. Jeffery, "is that students take responsibility for working in a lab. They have to explain their projects to their peers and take care of shared equipment. Already, our students are training each other in the lab protocols and techniques."

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ALUMNOTES

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Our 40th Anniversary

The Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association celebrates its 40th Anniversary Year starting in 2012. We will need volunteers to assist in planning programs and events for this important milestone. Alums interested in joining the HCHSAA's 40th Anniversary Steering Committee should contact Elyse Reissman at 212-650-3349.



A Message From The Executive Director

Greetings Hunter Alums!

It's great to finally have spring weather upon us and summer vacation ahead.

First, a hearty welcome to those Milestone classes celebrating a Reunion this year. If you have not already registered for Reunion 2011, we invite you to do so now, so that you may join your fellow alums in the festivities. A full schedule of Reunion activities appears on page 3. In addition to the General Reunion being held at the high school on Sunday, a host of other events – class parties, cocktail receptions, luncheons, dinners, tours of the old high school on 68th Street, *and* a softball game and picnic in Central Park – have been planned to appeal to every taste and interest. I hope you will join us for as many of these functions as you can. I also encourage you to contact your class coordinator prior to Reunion weekend to confirm all dates and venues.

In other news, the new Alum Ambassador program kicked off last month with a meeting at HCHS led by Kyla KUPFERSTEIN Torres '92, Acting Director of Admissions. Special thanks go to the alums that responded to our Call for Volunteers in the last issue of *AlumNotes*. They will be visiting elementary schools and afterschool programs to speak with young people about their Hunter experience and the opportunities that it made possible, as well as to educate them and their parents on the admissions process. We will be reporting on the progress of this program as it moves forward, so stay tuned.

Five years ago, our Board, led by then-president Mimi Eng '84, made the decision to enter into a partnership with Hunter College to collaborate on a major gift campaign – *Our Foundation*, *Our Legacy* – with the goal of raising \$3 million and establishing a permanent endowment for HCHS. That campaign has now successfully ended. I speak for the school as well as AA Board members past and present when I express our thanks to the many donors who have responded to our appeal with generous gifts. I also want to recognize the outstanding efforts of Matt Blumenfeld '83, who ably led our fundraising efforts. While the campaign has ended, the school's needs go on. If you believe as I do that it is important to support the institutions that matter to you, I hope you will continue to support HCHS through your gifts to the Alumnae/i Association. Gifts to the annual fund support current day needs; gifts to the endowment ensure a stable future; and your Membership Dues keep the Hunter Alum community connected and vital.

Coming this fall we are pleased to be a joint sponsor - along with the high school administration and PTA – in bringing you *TEDx Hunter CCS* on September 24, 2011. Created in the spirit of the non-profit organization TED, whose mission is "ideas worth spreading," the daylong program entitled "The Care of the Future is Mine" will stimulate dialogue throughout the Hunter community. To learn more about the program visit www.tedxhunterccs.org.

The AA office continuously seeks ways to improve upon its communications. For that reason we will soon offer the option to receive *AlumNotes* via electronic download only, without also being mailed a paper copy. We will, of course, continue to produce the print edition, but some have requested an electronic edition as a green alternative. And, as it saves the office on printing and mailing costs, we are all the happier to oblige. Expect more details on this development in the fall.

Finally, I want to thank those volunteer board members who have devoted so much time and energy on behalf of the alumni body who are rotating off this year, Susan Spector '64 and Amy Farber '71. It has truly been a privilege to be able to work with these two remarkable women to help HCHS sustain its place as New York's preeminent school for gifted young people.

Have a great summer!

Elyse Reissman
Executive Director

Elyse REISSMAN

For More Info on TEDx

Email: TEDx@TEDxHunterCCS.org
Web Site: www.TEDxHunterCCS.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/
TEDxHunterCCS

Twitter: @TEDxHunterCCS

HCHS Reunion 2011

elcome back Milestone Classes! We have a number of great events planned for Reunion Weekend, with festivities beginning the evening of Friday, June 3. If you are a member of a Milestone Class (years ending in either 1 or 6) and you haven't already made plans to attend Reunion, it's not too late. In addition to the events organized by the AA, several Milestone Class Coordinators have asked us to post notices for their classmates here in *AlumNotes*. Please contact them directly with any class-specific questions. Of course, all Hunter alums, regardless of class year, are more than welcome to attend Reunion. We'll see you soon!

Weekend Schedule

FRIDAY, JUNE 3

6:00 - 8:00 PM: "Get Reacquainted" Drop-In PS 450, 450 Park Avenue South between 30th & 31st Streets. Cash Bar. Contact Ellen Kackmann '91 at ekack86178@aol.com.

9:00 PM: Young Alumni Drop-In Manchester Pub, 920 Second Avenue @ 49th Street. Cash Bar. Contact Derek Kan '02 at derek.h.kan@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4

2:00 - 5:00 PM: Joe Kubat Invitational Family Softball Game & Picnic, For classes of the '80s-'00s (free of charge)

The Great Lawn at Central Park, Ball Field #1 (Picnic at Turtle Pond Lawn). Best park entrances are West 81st Street or East 79th Street. Contact Matt Blumenfeld '83 at matthew@financialdevelopmentagency.com.

2:00 - 5:00 PM: Tours of Thomas Hunter Hall and Reception, For classes of 1945-70 (free of charge) Meet at Hunter College West Lobby - 68th Street and Lexington Avenue. Contact info@hchsaa.org.

SUNDAY, JUNE 5

HCHS General Reunion 2011 Hunter College High School, 71 East 94th Street

9:00 AM: Registration and Individual Class Meetings

A light breakfast buffet will be provided

10:30 AM: General Assembly

12:00 PM: "Jazz" Brunch in the cafeteria

2:00 PM: HCHSAA Annual Meeting to elect new directors and to present the Treasurer's Report.
All alums are welcome to attend, but only dues-paid members may vote.

