

Winter  
2015

# AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION, INC. • VOLUME 41, NUMBER 2



Transforming Education PAGE 7

## Letter From the Co- Presidents

Dear fellow Hunter graduate,

As we begin 2015, we would like to thank you for your support and gifts through 2014 and especially during our Annual Fund drive in December. The board of the HCHSAA continues to work on broadening and diversifying the ways in which we can serve Hunter alumnae/i and support Hunter College High School students.

During the fall, our Autumn Reception and Book Reading featured Patty CHANG Anker '88, who read selections from her new book, *Some Nerve: Lessons Learned While Becoming Brave*, at the high school library. We also sponsored an alumnae/i museum tour led by Susan Meeker of the "Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion" exhibit at the New-York Historical Society. Laura Auricchio '86 hosted a book reading and reception at The Lotos Club for her new book, *The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered*.

We are very much looking forward to an all-Hunter evening at The Public Theater in March when Tony and Grammy award-winning Lin-Manuel Miranda '98 will be performing in his new musical, "Hamilton." This event is sold out, but look for details on our next theater event!

The HCHSAA is collaborating with the high school to focus on diversity efforts with respect to the student body and alumnae/i. As in past years, due in large part to the generosity of alumnae/i, we will be funding various initiatives and projects at the high school in response to grant requests received from the high school.

Please keep up with what's going on at the high school and the HCHSAA by visiting our website: [www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org), and providing us with your email address to receive e-newsletters. If you are on Facebook, please join us on the "Official Hunter College High School Alumnae/I Association" at: [www.facebook.com/officialhchsaa](http://www.facebook.com/officialhchsaa).

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you at our upcoming events.

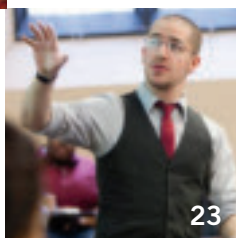
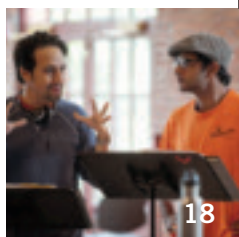
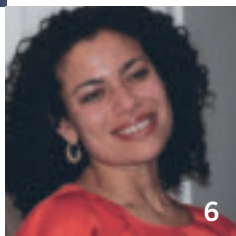
Sincerely,



Matthias Li '95  
Co-President



Angela Liang '91  
Co-President



## ALUMNOTES WINTER 2015

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Cover Photo—L to R: Stephen Young '86, Mathematics; Victoria Meng '96, English; Joanne Roque '92, Science; Irving Kagan '82, Social Studies; Daniel San Germano '98, Art. Missing from Photo: Dr. Audrey Maurer '51, Foreign Languages; Dr. Danny Mozes '84, English; Director Kyla Kupferstein Torres '92, Admissions





*"In my 24 years in education, no program has ever demonstrated the sheer power of students learning to apply 'book learning' to real-life applications with such intensity, fun and power."*

*—Lisa Siegmann, Assistant Principal HCHS*

# Engineering Success

The mission of the First Robotics Competition (FRC), founded in 1989 by inventor Dean Kamen, is to transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where "young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders." Kamen, for those who don't know, designed the Segway, a two-wheeled human transporter, and portable insulin pumps for diabetics.

To share his enthusiasm for the important potential of science and technology in advancing humankind, Kamen created the FRC program for grades 9-12 ([www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org)), calling it "Sport for the Mind." Each year, thousands of high school students come together in teams of 25 or more "to build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors." The competition simulates "real-world engineering." Professional engineers mentor the teams and demystify complex software and hardware enabling the students to design their own robots.

Participating teams compete for over \$20 million in college scholarships. The ultimate purpose of the FRC program is to build self-confidence and life skills while encouraging students to pursue careers and education in engineering and technology.

This past year, Hunter's 2014 robotics team "3419 RoHawks" won the First Robotics NYC Industrial Design Award and the Greater

DC Regional Excellence in Engineering Award. This was an especially significant honor and tribute to the thinking and education occurring in the classrooms of HCHS since there are no engineering courses offered. The program, supported by the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, offers participating students hands-on experience in robotics.

Assistant Principal Lisa Siegmann reported on the robotics program: "The FRC robot challenge [in 2014] was to build a robot that could shoot a large exercise ball (the kind of stabilization ball used in Yoga or Pilates classes) across the field and into one of three, increasingly difficult goals. Extra points were earned if you could control your robot to pass the ball to another robot in different zone of the field as part of the strategy. As in all FRC competitions, the opening minutes of the game are purely programmed, "autonomous play" in which the robot must be able to aim, shoot and score without human assistance (beyond hitting the "on" button, of course). We built a robot that was consistently high-point shooter, our student driver was excellent at passing the inflatable ball and we solved previous year issues of not adequately structuring a solid enough robot with an outer frame able to withstand the crash and contact of the other competing robots."



FRC Founder Inventor Dean Kamen

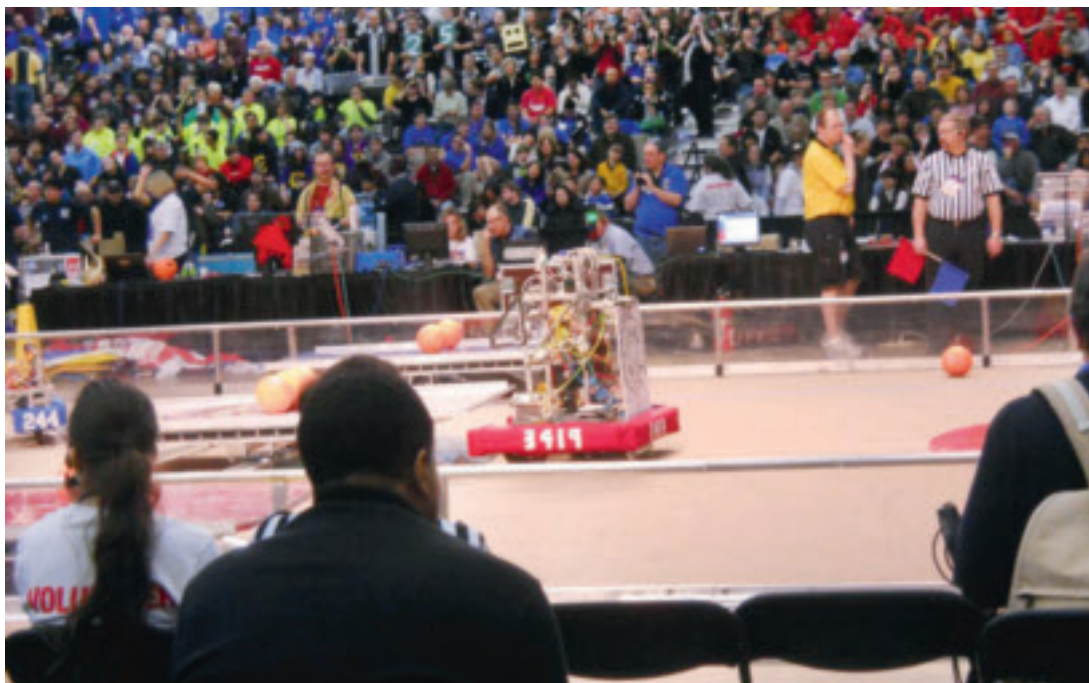
## Learning by Doing

Ms. Siegmann emphasized the lessons Hunter students learn through the competition.