REUNION ADMISSION:

\$25 per person for dues-paying members \$35 per person for non dues-paying members

\$15 for Classes of 1961 and earlier and Classes of 2006 and later

Register online at www.hchsaa.org

Class Specific Info

CLASS OF 1946

It's the 65th anniversary for the Class of 1946, and while we have lost track of so many of our classmates and others are unable to travel we want to see as many of you as possible on Sunday. We hope that if you can join us you will. Please email Sue LAUBHEIM Berlin at sberlin996@aol.com if you are planning to attend.

CLASS OF 1951 (JUNE)

Two additional events are planned for our 60th reunion. If you haven't already heard from class coordinator Bobbi (Roberta LIEBERMAN) Norworth please call her at 718-544-0116 or email her at rnorworth@aol.com.

CLASS OF 1971

In addition to the reunion weekend events, where we hope to see as many of you as possible, we are trying to arrange a fall get-together for our class at a classmate's house. We are in

the process of finalizing a date and location, so nothing is definite as of yet. If you are reading this and haven't been in touch with your class coordinator it's possible we don't have a current email address for you. Please contact Sandy Charton at 781-789-5939.

CLASS OF 1981

Everyone in the Class of 1981 should have heard from Mark Lang by now through the class Yahoo group. We're hoping that many of you can make it to this year's 30th, and would like to gather the night before. We're looking for an affordable venue to meet and schmooze; suggestions welcome. If you haven't already signed up or need to update your email address please log in to our group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/hchs1981 or contact Mark at mlang341@gmail.com.

CLASS OF 1986

The Class of 1986 is celebrating its silver anniversary with TWO big gatherings and a reunion concert on Saturday, June 4. For all the latest info on the reunion and minireunions, please visit our official website at: http://www.hchs1986.com/ or contact Brian Chávez at brian@brianchavez.com or 917-566-5016

CLASS OF 1991

Details of the class's events are still being ironed out, but we are planning something for the night of Saturday, June 4 and will be participating in the softball game and family picnic in Central Park on Saturday afternoon. Be sure to join the Hunter College High School Class of 1991 group on Facebook. If you are not on Facebook, email Michael Wertheim at mdwertheim@gmail.com so that you can receive emails with updates about reunion activities.

CLASS OF 2001

In addition to Reunion Weekend, the class of 2001 is organizing a class party on June 18 at a location to be determined. If you haven't heard from your class, please contact Joe Del Senno at delsenno@gmail.com for more information.

Friesner Scholarships Fund a Love of Language

t a small reception on December 14 in the high school's library, Esther FRIESNER-Stutzman '68 and her husband, Walter Stutzman, presented HCHS with a check, formally establishing the new Friesner Scholarships, which will be awarded to two graduating seniors each year from 2011 to 2014.

The substantial \$84,000 commitment from the Stutzman Family Foundation aims to help students who have passionately pursued a love of language during their years at Hunter. Distributed annually in the form of two \$10,000 scholarships, potential recipients will be nominated by the English and Foreign Language departments and selected by the administration based on what Acting Principal Tony Fisher describes as "a career's worth of work in the two subjects" as well as overall academic performance and financial need. Of the many financial awards currently distributed to graduating Hunterites, the Friesner Scholarships are the largest. "It's incredibly generous," says Principal Fisher, "and will help eight students over the next four years to handle the costs of college."

The first recipients of the new Friesner Scholarships will be announced in June. Esther is hopeful that the scholarships will serve as a bridge from a proud past to a bright future: In addition to the pragmatic, forward-looking goal of rewarding merit in the rising generation of Hunter students, this gift also carries symbolic weight and reverence for the past by honoring Esther's parents, who were both part of the long tradition of excellent teaching in New York City's public schools. Her mother, Beatrice, taught English and reading at Walt Whitman and Mill Basin Junior Highs, while her father taught Spanish at Ditmas Junor High and Midwood High.

During her own Hunter days, Esther was particularly enthusiastic about studying English and Spanish, and devoted much of her time outside of class to literary pursuits. In addition to writing for *Argus*, she created her own *Star Trek* fanzine, which allowed her to indulge in her other passion, science fiction and fantasy. Esther credits her experiences at Hunter for honing her nascent craft as a writer and editor. After earning a B.A. in Spanish and Drama at Vassar, and both an M.A. and

Ph.D. in Spanish from Yale, she remained at Yale for several years teaching Spanish. In all that time, Esther never stopped writing, but it was while working as a professor that she began seeking publication in earnest. Esther soon threw herself completely into writing. And, by the early '80s her literary career had taken off.

A prolific writer of science fiction and fantasy works, Esther has published over 35 novels and two hundred short stories, and has edited or appeared in close to seventy anthologies. She is frequently a guest of honor at science fiction conventions. Many of her bestknown works are recognized for their humor. Her Princesses of Myth series reimagines the lives of mythic and historical women like Helen of Troy and Nefertiti. However, in her latest novel, Threads and Flames, Esther enters new territory, writing a solemn story around a very real tragedy of the early twentieth century, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. The fire, which claimed the lives of 146 garment workers one hundred years ago on March 25, 1911, was the deadliest industrial disaster in the history of New York City. Threads and Flames was published by The Viking Press in November.

The Alumnae/i Association and HCHS both gratefully acknowledge Esther and Walter's generosity. "It is truly inspiring to witness this heartfelt gift – it will make a huge difference in the opportunities available to several Hunter graduates," said Matt Blumenfeld '83, who worked closely with the school and the donors to iron out the details of the Friesner Scholarships. "We sincerely

HCHSAA Joins Thomas Hunter Society

he HCHSAA has recently partnered with the Hunter College Foundation on a new initiative designed to encourage planned giving by HCHS alumnae/i.