"Last year, we experimented with a type of motor (window motor) that is commonly used to power and regulate the energy for small intermittent speed processes. As a manageable motor with variety and speed, they are used often in robots and small mechanical devices that need lightweight energy regulators. We embraced this particular plan and used multiple window motors throughout the robot. However, we learned that we had created a daisy-chain of potential power failures when these small motors turned out not to be up for the challenge of day-after-day hours-after hours competition and burned out. This left us with the recurring crisis of a sudden small failure of one small function of the robot, that at any given moment, if needed in the competition would put us out of the game. It was a heartbreaking lesson and the children



*"Sport for the Mind"  
First Robotics Competition*



can now chant: NO MORE WINDOW MOTORS. We also learned that the robotic arms that will pick up an inflatable ball should not be pointy."

The value of the First Robotics Competition is to enable students to experience engineering in action.

According to FRC founder Kamen, "More than ever, the world needs good engineers." Kamen began the program over two decades ago to address the huge numbers of youth pursuing sports over science. "I saw how

few kids in this country - particularly women and minorities - were even thinking of going into science and technology." To engage students, he intentionally combined "the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology" to create the First Robotics program. Hunter's Siegmann concludes, "In my 24 years in education, no program has ever demonstrated the sheer power of students learning to apply 'book learning' to real-life applications with such intensity, fun and power."

## News from the School

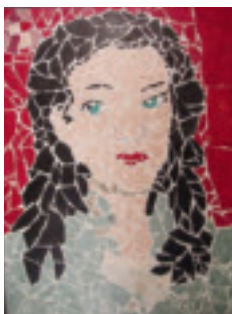
*(Please note: New school policy prohibits the listing of last names for students.)*

### Alex K '16 wins NYC Mayor's Award for Excellence and Technology

**Alex K '16** was one of two recipients of the prestigious New York City's Mayor's Award for Excellence in Science and Technology. The award was presented by the Korean American Scientists and Engineers Association of New York (KSEANY) at the 21st annual Mathematics and Science Fair Awards. "It is a very difficult task to win these awards in both mathematics and science, which are probably the two most competitive subjects," stated KSEANY chairman Stephen Suh.

### SIX HCHS Winners in 2015 Young Arts Competition

Out of approximately 11,000 applications, the Young Arts Competition elected



Top: Shakespeare Performance; bottom: original student art

786 artists for their outstanding work and accomplishments in at least one of ten disciplines across literary, visual, design and performing arts.

Congratulations to the following HCHS students:

Maya B '16, Finalist: Creative Nonfiction  
Milo D '15, Honorable Mention: Short Story  
Aviva R-C '15, Merit: Poetry  
Michael D '15, Honorable Mention: Piano  
Faith P '15, Merit: Viola



Sharing a Laugh in English Class

## Boys Fencing Team wins NYC PSAL CHAMPIONS

Once again the Boys' and Girls' fencing programs have both PSAL trophies back at Hunter!! In a dramatic sudden death finish, the Hunter boys outlasted Brooklyn Tech to claim the PSAL title. Hunter Boys Fencing finished second place in Epee and third in foil, which pitted them against Brooklyn Tech in a tie-breaker playoff. It was the first time in school history that Hunter Boys' Fencing went into sudden death with the city title on the line, and they proved more than capable of coming through in such a high pressure situation.

Top fencers **Spencer G '11** and **Malcom M '11** both won their final matches to cement a thrilling and impressive Hunter victory.

## Sarah H '16 is named 2014 SIEMENS Regional Finalist

Congratulations to senior **Sarah H '16** on earning the distinction of being a SIEMENS Competition Regional Finalist for her Math-

ematics Project entitled, "On the two- and three-dimensional cylindrical nonlinear Poisson-Boltzmann equation." Sarah's project was done at Research Science Institute under the mentorship and guidance of Dr. Udayan Mohanty, a Professor at Boston College. Sarah's project is among the top 30 individual projects in the country. She will be competing next month in the regional finals in Pittsburgh, PA against five other students to become a national finalist.

## Serina H Wins National Math Prize For Girls

On September 27th, several HCHS young women competed in the Advantage Testing Foundation's *Math Prize for Girls: Inspiring Young Women to Become the Mathematical Leaders of Tomorrow*. **Naomi S**, **Kimberly H**, **Stephanie Y** and **Serina H** competed in the annual mathematics competition held in Boston; several other HCHS students qualified as well. Serina won tenth place nationally.



Top: HCHS Boy's Champion Fencing Team 2014-2015; bottom: Hunter students participate in community service project.







Laura Auricchio '86 reading from her book: *"The Marquis: Lafayette Reconsidered,"* at the Lotos Club, 5 East 66 Street, NY.

*"More so than any school I've heard of, Hunter lets the students run things."*

*-Adam Rauscher '98*

# Transforming Education: Teaching NextGen Leaders

**Y**ou've probably heard all [the new education] buzzwords: inquiry- or project-based learning, blended classrooms, gamification, play, etc. Whether the cheerleaders shout '21st-century skills,' character education, or entrepreneurship, it is clear that we want children to have a school experience that is not only about facts and content, but also about empowering thoughtful individuals." —Slate Magazine, Dec 2014

The previous paragraph was excerpted from the online journal, *Slate Magazine*. The writer reveals that the contemporary mandate for improving our failing public school system (both in New York and across the nation) is through experiential learning programs that "empower" thoughtful intellectual inquiry in students.

Yet Hunter College High School has been doing exactly that since Year One, or rather, 1869, when its earliest incarnation, The Female Normal and High School first opened. An 1878 Harper's Magazine article asserted that the aim of the school for students was "not so much to burden the mind with facts as it is to develop intellectual power, cultivate judgment, and enable the graduates to take trained ability into the world with them." This goal was a remarkable achievement for an all girls' school in the 19th century when women were very much the property of their male

counterparts and were still four decades away from the right to vote.

Hunter has been approaching education the same way ever since. For over a century, Hunter High produced some of the leading women scientists, feminists, writers, and teachers who in turn educated generations of 20th century thinkers. Former Harvard president and Treasury Secretary Larry Summers who claimed math and science were not common to female DNA clearly didn't know Hunter girls, including HCHS alumna and MIT professor, "The Queen of Carbon," **Mildred SPIEWAK Dresselhaus '47**, who won the 2014 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The history of Hunter College High School reveals that innovative leaders in their field were produced in record numbers. The 146 year-old institution has supported independent intellectual inquiry in its gifted student body long before buzzwords like "inquiry- or project-based learning" were invented.

Since the 1970s with the "controversial" decision to let boys into Hunter halls, the same academic and outspoken thought-leadership has remained for the gender-equal population. Hunter alums seem to be inspired by both the stellar HCHS teaching staff and their exceptional peers.

"I don't know if my Hunter education contributed to my career path, because I'm still not quite sure how I ended up being a professor. But I know that I was profoundly influenced

by outstanding and dedicated teachers; a gifted (as they say), stimulating, and diverse student body; and I should add the thrilling (if at times harrowing) experience of taking the subway to school in an era when the city flirted with anarchy. I feel enormously appreciative to have had the opportunity to attend HCHS."—**Jonathan David Kirshner '82**, Professor of International Political Economy, Cornell University

"I loved the intellectual freedom we were given at Hunter, and the expectation that we could do well with any topic we wished to explore. I think we were taught interdisciplinary approaches to material long before that became mainstream." —**Abigail Hornstein '90**, Professor of Economics, Wesleyan

"More so than any school I've heard of, Hunter lets the students run things. We edited the newspapers, directed the plays, and made lots of decisions. I feel like I'm much more confident and capable because of it. And when a young man loses control and starts screaming everything he can think of, I am confident enough to stay cool, let it run its course, then help him learn from that."—**Adam Rauscher '98**, Family Teacher, Boys town, Portsmouth, Rhode Island

## ALUMNOTES SURVEY ON EDUCATION

**N**ever was the confidence of Hunter graduates' more clear than the recent *AlumNotes* survey we conducted on education. On our Facebook.com/officialhchsaa page, we asked alumnae/i two questions:

- *Who among the alums reading this are educators (teachers, professors, administrators)?*
- *How did your Hunter High education influence and/or inspire your decision to become a teacher?*

The response was as immediate, passionate and purposeful as Hunterites them-

selves. Over 100 responses came through in the first two days via Facebook posts and email. Old friendships were rekindled, "I didn't know you taught there," "I didn't know you were a student there!" "Let's have a drink!" and new friends were made.