Established by the Hunter College Foundation in 1994, the Thomas Hunter Society has recognized the vision and generosity of those who have made provisions for Hunter College in their estate plans.

The new Campus Schools branch of the Thomas Hunter Society will recognize all donors who designate HCHS, HCES or HCHSAA as a beneficiary in their estate plans. Gifts can be made either as bequests, or through a charitable gift annuity program. The latter can provide donors with income for the remainder of their lives.

"Partnering on this effort makes sense," says Elyse Reissman, Executive Director of the HCHSAA. "We now have a more systematic and well-defined way of recognizing those alums who have bequeathed a gift to either the AA or the high school."

Those interested in learning more should contact Elyse at elyse@hchsaa.org or 212-650-3349.

hope that Esther and Walter will be able to continue their support beyond the four years of this commitment, and trust that their gift will inspire many other alumni to give back to our incredible school."



Esther FRIESNER-Stutzman '68 and Walter Stutzman (fourth and fifth from left) with faculty and administrators commemorating the inception of the new Friesner Scholarships.

HCHSAA: The Little Engine That Did

n the Spring of 1972, the president of Hunter College, facing millions of dollars in budget cuts from a city on the verge of bankruptcy and a state whose budget was frozen, announced the imminent closing of the campus schools. Just two years earlier, the high school had been relocated, suddenly and unceremoniously, from its home of thirty years on 68th Street and Lexington Avenue, to an office building on 45th Street - a space lacking even basic facilities such as a lunchroom or an auditorium.

Parents, teachers, students, and friends quickly coordinated a campaign of letter writing, lobbying state and city officials to save the school. Realizing that their efforts to ensure the school's survival and secure it a permanent home would be strengthened by the involvement of alumnae, many of whom had political clout, several Hunter High parents planned a "reunion," advertising it in The New York Times and on local radio. Then they crossed their fingers.

It worked.

When the big day came, several hundred alumnae eager to reconnect with former classmates descended upon the school. Shocked into action once they learned of their alma mater's plight, the as-yet-unorganized alums joined in the parents' lobbying effort and successfully blocked the closure of the campus schools. As the HCHSAA's first president, Mildred Speiser, Jan. '49, put it in a speech at Reunion 2009, "From out of the emergency, emerged the Alumnae Association."

Although triumphant over its first and most important challenge, the HCHSAA's early years were anything but easy. However, countless alums "plugged away behind the scenes" according to Mildred. "We were into ideas, new ideas, and implementing them. We were the little engine that could. And we did. Nothing was out of bounds."



Bernice "Bunny" WORMAN Hauser '49 and Mildred Speiser, Jan. '49 - the HCHSAA's second and first presidents, respectively

More on the history of the HCHSAA and the events we're planning to commemorate our upcoming 40th Anniversary in the next issue of AlumNotes.

Alum Events

MoMA Tour

Twelve Hunter alums met at the Museum of Modern Art on Wednesday, February 9 for a docent-led tour of Abstract Expressionist New York: The Big Picture, an exhibit featuring such artists as Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Lee Krasner, and Willem de Kooning. Drawn entirely from MoMA's collection, the show traced the development of Abstract Expressionism from its auspicious beginnings in the 1940s to its seasoned maturity in the 1960s. The docent was extremely knowledgeable and did an excellent job of placing the show in historical perspective. She was fascinated with the "Hunter" questions and discussion around art. After the tour, we had an array of delicious foods and great conversation at MoMA's Café 2. Everyone was enthusiastic about getting to know each other and discussed new ways to engage with Hunter and fellow alums. Watch our website for the next museum event!

Books & Bubbly

What a heady combination! On April 13, close to thirty alums and guests attended a dual book reading by alums Charles Ardai '87 and Deanna Fei '95 at The Bubble Lounge in Tribeca. In addition to imbibing bubbly, alums relaxed while Charles read selections from his book Songs of Innocence, a hardboiled crime story in the noir style so popular in the post-WWII era. Best known as the founder and CEO of Juno Online Service and as Managing Director at D. E. Shaw & Co, Charles is also the founder of Hard Case Crime, a publishing imprint that has resurrected the lost art of pulp fiction. Another one of Charles' books, Fifty-to-One, is to be re-released in paperback this May. Following Charles, Deanna read passages from A Thread of Sky. Called "one of those rare novels that delivers on the promise of its opening pages" by the Chicago Tribune, A Thread of Sky is the story of a family of women who reunite to tour China in the wake of tragedy, seeking to reconnect with one another and with their ancestral home. A New York Times Editors' Choice selection, a new paperback edition of A Thread of Sky was published in March.

The Book of Mormon

One hundred alumni and guests attended the sold-out performance of The Book of Mormon on March 31 at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre, Called "the filthiest, most offensive, and - surprise - sweetest thing you'll see on Broadway this year," by Vogue, "and quite possibly the funniest musical ever," The Book of Mormon is also the most recent Broadway smash by a Hunter alum. Already a Tony Award-winner for his musical Avenue Q, Bobby Lopez '93 teamed up with South Park's Trey Parker and Matt Stone to create this hilariously off-color tale of two teenage Mormons who find their faith and optimism tested on a missionary trip to Uganda. Reviews of The Book of Mormon from the alums in attendance were decidedly positive. Many also made it to the post-show reception just a few blocks from the theatre, at Bann Restaurant and Lounge, where alumni and their guests mingled and enjoyed drinks and appetizers with an Asian twist. The lychee martinis were especially delicious.

"HUNTER SCIENCE RESEARCH PROGRAM TAKES OFF!" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In addition to the new laboratory, the Science Research Program has seen to a targeted expansion of curriculum. The new Research Biology course for ninth graders contextualizes the study of biology with hands-on research, instilling a deeper appreciation for the sciences, while fostering realworld skills. This year, 46 students have completed a literature review including primary research articles and designed their own experiments using microbes, plants, or invertebrate animals. Advanced research students are planning Hunter's first Research Symposium, to be held the evening of May 18. This will become an annual event in which students present their research to the public alongside invited speakers from the sciences. The event is planned and run by the students themselves using the model of a scientific meeting.