**Bobbi BRICKMAN Bremmer, '76**, HCHS science teacher from 1984-2000, remarked in her email, "I have to say wow...it was thrilling to see so many of my classmates and former students post in response to your question. Definitely, attending HCHS not only influenced my decision to study science, but also to pursue a teaching career."

Enthusiasm poured forth from teaching

alums' who shared their vocations and passion for their Hunter foundation.

**Purvi Sevak '91** (pictured right), an economics professor at Hunter College

remarked, "It's fun to see the bounty of academics" from her years at HCHS.

The camaraderie that formed in the Facebook teaching community with fellow alumnae/i was palpable. We share here some of what you, your peers, former students and teachers had to say.



"As a student, I distinctly remember classes taught by **Parker Baratta, Jack McNeil, Sue Leung Eichler, Mrs. Sinclair** and of course my mentor and dear friend **Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61**. The passion with which they taught their individual subjects excited all their students and brought the material alive. I learned right then and there, that's what makes a great teacher! As a senior at HCHS, one of the classes I took was the internship in which a student worked closely with a teacher and learned the "ropes" of teaching. I got to intern with Marge and all of the lessons she taught me back then, I still carry with me. Today as I teach my students and mentor new teachers, I find myself at times in front of my classroom or in another meeting wondering, how Marge would

answer this question? Hunter is never far away from my thoughts or my heart.

I truly don't know if I would be where I am today or the type of teacher I am today without my experiences both as a student and faculty member at Hunter. They were great times."

- **Bobbi Brickman Bremmer '76**,  
Teacher at Livingston High  
School, NJ



"My Hunter education influenced my career choice in that I saw how passionate my teachers were about their classes and how much they enjoyed being with the students in the class and as advisors to extracurricular activities. We all had fun as part of learning. Whatever stresses they felt were not communicated to us at all.

Some inspiring moments: Those "aha" moments when students understand a difficult concept. Sharing exceptional achievements with students. Getting beautiful notes of appreciation after graduation and working with wonderful colleagues in the science department. The semesters flew by and never a dull moment!"

- **Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61**, HCHS Retired  
Science Department Chair



"Hunter really impacted my career choice - I took Mr. Gregory Boyle's AP Psychology course in my senior year and fell in love with psychology. But prior to that I also fell in love with science, the scientific method, the classroom environment (although I recognize that Hunter may not have "typical"



classrooms), and academia. Just the whole idea of devoting your life to trying to figure out amazingly cool puzzles about the universe and human behavior, discussing/debating these ideas with others, and also learning to objectively look at (and produce!) the data that can inform how we understand each other.

Senior year I was also a teaching assistant for **Dr. Rembert Herbert's** eighth grade English class. Dr. Herbert was my eighth grade English teacher and it was a surreal (and wonderful!) experience being his teaching assistant. He is hands down one of the greatest teachers I've ever seen - super knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and with an amazing ability to pull people out of their shells, to see which students needed nudges and exactly which directions the nudging should happen. Classes were joyous and full of energy and I can still vividly see him at the front of the room talking with us and laughing and reciting the first lines of *The Canterbury Tales* in original Middle English. Classes with him showed me how exciting learning (and teaching) could be, how dynamic the process is, and also how the arts and sciences are really the same thing in a lot of ways - all about thinking and creativity and trying to find beauty to get at the truth.

Finally, I think Hunter was really formative for me because it was so challenging. I wasn't the best at anything and I didn't feel like I was that smart because I was surrounded by amazingly talented

people. That was a little tough for me at the time but was actually really helpful down the line because once you get to the other side of schooling - when you're actually trying to produce new knowledge, you need to be able to sit with the feeling of being a complete idiot. Because chances are no matter how smart you are and no matter how hard you work, your experiments will fail many times and even when things work, a few years down the line someone will come around and prove that you were wrong. But the beautiful thing about science is that this is totally okay, and actually the way things are supposed to happen. <http://xulabisu.weebly.com/>



- Xiaomeng (MONA) Xu, Ph.D. '01  
Assistant Professor of Psychology,  
Idaho State University



"In twelfth grade I took **Mrs Morello's** philosophy class and I still remember one saying from Heraclitus: "You can never step in the same river twice." That saying really resonated with me and led to my thinking that I should therefore always make sure I really want to step into any particular river. That is why I didn't go straight to grad school for the Ph.D. - instead I worked in consulting and banking first. Similarly, I have consistently explored the 'river banks' before

concentrating my energy in the 'river'. In short, that was perfect preparation for teaching at a liberal arts college.

In spring 2014, a student came to my office to discuss material the day before a test. She asked a question that really resonated with me. Rather than giving the direct answer I just gaped and said 'Where did you go to high school that you learned to think like that?' So, I conclude my Hunter experiences of 84-90 are similar to those of more recent years."

- Abigail Hornstein '90,  
Associate Professor of Economics  
at Wesleyan University



"One thing I saw at Hunter was people from a variety of backgrounds. Not everybody had the same family advantages. I did not see that much in suburban Staten Island.

**More importantly, I saw how the right education leveled a lot of the playing field.**

I really value the relationships I had-- and in some cases, continue to have-- with teachers at Hunter. When I contemplated changing careers, I consulted with two of my former teachers from Hunter first. I hope I can have the same kind of relationships with my boys.

I often catch myself trotting out phrases I stole from teachers at Hunter. Dr Herbert said, "The genius must be supported by the labor."

More importantly, Hunter taught us a lot about how to solve problems on your own. Boys Town has a system that has been thoroughly researched and tested, but they know that every child is different. We have to personalize the system to fit each youth's needs. Figuring out those needs takes a lot of work. Connecting small repetitive actions helps us see patterns in behavior, then we can determine how to stop that behavior. Plus, all the work we did in speaking for ourselves is a huge help in dealing with judges, government agencies, and families."



- **Adam Rauscher '98**, Teacher at Boys Town, Portsmouth, Rhode Island



"I was definitely inspired by my first and best psych professor, **Jane Lewis**, and my most influential psychology professor. I took a personality psychology course with her in tenth grade, in 1982. She impressed me so much that I immediately changed my handwriting to mimic hers -- but more importantly, she helped me discover a love for personality and clinical psychology that later became the focus of my graduate study and career. It is hard for me to articulate the many ways in which I was influenced by Ms. Lewis' teaching, but I know I

consciously strive to pass on the lessons she taught me and think of her often.

First, like Ms. Lewis, I aim to model and reward hard work, passion and integrity in my classes. For example, I give daily exercises to grade students on their preparation for class, but emphasize that honesty is more valuable than the illusion of perfection (e.g., allowing two dropped quizzes, and giving better grades for honest IDK answers than for attempts to BS). I also use our personal experiences, current events, and humor in teaching.

Second, I put an emphasis on writing about psychology, in which I check for (even inadvertent) plagiarism and insist that the student articulate their own ideas. Ms. Lewis did that for me -- evidently having gone to the NYPL to look up my sources -- and though I was mortified by her critical feedback at the time I am infinitely grateful for that lesson.

Third, I aim to model and directly affirm non-traditional and exploratory learning/career paths. (Ms. Lewis was known for having been a professional dancer prior to her long career in teaching, and after that became a lawyer.) I encourage taking time to work between college and graduate school and advise students not to be concerned about being 'out of sync' with their classmates. To make the most of opportunities as

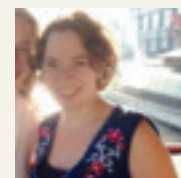
they arise, it is important to pay attention to maintaining your long-term stamina and to take in all that you can. Life is more like a marathon than a sprint."

- **Kathy Berenson '85**, Professor of Psychology at Gettysburg College



"My Hunter English classes were fantastic, and absolutely formative for my teaching, especially since I didn't get an education degree. I had **Dr. Rembert Herbert** in seventh grade and was his teaching intern for an eighth grade class when I was a senior. I've never heard of any other school having a program like the teaching internship one-- does it still exist? It got me started and I never stopped.

**Lois Refkin, Deborah Johnson** and **Kip Zegers** were also really great teachers and I reference my experiences in their classes still. In recent years I've enjoyed interacting with Lois Refkin as a colleague, and getting to know some Hunter English teachers as colleagues."



- **Sophie Oberfield '97** Teacher, Stuyvesant High School. Freshman Composition, Classical and Modern European Literature, American Literature.



*“Want to know about teaching? HCHS is six degrees of separation from the center of the Universe.”*

*-Anna Morello '53.*

*Taught at HCHS from 1957 to 1991.*



**FORMER TEACHER, IRVING KIZNER, WELCOMES CONTACT FROM FORMER STUDENTS:**

Our former Latin teacher, mythology teacher, German teacher, guidance counselor, raconteur and all around nice guy, Irving Kizner has moved to Needham MA. He can no longer drive and would love to hear from his former students and friends.

—Jeanette Bersch '60

Please contact him at: 235 Gould Street #103A Needham MA 02494. 781-444-5679 nat1728@aol.com.

## From Students to Teachers: Hunter Alums Are Forever Learning

### TEACHING ALUMNAE/

**Anna CACACE Morello Jan. '53.** Hunter College High School, Social Studies Teacher. Retired.

**Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61.** Science Dept. Chair. Hunter College High School. Retired.

**Eleanor VOKET Kempin '63.** Worked for NYCDOE as an Audiologist, IEP team at HHVI (hearing handicapped, visually impaired unit), also taught speech.

**Brenda MURRAY Dunn '64.** Taught for more than thirty years after graduating from CCNY in 1968.

**Sheri Berenbaum '67.** Tenured psychology professor with her own research lab at Penn State.

**Marlena Corcoran '68.** Taught college in the US and Germany. Founded: Athena Mentor.

**Ettie Ward '68.** St John's University Law School, Professor of Sports Law.

**Wendy SPANGLET Klepetar '69.** College of St. Benedict/St. John's University, Professor of Global Business Leadership.

**Susan Boiko M.D. '70.** University of California, San Diego. Assistant Professor of Pediatric Dermatology.

**Kathy KRASNY Ryan '71.** Teaches Math at a community college and online college courses.

**Robin Rosenthal '71.** Adjunct lecturer at Bronx Community College. Teaches jujitsu, judo, yoga.

**Sheryl SILVERMAN Polofsky '74.** Adjunct Statistics Professor at SUNY Farmingdale, Westbury, Suffolk Community College and St. Joseph's.

**Roberta WEINER Strenka '74.** Second grade teacher. Athens, NY.

**Martha Hodes '75.** New York University. Professor of History.

**Bobbie BRICKMAN Bremmer '76.** Livingston High School, NJ. Science Teacher.

**Irene SEGAL Ayers '77.** NYU Law. Assistant Professor of LLM Lawyering; Legal Skills.

**Laurie Prendergast '80.** Former Public School teacher, Grade 6. Boston, Newton, MA.



Amy Werbel currently teaches at FIT

## You Can Go Home Again

A former corporate IT executive, **Stephen Young '86** left a successful Wall Street career at Citigroup to return to his high school alma mater as a mathematics teacher seven years ago – a decision he has never regretted. “I thought about teaching or becoming a professor as a teaching assistant” while a student at HCHS. “I enjoyed it, but I thought teaching high school would get boring.” Instead, he found his corporate job dissatisfying and reignited his love for teaching.

“Teens are fascinating; they have interesting lives, stories, thoughts.” Mr. Young revealed that he never gets “bored” with teaching. “Every year, the students are different; so their ideas are different.” He also enjoys working with his HCHS colleagues including **Lindy Aboody** of the HCHS mathematics department. “I was her student in 9th grade. Now she is my office mate,” he laughs.

As an HCHS teacher, Mr. Young claims that he doesn't have the same classroom management issues many other high school teachers have. “I don't have to worry about that. The worst problem might be kids talking in the back of the room. Then they tell you: ‘We were chatting about problem four.’”

“Hunter students are interested in learning and understanding. Their primary motive isn't chasing the grade,” He adds that he is “inspired” to go to work every day. “Something I have been trying to be since 1986.”



L to R: Christine Quinones '86, Stephen Young '86, Michael Rose '87, Angus Johnston '86

**Mitsi Ito '81.** Teaches ESL/EFL in Barcelona (Catalunya) since 1988.

**Brenda Rich '81.** Elementary school librarian, Lexington, MA.

**Karen Schwartz '81.** Teaches Yoga and Meditation.

**David Wallace '81.** Adjunct Journalism Instructor (ten years). Emerson College and Boston University.

**Laura Harrington '82.** Boston University, Professor of Comparative and Asian Religions.

**Irving Kagan '82.** Hunter College High School, Social Studies.

**Jonathan David Kirschner '82.** Cornell University. Professor of International Political Economy.

**Martha Schulman '82.** Teaches Writing and Literature at The Cooper Union; also runs the Cooper Union Summer Writing Program for high school students.

**Dan Weber '82.** Pratt Institute. Professor of Communication Design. Teaches “advertising portfolio building class for seniors.”

**Amy Werbel '82.** Fashion Institute of Technology. Associate Professor of Art History.

**Sarah A. Kass '83.** Mercy College. Teaches Psychology. Also tutors at Princeton Review.

**Andrea Gordon '83.** University of Connecticut. Teaches Family Medicine.

**Mari Franklin '84.** Lawyer/education consultant: Primary, secondary, post secondary education and college counseling (Chicago).

**Marianne Haughey '84.** Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine. Assistant Program Director for the residency program.

**Danny Mozes '84.** Hunter College High School. English.

**Kathy Berenson '85.** Gettysburg College. Professor of Psychology.

**Laura Auricchio '86.** Dean of The New School for Public Engagement. Professor of History.

**Allan Tulchin '86.** Shippensburg University. Associate Professor; former HCHS Social Studies Teacher.

**Stephen C. Young '86.** Hunter College High School, Mathematics.

**Doni Gewirtzman '88.** New York University. Professor of Constitutional Law and Theory.

**Hannah Lipman '89.** Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Associate Professor, Bioethics.

**Lily Shapiro '89.** New York University. Center for Research in Crime and Justice.

**Roy Gal '90.** University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy, Assistant Professor of Astronomy.

**Ron Colombo '90.** Hofstra University School of Law. Professor of Law.

**Alexandra Garbarini '90.** Williams College. Professor of History.

**Lori Hoepner '90.** Columbia University. Research, Health Sciences.

**Abigail Hornstein '90.** Wesleyan University. Professor of Economics.

**Emily Klein '90.** Montclair State College. Professor of Education.

**Melinda Lopez '90.** Providence, Rhode Island. Elementary school. 20 years.

**Charles Murtaugh '90.** University of Utah. Professor of Human Genetics.



**Leigh Raiford '90.** University of California at Berkeley. Professor of African American Studies.

**Sarah Kovner '91.** University of Florida. Professor of History.

**Gerome Miklau '91.** University of Massachusetts. Professor of Computer Science.

**Joel Shapiro '91.** Oxford University. Professor of Business/Finance.

**Marta Ameri '91,** Colby College. Professor of Archaeology, Art History.

**Oliver DeWolfe '91.** University of Colorado - Boulder. Professor, Theoretical High Energy Physics.

**George Greco '91.** Goucher College. Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

**Denise Stokes Truxler '91.** Certified Homeschool teacher.

**Kyla Kupferstein Torres '92.** Hunter College



High School. Director of Admissions.