While Hunter has always supported individual student research, it has lacked a mechanism through which time and resources could be efficiently focused and organized. "We wanted to make research and discovery much more systematic so that we could significantly expand the number of students we serve in the sciences," said Dr. Jeffery. "Having the research program as a structured part of the school day just makes sense on so many levels, and helps us encourage kids to be inquisitive and imaginative, while providing tangible skills."

Tom Keenan, a full-time Science faculty member, is the newly appointed HCHS Science Research Coordinator. In his role as coordinator, Mr. Keenan is responsible for directing and guiding student work and nurturing relationships between Hunter students and the outside scientific community. In spite, or rather, because of his unique vantage point, Mr. Keenan insists that the beneficiaries of the Science Research Program will not be limited exclusively to a scientifically inclined subset of the student population. "The skills and handson experiences that our students are acquiring," he says, "even those who are not headed for careers in the sciences, are going to pay huge dividends down the road."

Among Mr. Keenan's duties is the management of a new database of alums, parents and others working in the sciences. The database, which is currently being developed, will identify and track potential volunteers who can mentor Hunter students in a host of ways, such as giving talks and judging science fairs,

or consulting with students as they develop project ideas and write grant requests. The Alumnae/i Association will reach out via email later this spring to help connect interested alums with the Science Research program. There is a particular need for securing valuable internship opportunities for students.

Providing real world, lab-based internships can be an eye-opening and inspirational experience. "I've had an incredible experience at my internship," says HCHS Senior Tess Linden, who is interning in the lab of Columbia University biology professor Brent Stockwell '89. "Starting from the first day I walked into Dr. Stockwell's lab, I have learned so much - not just about biology, but about the process of scientific research in general and what it is like to work in a real-world laboratory environment." Tess considers her internship experience a major turning point in her life, one that has clarified her aspirations. "Through my internship I came to realize just how fascinated I am by cell biology. The experience has given me invaluable insight and allowed me to mold and solidify my vision of my future in the field of biology."

Acting Principal Tony Fisher has been thrilled with the program thus far. "This program is a real complement to the core academic curriculum that enables our students to pursue their science interests in depth. Essentially, it implements an auxiliary research support model common at the university level and brings it to our kids, who are absolutely capable of doing that kind of higher level work."

A key milestone in the development of the program was securing the financial support of Judy Lewent '66. Her generous gift of \$50,000 made in the summer of 2010, which also leveraged a corporate matching grant, made it possible for Hunter to designate Mr. Keenan as the Science Research Coordinator this year. (Judy discusses the importance of funding this initiative on the following page.)

"It has been an incredible pleasure to work with Judy, Phil and the Administration to bring this part of the program to fruition," said Matt Blumenfeld '83, who helped to conceptualize and develop the program. "It took a tremendous effort to iron out the details, but we were all motivated by the fact that Hunterites should have the best opportunities possible to discover their potential, and our knowledge of how important the sciences are to our collective future."

Anecdotal evidence is exceptionally positive so far. For instance, this year two Hunter students, Andrew Sherlock '12 and Helen He

'11, were named semi-finalists in the national Siemens Competition in Math, Science & Technology; the HCHS Science Bowl team won the Northeast Regional Science Bowl; and two Hunter teams placed first and second at the Athena Science Challenge, sponsored by Brown University's WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) Program. Additionally, Hunter's performance at the NYC Science and Engineering Fair in March was nothing short of astounding: ten of thirteen Hunter entrants were finalists, with Angela Chen '12 advancing to the final round of the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (held in Los Angeles this May) and Lewis Golove '11 named as first alternate. President Obama even made a surprise visit to the Museum of Natural History during the event, and gave a pep talk to the NYCSEF finalists, telling them that "the most important formula for this country being successful is making sure that our young people are excelling in areas like math, science and technology."

Critical to the ongoing success of the program will be the work of a new Science Research Advisory Committee. The committee's mission is to act as an ongoing resource to encourage and facilitate student research in the sciences and related fields through its work with the Science Department. Both the Alumnae/i Association and the school welcome the participation of alums who are interested in volunteering their expertise and professional resources. Chaired by Marge LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61, retired chair of the Science Department, the committee includes both parents and alums who are involved with the sciences. Alums on the committee are: Marina Picciotto '81, Jean Tom '80, Judy Lewent '66, and our second most recent Intel winner, Adam Cohen '97. We thank them all for their participation. "I look forward to working with this committee and the department," said Ms. Goldsmith. "Hunter's students are the best, and if we can make it easier for them to connect with experts in their field of research, this can be a further incentive towards achieving their research goals. Strengthening the ties between the science faculty, alum science network and our student scientists is a winning combination."

"This program really provides a tremendous way for alums to give back both financially and with time and expertise," said Mr. Blumenfeld. "There are so many of us in academia, medicine and research who can help by providing a lab experience, critiquing a science project, or just talking with a current student."

A Conversation with Judy Lewent '66

mong her many professional accomplishments, Judy Lewent '66, is the retired Executive Vice President & CFO of Merck. A graduate of Goucher College '70 and the MIT Sloan School of Management '72, she currently serves on the boards of Motorola Solutions, Thermo Fisher Scientific, and GlaxoSmithKline. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Judy has served on numerous non-profit boards, demonstrating a consistent commitment to improving opportunities for young people at the elementary, secondary and university levels. She serves on the board at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has been "Principal for a Day" in the New York City public school system for over ten years.

Tai Wong '88 recently spoke with Judy about her involvement in the new HCHS Science Research Program (full story page 1).

TW: You've been involved with the development of the new HCHS Science Research Program essentially since its inception, providing the major funding to get the program launched. How did you become interested and involved?

I've always felt that Hunter provided me the best educational experience of my academic career. I always wanted to stay involved in some way, but career and life intervened. Then, eight years ago, I was invited to return and speak to the students, which was a great experience. Then, several years ago Matt Blumenfeld '83 and the Alumnae/i Association arranged a series of meetings with administrators and faculty members, getting me re-connected with the school and helping me understand what would make an impact. Eventually [former] Principal Eileen Coppola and Science Chair Phil Jeffery came up a proposal that was discreet but high impact.

I was impressed that Eileen, and then Tony Fisher, both wanted a thorough strategic planning process, which led to the recommendation for a science research program. In the business world resource allocation decisions follow vision and strategy. What's been set in place now is a clear set of objectives. Their vision has been one of making Hunter a leader across the disciplines and accomplishing that through strengthening the science and math curricula. Being great in science and math is critical to the success and well being

of this country. We have shown a unique ability to innovate in this country, and we need to cultivate and strengthen that.

I also want to note the support of two former colleagues and friends who have served as a sounding board and convinced me that supporting this program was worthwhile: Dr. Roy Vagelos, the former CEO of Merck, and Dr. Carlo Parravano, the current head of the Merck Institute for Science Education. Both are advocates of advancing science education focused in the local community.

TW: What outcomes would you like to see from this program? What do you see as the key measures of success?

What we want to do is help change student attitudes and goals and help them make more science-oriented decisions in pursuing their education. Attracting motivated, talented students and keeping them engaged over time is key. But, measuring success is tricky as we are working with a long time horizon. The right approach is for the faculty to evaluate this program, one year at a time. I emphasize the need for the faculty to own this program, because they are the ones on the front lines. Hopefully, if the program is working, we will start to see results relatively quickly in science fairs and other competitive forums.

TW: The new Science Research Advisory Committee is an unprecedented type of arrangement for HCHS. What do you see as its role in the program?

The committee should, as a unit, have expertise in science, technology and pedagogy. It should act as a sounding board, provide guidance, and facilitate access to resources. But, its job is not to make decisions.

TW: How would you encourage other alumni to get involved?

The KEY is reconnecting with faculty, students and alumni. The AA has been both willing and effective as a facilitator. They've helped me get back to the school to meet the faculty and the students. It made me feel that I was once again actively part of the Hunter community. In terms of funding programs, public fiscal constraints will remain very tight for an extended period so it's the right time for private contribution.



Judy Lewent '66

TW: Can you discuss the role of mentoring with respect to the HCHS science program?

The best mentors act as resources and sounding boards more than day-to-day coaches; someone who can provide another perspective on courses of study and career decisions. Teachers, parents, and the Science Research Committee can all participate in playing this role.

TW: What words of advice would you give to today's Hunter students?

Formal education is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to explore different disciplines outside of one's major. I had wanted to be a lawyer but I took a chance on an economics course and it led to a rewarding and very fulfilling career.

TW: How did your Hunter experience help shape and prepare you for your career?

The two primary ingredients of a great school are the quality of students and the quality of faculty. Once you have that, the rest takes care of itself. When Hunter was at Lexington Avenue and 68th Street we had very limited facilities, but it was magical because both the students and the teachers were great. I have a strong and fond memory of Ms. Barbara Keyser who was an inspirational Social Studies teacher. Ms. Keyser was a dynamo who epitomized what women could achieve and encouraged us to succeed in any chosen field. I also remember with admiration the instruction in math and foreign language. For example, the dedication and persistence of teachers who required you to speak only French in class. It took me out of my comfort zone but the result has been a lifetime of enjoying French literature.

Hunter Hawks: A Special Report

BY NEIL POTTER, HCHS ATHLETICS DIRECTOR

've spent nearly a decade as the high school's Athletics Director, so I was excited when the Alumnae/i Association recently asked me to contribute this piece to *AlumNotes*. Win or lose, I've always been thankful for the great kids I get to work with here at Hunter. However, we've had such unprecedented success in the last few seasons, it feels great to share some recent highlights with you proud alums.

Hunter's Hawks made history in 2009-2010 and again in 2010-2011, with every single varsity team qualifying for the Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) playoffs. Two of these teams, girls' fencing and boys' soccer, iced the cake by both winning the City Championship for the first time in 2010. Special thanks are due to fencing coaches Nadia and Eugene Nazarov and soccer coach Asumana Randolph, for their outstanding work.

In 2009-2010 seven Hunter varsity teams won division titles: boys' basketball, fencing, and volleyball; girls' lacrosse, fencing, and volleyball; and co-ed bowling. Four of these teams (girls' and boys' fencing and girls' and boys' volleyball) even had undefeated regular seasons. Additionally, a handful of individual athletes represented both the girls' crosscountry and boys' swimming teams at the State Championships. We hope to continue our recent success and keep Hunter Athletics among the top programs in New York City.

As thrilled as I am about our varsity teams' recent successes, I am even prouder that Hunter continues to expand athletic opportunities to an ever-greater number of students. Last summer, the PSAL accepted the entry of our newest varsity teams, boys' and girls' lacrosse, into the



Participants in the annual Alumni Basketball Game held on New Year's Eve 2011 ranged from Class of '85 alums to students in the Class of '14.



Varsity Boys' Soccer made history in 2010. Not only did the team make it to the PSAL finals for the first time, but they won, defeating James Monroe High School 3-0 in the City Championship.

league. Both new lacrosse squads kicked off their first league-sanctioned seasons with matches this March. Other relatively new Hunter teams include bowling and wrestling (both with boys' and girls' squads), and Ultimate Frisbee (coed). Athletic participation for younger students has also grown, as we now have fifteen middle school teams, which are laying the foundation for our success at the varsity level.