**Joanne Roque '92.** Hunter College High School. Physics/Astronomy.

**Michael Granne '93.** Sarah Lawrence College. Professor of History.

**Gabriella Gruder-Poni '93.** Teaches rhetoric at Hampden-Sydney College.

**Dorothy Jones '93.** NYCDOE: The Young Women's Leadership School, High School English.

**Kristin Lane '93.** Bard College. Associate Professor of Psychology.

**Irene Biagorri '93.** Middle School Social Studies, NYC.

**Erica ROSENFELD Halverson '93.** University of Wisconsin-Madison. Associate Professor of Education.

**Soniya Munshi '93.** Sociology and Asian American Studies. CUNY, BMCC.

**Elior Boyum '96.** Teacher since 2002, all but one of those years in Kindergarten.

**Victoria Meng '96.** Hunter College High School. English.

**Simon Rodberg '96.** Principal of DC International School, a charter school in Washington, DC.

**Joshua Richter '97.** Clinical Assistant Professor at Rutgers University. Hematology/Oncology.

**Sophie Oberfield '97.** Stuyvesant High School. Teacher, Classical, Modern European, American Literature.

**Emily Chang '98.** NYC public school teacher. First grade in Bushwick, Brooklyn.



**Adam Cohen '98.** Harvard University. Professor of Physics, Chemistry.

**Andrew Gursky '98.** PS169, K-5. Technology Teacher.

**Meaghan BOYLE Lynch '98.** Former Special Education at the NYC Lab HS in Chelsea.

**Adam Rauscher '98.** Boys Town USA. Teacher of "At-Risk" Youth.

**Daniel SanGermano '98.** Hunter College High School. Art.

**Luke Stein '98.** Arizona State University, Professor of Business/Finance.

**Michael Frank '99.** Brown University. Associate Professor of Brain Science.

**Andrew Obus '99.** University of Virginia, Assistant Professor of Mathematics.

**Benjamin Rapoport '99.** Professor of Neuroscience. Cornell Weill.

**Lona Kaplan-Werner '99.** Was NYC Teaching Fellow. Helped build a charter school in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Currently teaches Dance, Music, Theatre to Special-Education, K-8 students in NYC.



**Judd Kessler '00.** University of Pennsylvania, Wharton. Assistant Professor of Business Economics, Public Policy.

**Xiaomeng (MONA) Xu '01.** Idaho State University. Assistant Professor of Psychology.

*"Hunter students are interested in learning and understanding. Their primary motive isn't chasing the grade."*

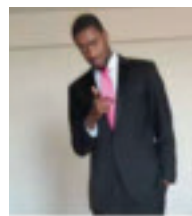
*-Stephen Young '86*

**Tiffany Jeng '03.** School speech-language pathologist. Boston.

**Kristina Karaivanov '04.** Language, Composition, American Literature. A. Philip Randolph High School.

**Caitlin Samuel '07.** Hunter College High School, (Taught 2013-14).

**Ben Samuels-Kalow '08.** Laboratory School of Finance and Technology. SEP, Bronx.



**DeeJay Butler '09.** Kaplan instructor, future teacher.

## Alum Updates



**Evelyn Konrad '46** began her studies at Benjamin Cardozo Law School when she was 73 years old earning both a JD and LLM. When she told the dean she wanted to be a litigator, he said, "Evelyn, that's a field for young men." She replied, "Great! I like young men!" This past December, when she turned 86, she was sworn in to practice and litigate before the U.S. Supreme Court.

**Mildred SPIEWAK Dresselhaus, Jan. '48**, was awarded "the Presidential Medal of Freedom" for her work in carbon science on November 24, 2014. Tune into [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org) for her interview with Audie Cornish.

**Michelle Marder Kamhi '54** wrote "I'm delighted to have at last published the book I've been working on for more than a decade. Entitled *Who Says That's Art?*, it offers a "commonsense view of the visual arts" that seriously questions the now-prevailing notion that art is virtually *anything* an artist says it is. *Kirkus Reviews* calls the book "forceful and persuasive"---an "impressive companion for advanced studies in visual arts," yet "accessible" for general readers. For some of the artworld myths debunked in the book, and other information, see my website, [www.mmkamhi.com](http://www.mmkamhi.com).

**Jane JAFFE Giddan '58** and **Ellen Strauss Cole** (attended HCHS for two years) are co-authoring a blog entitled, "70 Candles" for women in their 70's to share "experiences, thoughts, and ideas about how to overcome obstacles and thrive. Jane writes about her friendship with HCHS classmate Ellen, which began over 60 years ago: "It all began at Hunter High School in 1954. Our friendship, initiated when Ellen Strauss Cole and I were

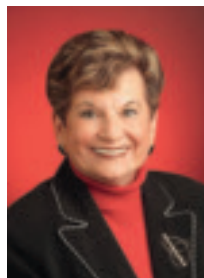
14, has always been based on adventure. Inspired by the energetic and independent women who taught us in the rich classrooms at Hunter, we reveled in discovering new places, participating in new experiences, and testing our personal limits. Now in our 70's, we join forces again to explore this gift of elder years."

Jane and Ellen have compiled inspirational stories from other septuagenarians and share their own in a soon-to-be-released book: *70 Candles! Women Thriving in Their Eighth Decade*. You can join the conversation here: [www.70candles.com](http://www.70candles.com).



**Sara Gilbert '59** has written a guidebook on living in the Italian capital called, *My Home Sweet Rome: Living (and Loving) in the Eternal City*. The book was published by Perigord Press in March 2014 and uses Sara's forty years of living in Rome as a resource for non-native visitors and expats who want to discover the real Rome from a native New Yorker perspective. Read more at: [www.myhomesweetrome.com](http://www.myhomesweetrome.com).

**Sonia SCHWEID Reizes '59** (deceased in 1998) is being memorialized with a "Stolperstein" (a small cobblestone-sized memorial) for being forced to flee her Berlin home by the Nazis in 1938. Her daughter Jacqueline Reizes of Danbury reported to us.



**Bonnie Heneson '60** with over 30 years of public relations experience and commitment to giving back to the community, has been selected for the 2014 *Lifetime Achievement Award* by the Public Relations Society of America Maryland Chapter. The Award recognizes her longstanding commitment to business in the Baltimore-Washington Region, and philanthropic efforts.



**Jane Tillman Irving '65**, an award-winning news writer for WCBS Radio in New York has been honored by the Society of Silurians, an organization of retired journalists, and the New York

Association of Black Journalists, for a series she wrote, produced and broadcast on "The March on Washington, 50 Years Later." She also received *The President's Award* from the New York Press Club for the series. In 2013, she received the Press Club's *Heart of New York* award for a series on Hudson Square, a neighborhood in Lower Manhattan.

Author **Israela (Ella Gorin) Meyerstein LSW-C, LCMFT '66**, shares her personal recovery story in her new book, *Bridge-to-Healing: Finding Strength to Cope with Illness and Recover from Sickness* published by Mazo Publishers. Her book offers a down-to-earth spiritual toolbox from her own experiences as a cancer survivor and her forty years of clinical social work experience. More information can be found at: [www.bridge-to-healing.com](http://www.bridge-to-healing.com).

In her debut novel, *Samantha Smartypants Runs for Class President*, **Barbara KORN Puccia '72** teaches children about the electoral process through the story of a third-grade girl who learns a little bit about politics—and a lot about friendship and believing in herself. [www.samanthasmartypants.com](http://www.samanthasmartypants.com)

**Jane Dubin '74** is producing a revival of *An American in Paris* opening at the Palace Theatre on Broadway April 2015. The show is fresh from a sold-out run at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. HCHSAA is organizing a trip to see the show May 5. Purchase tickets on our website.