Although it's not widely touted, numerous Hunter graduates have gone on to pursue collegiate athletics in the last decade. Some of recent grads currently playing at the college level include Ryan Baxter '08 (Hunter College Wrestling); Brendan Feng '08 (Hunter College Volleyball); Max Segan '08 (Colgate Tennis); Mieszko Tomczyk '08 (Georgetown

Tennis); Hyemi Ahn '09 (Carleton Softball); Eliot Frost '09 (Pomona College Soccer); Jason Lupatkin '09 (Stanford Crew); Gabriel Yanez '09 (Baruch Swimming); Gianni Di Cioccio '10 (Penn State Fencing); Pearson Miller '10 (Yale Fencing); Gail Sanders '10 (Hunter College Volleyball); Kyle Waney '10 (Haverford Baseball); Giovanni Zaccheo '10 (Vassar Fencing); and Nicole Zelek '10 (NYU

Volleyball). And I'm certain that this list is incomplete. That's why I invite any alum who plays or played a college sport to email me at npotter@hccs.hunter.cuny.edu and let me know the school, the sport, and the years in which he or she participated. Photos are also welcome.

We're always looking for new ways to galvanize alumni. In December, Hunter Athletics hosted its fourth annual Alumni Basketball Game, with four decades of Hawks' Boys' Basketball alumni participating. I welcome any alums with an interest in this event, or with ideas for similar events, to get in touch. I would also love to see more of you at our games. You might even run into an old classmate (or teammate!), as four of our current coaches are alums, including Jordan Baltimore '92 (Baseball), James Kurfess '04 (Girls' Volleyball), Eugene Jang '05 (Boys' Volleyball) and Zakhar Berlin '06 (Track & Field). You can follow our teams through the HCHS Athletics website, at www.HCHShawks.com. The site contains up-to-date schedules, team records, and an online store where you can purchase Hawks merchandise.

I look forward to seeing or hearing from you soon.

GO HAWKS!!!

"HUNTER ALUMNS ARE...INVOLVED"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

her own Hunter experience played no small part in her return. As Audrey puts it, "I value my Hunter education above any other. In coming to Hunter to teach, I was returning to the place that provided the foundation for my education and my life."

ALUMS AT HCHS

Admissions: Kyla KUPFERSTEIN Torres '92 Sonia Davis '06

Art and Music: Dan SanGermano '98

English/CT:
Daniel Mozes '84

Foreign Languages: Audrey Maurer '51 Ann GALANO Slavin '65

Mathematics: Stephen C. Young '86

Science:
Joanne Roque '92

Social Studies: Irving Kagan '82

But one needn't necessarily be a Hunter employee in order to engage directly with the school or the students. As HCHS Athletics Director Neil Potter mentions in his special message in this newsletter (see previous page), four alumni currently coach Hunter Athletics teams. James Kurfess '04, for example, coached Girls' Volleyball to an undefeated regular season in 2010 while taking classes at Columbia in preparation for medical school. Of course, coaching isn't an option for everyone. Even with the right credentials, it's a greater time commitment than many can afford. However, plenty of alums still make an impact in the lives of current students simply by sharing what they know and do well, when and how they can.

Someone who embodies the "Be true to your school" mantra as much as anyone is former HCHSAA Vice President Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61, who recently retired from her long-held post as the chair of the Science Department. In 1966, soon after earning her Master of Education from Penn, Marge returned to HCHS to teach. In the

turbulent decade that followed, she witnessed the near-closing of the high school in 1972, the subsequent birth of the Alumnae Association in response to that calamity, and the eventual transition to co-education – all from the perspective of both alum and faculty member. Later, around the time that Marge assumed her role as Science Chair in 1996, she also joined the HCHSAA's board of directors. She has, in short, been very deeply involved with Hunter for quite some time, and seen and done it all. And now, even though Marge has retired from teaching and is currently restricted by term limits from sitting on the Alumnae/i Association Board, she continues to serve Hunter through her new role as chair of the Science Research Advisory Committee. The committee plays a crucial supporting role in the multifaceted new Hunter Science Research Program (see cover story), which, among other things, seeks to connect alumni working in science and technology with the rising generation of Hunterites. As Marge says, "It's a great source of pride to help the school that gave me such a rich educational and professional life in whatever way I can."

Opportunities for alums to engage with students through internships exist in other fields as well. The Hunter Scholars Program, formerly known as the Inter-College Year (ICY) program, allows HCHS seniors the chance to get first-hand experience in the working world by substituting an academic course with an internship that the students have designed themselves. Jose Diaz, one of the program's coordinators says, "It is amazing to see how a student's outlook changes once they begin to interact with professionals in the real world." For more information on how you might help, contact Mr. Diaz at jmdiaz@hccs. hunter.cuny.edu or co-coordinator Giovanna Termini at gtermini@hccs.hunter.cuny.edu.

Another way that Hunter alums contribute to the education of current students is by visiting the high school to speak. In the last issue of AlumNotes (Winter 2011), we discussed Eyewitness to History, an annual event made possible by funding from Eleanor ULLMAN Light, Jan. '49, which invites alumnae whose families survived or escaped the Holocaust to share their experiences with students, supplementing academic instruction with their own family histories. The Social Studies Department, which organizes Eyewitness to History, hosted other alum speakers this year, including Jennifer CHANG Newell '95, a litigation attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union's Immigrants' Rights Project. Addressing the Constitutional Law classes taught by Irving Kagan '82, Jennifer described the federal preemption and equal protection issues raised by new state and local ordinances that require investigation of individuals' citizenship status. Prof. Anne Harrington '77, Chair of Harvard's History of Science Department, also gave a lecture - to both social studies and science classes - titled "From Bumps to Brain Scans: Knowing the Mind by Studying the Brain." Anne's lecture was the latest installment of the Witmer Lecture Series for Students, held annually in memory of Dr. Helen Witmer, a former chair of the Social Studies Department who spent her entire career at HCHS.