Members of the Class of 1974 celebrating their 40th reunion! l-r Maria Paray Lamalfa, Joy Hecht, Maria Grieco, Susan Matloff



**Jonathan Kirschner '82** Professor of International Political Economy at Cornell University was interviewed in January 2015 for the *Washington Post* regarding his book, *American Power after the Financial Crisis*. Professor Kirschner summed up the current U.S. financial system with this statement:

*"Finance is different, and requires public oversight, regulation, and supervision to a much greater extent than any other sector of the economy. But, in the United States at least, Washington and Wall Street, buttressed by academic economists, fell in love with ideologies such as the "efficient market hypothesis," which suggested that unfettered financial markets would lead to optimal outcomes and could best govern themselves. This is wrong. And these fundamental problems have not been addressed. The American economy is still characterized by a financial system that is too large, too concentrated, too interconnected, and dysfunctionally regulated."*



**Matthew Brand '84** has a new show at the Composite Gallery of MoMath (the National Museum of Mathematics) located at 11 East 26 Street in New York, called, *Luminaries: The Optical Imagery of Matthew Brand*. Matthew will also be presenting "Meet the Artist" events. For a schedule, go to: [www.momath.org](http://www.momath.org)

**Cynthia Nixon '84** makes her directorial debut with a new play called "Rasheeda Speaking" starring Tonya Pinkins and Dianne Wiest. The dark comedy about racism written by Chicago playwright Joel Drake Johnson, runs through March 22, 2015 at the Signature Theatre.

**Rachel GERSTEIN Jarrett '91** recently left her job as Senior Vice President of Gilt Baby & Kids to pursue her dream of owning her own business. In November 2014 she opened a franchise location of Chocolate



Works Candy Shop at 1410 Lexington Avenue at 93 Street on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.



**Mora Stephens '94** whose debut feature film, *Conventioneers*, won the 2006 Independent Spirit Awards' John Cassavetes Award for Best Low-Budget Feature, premiered her newest

film *Zipper* at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival on January 27, 2015. The film's plot, which may sound familiar to New Yorkers, is a "political thriller about a hot-shot federal prosecutor (played by Patrick Wilson) on the cusp of a bright political future. But what was meant to be a one-time experience with a high-end escort instead turns into a growing addiction."



**Jenna Livingstone '02** was selected as the #6 Most Creative in Advertising in *Business Insiders* "30 Most Creative in Advertising Under 30, 2015" competition. As an aside, there were no women ahead of her. Jenna is a copy director at R/GA NYC.



**Reed Rayman '04** has been named to *Forbes* "30 Under 30" list. A former Goldman Sachs investment banker, he joined Apollo Global Management and is now part of its core private equity team

helping Apollo open its Hong Kong office. He is a board member of publicly-traded Verso Paper, playing a role in its \$1.4 billion NewPage deal.



**Thea BUTTON '07** was named to the annual "30 Under 30" list in the November 12th, 2014 issue of the *Commercial Observer*. The list

recognizes New York City's rising real estate stars. Button is a Senior Account Associate at Cushman & Wakefield, the world's largest privately held commercial real estate services firm.



**Gabriel M. Zucker '08** was awarded a 2015 Rhodes Scholarship to study social policy at Oxford. Gabriel graduated from Yale in 2012 summa cum laude

with majors in ethics, politics and economics, as well as in music. He won many major awards for character and service as well as scholarship. After Yale, he worked at the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty "Action Lab," conducting fieldwork in Pakistan and Indonesia. For the past year, he has been Associate Director of the Connecticut Heroes Project, a campaign to end veteran homelessness in Connecticut. He had run Yale's Hunger and Homelessness Action Project as an undergraduate.

## In Memoriam

**Shirley ZEBROWITZ Bleaman '39** passed away in September just shy of her 93rd birthday. She was fortunate to have attended her 75th HCHS Reunion last May with her son Bruce Bleaman who said she had “a wonderful time.”

**Elaine KUHN Osterweil '40** died on November 20, 2014 at age 90 in Springfield, Mass. She graduated from both Hunter College High School and Hunter College where she made friendships that lasted her lifetime. Elaine taught math at Brooklyn Technical High School for 50 years and was a group advisor and Chairwoman of the Program Committee. She adored her students, especially the class of 1966. Her husband of 55 years and the “love of her life,” David Osterweil preceded her in death. She is survived by her daughter Karen Walker, her husband Alan and her granddaughters Stephanie Leo and Michelle Walker.

**Mary BECKER Berger '42** was determined to go to Hunter College High School, after she was told unexpectedly by her former principal, whom she had just happened to visit, to apply. She was one of the few girls selected from all over the city to attend. It changed her life dramatically, opening up the world to her, and setting her on her future path. That, and marrying “the smartest boy” she knew. Many of you who know Mary, know that she was passionate about justice and spent much of her life fighting for it. Even last year she was one of the staunchest supporters and a leader of the fight to keep her home at Prospect Park Residence. She organized and protested, spoke to the news media, and hung on until the situation became too hard for her and she moved. Community, friendship, conversation were what sustained her.

Mary is survived by her daughters, Emily and Sarah Berger, both of Brooklyn, and her grandchildren and many friends. She will be deeply missed.

**Norma BUNKE Hinsch '42** of Laurel, NY, and formerly of Plainview died on June 16, 2014. Beloved wife of the late Rev. John C. Hinsch; loving mother of John, James, Paul, Peter, Lois Birner and Priscilla. Adored grandmother of eleven and great grandmother of eight.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

*In Loving Memory of the Class of January 1937*

Dear AlumNotes,

Since at the age of 95, I no longer see reference to my graduation year of January 1937, this is my final renewal. It is also a loving farewell to six of the seven who met and bonded in January 1933 in section A-1 at HCHS. Our friendship flourished through Hunter College and beyond through many eventful years.

We held our own mini-reunion every year we could. The last time we met, all seven together, was in 2007 at our 70th reunion at HCHS. Since then, six have passed away. They are: **Martha Ginsberg Karig, Estelle Mazer Noto, Clara Kurajian Yeramian, Muriel Greenebaum Wolf, Mary Wicks Ulrich** and **Catherine Brand Ginsberg**. That leaves me to cherish the memories of the 80 plus years we lovingly shared.

I miss them.

Sincerely,

**Angela Carola Gange, Jan. '37**



**Josephine MACY Atlass '43** of Orr's Island and Portland, Maine passed away in April 2014. With her husband, Hadley Atlass until his death in 1987, and later with lifelong friend Mary Manypenny, Josephine ran the Little Island Motel on Orr's Island in Casco Bay for 40 years. She is survived by her son Richie and his wife Lorraine of Portland, her two grandchildren Amy and Chet and three great-grandchildren.

**Virginia REMINGTON (Chute) Olney '45** passed away in August, 2014, in Cleveland, Ohio. “Ginnie” as she was known to friends took great pride in being a graduate of Hunter College High School and Hunter College (BA '49), Queens College (MS), and Hofstra University (CSA). She taught students with

special needs in the Herricks School District in Nassau County, Long Island and was active in the Garden City Community Church. Preceded in death by her husband, Richard H. Olney; she is survived by her three children, Dr. Elizabeth, Susan and Robert Chute, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



**Lorna KRAUT Churchill, Jan. '46** of Davis, California passed away in February 2014. She was known among her friends, associates and classmates for her sense of humor and lively personality.

In the early 1970s, Lorna penned a popular daily column for *The Davis Enterprise* (CA) entitled “Nosing Around.” She had the distinction of being the highest scoring applicant to Hunter High School in her application year. Lorna was also the highest-scoring student on the statewide college entrance exam and attended Hunter College. Despite these achievements, she told her classmate **Edith ROLLMAN Warmser** at their 50th Reunion in 1996, she really wasn't that “bright.” Edith wrote of Lorna, she was “modest and accomplished, despite being hearing-impaired.” Lorna is survived by her husband, John Churchill, her son, Jason Churchill, her daughter Amy Edwards and four grandchildren.