The English, Communication, and Theatre Department has also recently hosted alum speakers. For several years running, Aaron Retica '84 has visited the writing classes taught by Daniel Mozes '84 to share his experiences as an editor at *The New York Times*. Additionally, this year Aaron organized a forum with three of his colleagues from *The Times* that addressed the significance of 2010 midterm elections. More recently, in April Rafe Bartholomew '00 visited several English classes to discuss his experience writing *Pacific Rims*, a book that explores the surprising importance of basketball in the culture of the Philippines.

Although a visit from a guest speaker is but a brief interlude in the typical school day, it can have a tremendous impact upon students. Lin-Manuel Miranda '98 claims that a visit by Stephen Sondheim to HCHS when he was a student was so pivotal to his development that he has returned the favor, bringing Mr. Sondheim to speak to the cast of this year's student musical, *Merrily We Roll Along*, one of Sondheim's own.

Other alums play a part by judging student competitions. Greg Keller '92, an actor and playwright, and Lila Neugebauer '03, a director, both judged theatre competitions held at the high school this year. And Jonathan Kirshner '82, Professor of Government at Cornell, meets with other alums annually to judge research papers nominated for the Marienhoff Prize. Jonathan and his fellow judges established the Marienhoff Fund, which awards a \$100 prize to each year's winning paper, in honor of their beloved former teacher, Social Studies Chair Ira Marienhoff.

In short, Hunter alums are *involved* in the lives and education of Hunter students, in a surprisingly diverse number of ways, as they have always been. And although the above is by no means a complete list, we do hope that we've hit upon some of the current highlights and illustrated that Hunter College High School's motto is alive in action. *Mihi Cura Futuri*. The care of the future is mine.

In Memoriam

Fromma EPSTEIN Wellman, Jan. '29 passed away on December 22, 2010. A history teacher and dean at Julia Richman High School in Manhattan for 35 years, Fromma also enriched the lives of thousands of children each summer between 1949 and 1976 at Camp Oquago, a summer camp in the Catskills that she ran with her husband, Henry. Fromma was the first Hunter alum in a family legacy that has spanned nine decades and three generations. Her younger sister, Gertrude EPSTEIN Halpern '31, was a distinguished journalist who died in 1999. Fromma's daughter, Elisabeth WELLMAN Vazquez '60, continued the Hunter tradition. And, most recently, Fromma watched with pride as Elisabeth's own daughter, Rebecca WELLMAN '02 donned a purple robe at graduation. Fromma loved to travel; she and Henry travelled widely in their decades together after retirement. She also loved classical music and was an accomplished pianist. But above all, Fromma loved people. Throughout her life, she was devoted to a very large circle of family and friends, including a number of Hunter alumnae. (Classmate Bernice LIVINGSTON Dickes, Jan. '29 actually became a family member after marrying Fromma's cousin Robert.) In her final days, it was clear that Fromma's devotion to others was returned, as dozens of relatives phoned her from across the country and the world. Hers was a life well lived.

Dr. Elizabeth (Betty) Seittelman '39 died on June 26, 2010. After earning a B.A. from Hunter College and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Fordham, Betty began a distinguished career in education. Working first at the elementary level, she transitioned into secondary education before ultimately being appointed Professor of Classical Languages and Education at York College, CUNY in 1969. Only three years later, Betty became a department chair. During her long tenure at York, she designed courses in Latin, Greek, classical civilization, education and ethnic studies. Betty also contributed to several publications. For 25 years she was a contributing editor with the magazine Classical World. A recognized lecturer and scholar, Betty was awarded numerous honors in her lifetime. The first woman to chair the Council of Chairs at York College, the school recognized her as a Professor Emerita after her retirement. Betty was also elected to the Hunter College Hall of Fame. A humble person who helped many with both personal and professional concerns, Betty is survived by her sister Estelle Seittelman '44.

Ruth (Taffy) Holland '42 died peacefully on February 1, 2011. Taffy was the author of 22 books for children and young adults, including the groundbreaking Mill Child, a history of child labor in the United States, which was selected by the New York Times as one of the "outstanding" children's books of 1970. She received her B.A. in English from Brooklyn College and her master's from Teachers College, Columbia University. A lifelong teacher, Taffy taught in the New York City public school system (still in touch with her third graders from the 1950s) and was a professor of English at Brooklyn College in the 1970s. Taffy's passion for teaching and literature never flagged; she read voraciously and remembered everything she read encyclopedically until the end. Taffy passed on her love of the written word to her children and grandchildren, keeping the entire family immersed in literature, history and politics always knowing and always sharing. She was also a tenacious advocate for social justice, like her hero Eleanor Roosevelt. Along with her husband of 51 years, Leonard Holland, she was in the vanguard of efforts to integrate Stuyvesant Town. Taffy was also an early organizer for the Teachers' Union in the early 1950s. And, during the Vietnam War, she was a very active member of Women Strike for Peace. Taffy's uncompromising devotion to family, her intellectual fire, her conversational brilliance, creativity, sense of adventure, and her boundless humor made her one of a kind. She is survived by her two best friends daughters Claudia and Louisa, as well as both of their husbands and children.

Lenore GREISMAN Barr, Jan. '49 died at home, surrounded by her family, on February 21, 2011. She had fought courageously since being diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 2006. Lenore graduated from Hunter College, Phi Beta Kappa, and later received a master's in school psychology from City College, as well as a master's in criminal justice from SUNY Albany. Lenore was devoted to helping others, spending her professional life working as a school psy-

chologist. An invaluable friend and mentor to many, she volunteered with NGOs in India and Thailand, as well as service organizations in the Albany area. With her husband of 56 years, Martin, she traveled extensively, visiting China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Mexico, Turkey and many other countries. In addition to her husband, Lenore is survived by her four daughters, Sharon, Elissa, Judi and Naomi; her sons-in-law; five grandchildren; and her brother, Bernard.