**Vivian KAPLAN Kramer, Jan. '47** of Somerset, NJ passed away on November 26, 2014. After graduating from Hunter College High School, she went on to earn her degree in physics from Queens College. During her career, she specialized in electron microscopy and x-ray diffraction at the Frankford Arsenal, AT&T Bell Labs and Allied Chemical. While raising a family, she was also president of the League of Women Voters in Berkeley Heights, active on many township boards and a member of the township committee. She always loved to travel and visited all of the continents. She was also an avid bridge and Scrabble player. She was predeceased by her sister, Leonora Brodie and grandson, Aaron, and is survived by her husband of 63 years, George, and her two children, Steven Kramer and Tina Garyantes, their spouses, and five living grandchildren.

**Enid BACHRACH Lane '53** passed away after a long illness on January 22, 2015. She was loving mother of four, grandmother and great-grandmother. She will be deeply missed.

**Syril GOLDFARB Fallick '55** of Boynton Beach, Florida passed away in September. She is survived by her husband Lowell, her son, daughter, and two grandchildren.

**Alice ISAACS Beckerman Zyetz '55** passed peacefully on May 20, 2012. After graduating from Hunter High, she attended City College, and earned her MA in education at Pepperdine. In LA, she taught at Arlington Elementary, owned a writing consultancy, and was a longtime member of her Temple. In 1998, she published her book, *You Shoulda Listened to Your Mother: 36 Timeless Success Tips for Working Women*. Alice was a vibrant, generous, funny, outgoing woman who loved life and took great joy in family, friends, music, dancing, acting, writing, playing bridge, traveling, and teaching. She and her famous matzo-ball soup will be dearly missed.

**Elfriede W. Smith '59**, a professor emerita who taught German language studies at Drew University in Madison, NJ for 40 years passed away on October 11, 2014 in her Madison home. She became the German program coordinator at Drew in the late 1980s, serving in this position until her retirement in 2008. She is survived by her brother-in-law, Leonard Smith, and his wife

Geri, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Joseph C. Smith, in 2012.

**Sally SPITZEL Edwards '70** passed away peacefully after a long illness over Labor Day weekend in her Pittsburgh, PA home surrounded by her family. Sally graduated with a master's degree in communications from Boston University. She wanted to be remembered as being funny first, and loving and caring second. She will be deeply missed by her husband Gordon and her children Spencer and Sarah.



**Velma deSelby-BOWEN '80** passed away after a battle with cancer in October 2014. Velma was selected as the 1999 delegate to the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF) in England. TAFF was created in 1953 to support science fiction fandom on both sides of the Atlantic.

**Joseph C. SCARLATTI Thompson '83** passed away on August 4, 2014 in Anchorage, Alaska. Joseph was awarded a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and was an Associate Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at University of Alaska, Fairbanks since 1999. Joseph was the recipient of the prestigious Emil Usibelli Distinguished Teaching Award for 2014 in recognition of his exemplary efforts to inspire, engage and educate his students. Joseph was a widely-loved member of his class and is well-remembered for his indomitable spirit, whip-smart intelligence and playful demeanor. He is survived by his wife, Dr. Trina Mamoon, his parents and siblings.



**Andrew Yoon '03** passed away on January 30, 2015 from a drowning accident while on vacation in Austin, Texas. His friend, Harold Goldberg wrote

in *NYGameCriticsCircle.com*: "I marveled at Andrew's intelligence... He was a force of nature yet he was kind and ardent. There was no one like him. To me, he was a good friend. To everyone in the Circle, Andrew Yoon will be missed, and that's an understatement."

*GamesIndustry.biz* reported: "Yoon, who was just 29 years old, was best known for his time as Editor in Chief of *Shacknews* and East Coast Editor of *Joystiq*. More recently, he decided to pursue his passion for games by moving over to the development side. His New York City-based studio "anyo" (anyo.org) successfully funded a project on Kickstarter called *Divorce! The Game*."

A Memorial Fund found has been created on GoFundMe.com

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

**Naomi GREENSTEIN Shor '29**  
**Gertrude GOLLER Benton, Jan. '34**  
**Estelle MAZER Noto, Jan. '37**  
**Genevieve JAROSZ Young '35**  
**Miriam BARROW Lewis '36**  
**Catherine BRAND Ginsberg, Jan. '37**  
**Irene WEISER Adin '41**  
**Elisabeth NIEDERMAYER Stuart, Jan. '42**  
**Shirley THAU Perles, Jan. '42**  
**Ethel Danielson '44**  
**Dorothy FISCHER Cluen, Jan. '45**  
**Ruth BERTGES, Jan. '46**  
**Julia GABAI Ripps '46**  
**Eileen O'DONNELL Brady '46**  
**Vivian KAPLAN Kramer, Jan. '47**  
**Inge Alice WEINBERG Rudman, Jan. '47**  
**Julia MARCUS Weiss, Jan. '50**  
**Ethel Schlesinger '50**  
**Elinor MELD Weissman '50 Ph.D.**  
**Ruth ISRAEL Kaplan '54**  
**Geri Riegger '56**  
**Lucille Hebard '59**  
**Rochelle SOBEL Perich '60**



## HCHSAA Events

SEPTEMBER 2014

### Facing Fear with Friends: Alumnae/i Association Fall Reception at HCHS

***Some Nerve: Lessons Learned While  
Becoming Brave*, by Pattie CHANG  
Anker '88**

The book is described as “One woman’s quest to conquer her fears and embrace life—and to inspire others to do the same.” Oprah.com calls *Some Nerve* “Downright inspiring.” *Parents Magazine* states the book is a “Must Read.”

From the author (www.pattychanganker.com): “What a thrill it was to speak at the Hunter College High School Alumni Association Fall Reception last night! It was wonderful to go back to the place I met my future husband [Kent] (when I was in ninth grade) and where we spent so many formative years over 25 years ago now. I got to publicly thank my parents for all they did in order for me to get into Hunter...”

It was great to see old classmates and teachers, and meet alums with whom we share a Hunter bond. Kent and I loved going back with three generations, and I felt incredibly honored to leave a signed copy of my book for the school library. Many people shared what their fears are – swimming, decluttering, public speaking were mentioned often. Dr. Tony Fisher, the principal’s fear was “dropping balls” metaphorically (if

it were me it would be literally as well), and a fellow '88 alum said “my grades at Hunter” which, to this day haunt us all. **But a hallmark of Hunter alums is to keep pushing ourselves and creating change in the world.”**

DECEMBER 2015

### NY Historical Society Tour: Chinese-American Exhibit



*Anna Mae Wong Identification Certificate,  
displayed in the exhibit*

In December, NY Historical Society docent, Susan Meeker, former Chair of the HCHS Social Studies department, hosted two tours of the *Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion* exhibit, which explores the “centuries-long history of trade and immigration between China and the United States” and laws regulating Chinese-American rights including the Exclusion Act of 1882 “which barred most Chinese from entering the United States.”

The morning tour on December 4, 2014 was followed by an enthusiastic alumnae/i crowd gathering at nearby Isabella’s for lunch.

JANUARY 2015

### Author Talk at the Lotos Club



*Laura Auricchio '86 (left) and Michelle MARDER  
Kamhi '54 (right)*

The first event of the new year was a reading of “*The Marquis: Lafayette Revisited*,” by **Laura Auricchio '86**, the Dean of Undergraduate Studies at the New School. The event took place on January 21, 2015 at the *Lotos Club*, one of the oldest literary clubs in the United States and a favorite of 19th-century writers such as Mark Twain.