Pearl (Kiddy) WEISSMAN Meyer '49 passed away peacefully on January 24, 2011. A very special friend to many in her class, she most graciously hosted a luncheon in June 2009 for their "LX" anniversary. She was married to Ira Meyer for 46 years until his passing in 2000. She is survived by loving nieces and nephews, with whom she was close throughout her life, serving as a role model, mentor and friend. A cum laude graduate of NYU, she also completed several years of Ph.D. graduate studies at its Stern Graduate School of Business Administration, where she was the only woman enrolled. She began her career as a statistical specialist in the executive compensation division of General Foods (Kraft). From there she was recruited by executive search firm Handy Associates. While at Handy, Pearl built an executive compensation consulting practice, pioneering a new field in the process. Pearl Meyer & Partners was founded in 1989, and under her stewardship the firm became the preeminent independent executive compensation consultancy. In 2005, she and her partners formed Steven Hall &



Partners and, at her death, she was Senior Managing Director at the firm. On a personal and professional level, Pearl was a woman of great wit, charm and intensity. For over thirty years, Pearl served as trusted advisor to the boards and senior management teams of hundreds of major corporations in almost every industry. She played an integral role in developing many of today's most widely used board and executive compensation programs and arrangements. In addition to her many other roles, Pearl was a mentor to women. As reported in the Fall 2010 issue of AlumNotes, Pearl was recently featured in a New York Times Sunday Business Section profile, one of a series on business leaders. An early member of the Women's Forum of New York, she was also the first woman inducted into the Directorship Corporate Governance Hall of Fame in 2009.

Dr. Claudia HOFFER Gosselin '64

passed away on January 21, 2011 after a long but brave battle with cancer. After Hunter, Claudia graduated from Barnard with a B.A. in French literature, a field of a study she passionately pursued for the rest of her life. While a master's candidate at Middlebury College, she spent the 1968-1969 academic year in Paris, on a scholarship to study at the Sorbonne. Claudia obtained a Ph.D. from UC Irvine in 1977, and spent the following two decades imparting her great knowledge of French language, literature, and translation to others. For eighteen years, she worked in the French Department of California State University, Long Beach, where she influenced countless students and colleagues. Despite living in California for more than thirty years, Claudia always remained a New Yorker, taking great pleasure in politics and the arts, and feeling anxious whenever driving. Claudia often joked that she would be remembered for taking in strays, both animals and people. Indeed, all who knew her will remember her generosity, warmth, and gentle kindness. Claudia is survived by her two loving children, Elisabeth and David, and many friends.

On December 12, 2010, **Nina ELIZABETH Shuman '71** died after a two-and-a-half-year battle with cancer. From 1986 until her

passing, Nina served as the music director and conductor for the Cinnabar Theater, in Petaluma, CA, where she led nearly forty opera productions, including old masters and rare works, as well as west coast and world premieres. Very early in her tenure, she helped create the Petaluma Summer Music Festival, for which she conducted. Nina also toured operas written for specifically for children, and, as an accomplished pianist, she performed numerous chamber concerts and opera galas, including an especially memorable performance of Handel's Water Music on a barge in the Petaluma River. Though her work at Cinnabar Theater kept her busy with operas, concerts and choruses, she also found time to work with numerous other companies in California and across the country. Nina's passion, brilliance, and talent inspired amateur and professional musicians alike. An indomitable musical spirit, Nina came from a family of musicians. Her father was a faculty member of The Juilliard School, and her brother Mark Shuman, who survives her, is a cellist with the New York City Opera.

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

Rae WOLOVITZ Geltman '30 Charlotte SALZ Fischler '34 Catherine C. Otero '36 Miriam GWERTZMAN Bruno '38 Frances SILVERMAN Vaughan '38 Arline FURSTMAN Locker '40 Helen SANDERS Gaffney '42 Gloria DE YESO Dellagatta '43 Miriam LASSNER Jacobs, Jan. '47 Joan RICHMAN Moss, Jan. '48 Mildred KIMBROUGH Cooper '53 Barbara LEE Suess '56 Elaine HOLST Offenborn '57

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e hope that you think of Hunter often – not only of the time that you spent there, but of the lifelong friends you made. We know that whenever the Alumnae/i Association gathers alums together for social occasions, the warmth and happiness that pervades the group is palpable – and we know part of the reason is our shared affection for our alma mater.

When you join the AA as a dues-paying member, you support the full range of programs and services we offer. Income from dues makes it possible for us to offer programs like book readings, museum tours and theater parties, and organize annual events like the Autumn Reception and Reunion Weekend festivities. Your dues also pay for *AlumNotes*, email communications, and the maintenance of our website. All of these things help us stay in touch with each other and the school. And, as a dues-paid member, you receive discounted admission to reunion weekend and other programs.

While the number of alums we serve keeps growing, we have kept the price of membership low to keep it accessible to everyone. Basic dues are only \$35 a year (and are fully tax-deductible) and discounts are available for those on a fixed income and graduates from Classes 2006 or later.

To make membership giving as convenient as possible, we are now offering Milestone Classes – which, this year, includes alums with graduation years ending in 1 or 6 – the option to renew their membership for five years.

Membership rates can be found on the payment form on the back page of this newsletter. Renew your membership today by sending your payment in the enclosed envelope, or, to pay by credit card visit our website http://www.hchsaa. org/joinus.htm

To find out if your membership is current, check the expiration date printed above your mailing address. If you have already paid your dues for this year, please accept our sincerest thanks.

Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc. Hunter College East, Room 1314E 695 Park Avenue New York, NY 10065

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