The evening reading in the club’s elegant second floor Lotos Club library was attended by a lively audience of current HCHS teach-



*Left: Pattie Chang Anker '88 with husband and fellow alum, Kent Anker '87, her parents, her children and HCHSAA board member, Marge Goldsmith '61; right: Audience Members in the HCHS library*



ers, parents of Hunter students, and other Hunter alumnae/i among them professors, writers and thought leaders. Surrounded by 20 foot tall book cases in the former Vanderbilt Mansion, with its stately portraits, carved mantles, and marble staircases, one felt transported back to an earlier time where technology may have been simpler, but politics and daily living certainly were not. Dr. Auricchio read a passage from her book and answered the crowd's probing questions on the much-celebrated, much-ridiculed life of the sadly misunderstood Lafayette. The portrait painted by Dr. Auricchio of the man known as America's most loyal French ally was of an individual tragically caught between two powerful historic forces, the end of the absolute rule of monarchs and the dawn of the age of liberty.

Lafayette, the author explained, was an idealist, a man who believed that somewhere in the middle of complete chaos and mass bloodshed lay a solution of compromise between the old guard in France and the new. That both sides came at first to hail him and later to hate him, and worse still to jail, exile and attempt to assassinate him is an all-too-human story. Lafayette emerged in a time of pure radicalization - where one was forced to take a definitive side.

The audience came away from *The Marquis* evening with a deeper understanding of Lafayette in all his flawed humanness, and the flaws of any of us who urge others to seek the middle ground as well as those who refuse to do so. That Lafayette's hope of compromise in his native land would have saved tens of thousands of necks from the sharp blade of the guillotine is a simple fact. That the French people were not ready for the self-governance of their American peers, as Lafayette had predicted, is evidenced by Napoleon's subsequent installation as non-royal king (emperor).

While Lafayette's idealism led to him to take a "Benedict Arnold" place in French history, Dr. Auricchio deftly made the case from her seven-year study of a man reviled in his own homeland who was not the opportunist and traitor he was portrayed to be, but rather a courageous champion who stood up to two warring factions alone in a failed effort to save his beloved nation some of the suffering it endured. Dr. Auricchio left those in attendance with the

## DIVERSITY COMMITTEE PRESENTS: THE HCHSAA BLACK AND LATINO ALUMS AFFINITY GROUP ON FACEBOOK

In 2014 the board of directors added an Ad Hoc Diversity Committee to its structure with co-leaders **Jessica Leonard '08** and **Pamela Roach '71**. Its mission is to:

- Provide opportunities for Black and Latino alums to network and attract additional members
- Support Black and Latino students through the Alumnae Association
- Interface directly with students as mentors
- Support initiatives to increase representation of Black and Latino students at the high school

The HCHSAA Black and Latino Alums affinity group on Facebook is the first initiative to fulfill this mission. Invitations go out shortly to Black and Latino alums, current high school seniors and faculty for a March 26 networking event in Manhattan.

If you are a member of this group or know someone who should be invited, please contact **Pamela Roach '71** at: [pamela@breakthroughgroup.com](mailto:pamela@breakthroughgroup.com) to share current contact information so we can make sure invitations will reach alums.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH 2015

## Special Performance for Hunter Alums of "Hamilton" with Lin-Manuel Miranda '98



*Lin-Manuel Miranda, '98 directing "Hamilton"*

HCHS Alums are anxiously looking forward to the March 12, 2015 performance of the World Premier of "Hamilton" & talkback event with Lin-Manuel Miranda '98. The production is sold-out for the entire extended run at the Public Theater making this performance even more exciting. Lin-Manuel was inspired by Ron Chernow's biography of founding father, Alexander Hamilton and the illegitimate and immigrant past

of Hamilton, often called "the father of America's financial system." Lin-Manuel Miranda has written the book, music, lyrics for this engaging new production and set the story of America's early years to hip-hop music.

The show at the time of this issue going to press was still in previews and not professionally reviewed. Yet, according to one journalist in the audience, Justin Fox from Bloomberg View, "Hamilton" is already a hit after receiving a "rapturous reception" at the Public Theater during opening week. Writes Fox, "The show...already feels like it has the makings of a cultural phenomenon. 'The 10-dollar Founding Father without a father,' in Manuel's memorable phrase, may be about to hit it big, again."

renewed belief that the former American general Lafayette was indeed worthy of the label "hero."

*The Marquis* has been hailed in a starred review by Kirkus as a "sharp and moving biography" on the life of America's Revolutionary War hero. *The New Yorker* calls *The Marquis*,

"an astute and often thrilling" reconsideration of Lafayette's legacy. *Publishers' Weekly* writes, Lafayette "found the right American biographer in Auricchio."

## Reunion 2015

JOIN US  
THE WEEKEND  
OF JUNE 6  
FOR THE HCHS  
REUNION 2015!

All Milestone Classes are invited to attend the General Assembly, a chance for Hunterites to gather together as a single community on Saturday, June 6.

We come from many different backgrounds and situations. We traveled to school from all five boroughs, by subway, by bus, and by foot. We attended different buildings, from the castle on 68th Street to the brick prison on 94th Street (and even an office building in midtown). We listened to news from the front lines in Europe and Vietnam and Afghanistan. We are all-girls and we are co-ed. Our families come from all over the world, and our careers span across every discipline. We are a diverse community, with completely different experiences and memories. But we have one thing in common: we are all Hunterites. *The General Assembly is our chance to come together, not only to share our own experiences, but to learn about ourselves through the stories of others.* It is the only time of year when we, as a whole, can experience the rich, wonderful, total meaning of our alma mater. We are Hunter. Let's celebrate together.

We'll have more information on specific events as the year goes on. Visit the Reunion page at [www.hchsaa.org/reunion-landing](http://www.hchsaa.org/reunion-landing), or use the form at the back of this edition of *AlumNotes* to pre-register.

### Reunion Schedule

The General Assembly is the main event! Be sure to register today to reserve your spot at this annual gathering of the Milestone Classes. The assembly starts at 11am, but there will be breakfast and rooms available for congregating alumnae/i starting at 9am as well as tours of the high school. Then, join us for lunch afterwards! And don't forget about our other fun events. If you are in a Milestone Reunion Class, you can also check the Milestone Class Events Page under the reunion tab on our website to find out what your coordinator has planned!

#### GENERAL REUNION 2014

Date: Saturday June 6, 2015

Location: Hunter College High School  
71 East 94th Street

Time: 9:00 AM Check-in, continental  
breakfast, and tours of the high  
school (optional)  
11:00 AM General Assembly  
12:30 PM Lunch in the Cafeteria  
2:00 PM Annual Members  
Meeting

Admission includes continental breakfast  
and lunch.

Members (before Mar 15) . . . . . \$30  
Members (after Mar 15) . . . . . \$35  
Seniors . . . . . \$35  
General Admission . . . . . \$40

#### OTHER EVENTS

**12:30 PM Picnic and Softball Game**  
The eighth annual Joe Kubat Softball Game will take place again in Central Park this year. Bring your family and a blanket and spend the day with your fellow Hunterites. FREE/REGISTRATION REQUIRED

**2:30 PM Central Park Conservatory Tour**  
Baseball not your thing? Come instead to the Conservatory Garden, where we'll travel

the grounds and learn about the beautiful flora in the park's only formal garden. FREE/REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

#### NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

After the General Assembly on Saturday, dues paid members are invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc. from 2-3pm, following the luncheon. The meeting will take place in the auditorium of the high school. The agenda is as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Election of new directors
3. Treasurer's report
4. Other business

If you cannot attend, information regarding director candidates and voting by proxy will be available on the AA website ([www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org)) beginning in mid-May.



## Support Your Alma Mater

### IS THIS YOUR MILESTONE REUNION YEAR?

Milestone Class Gifts are an important part of the HCHSAA's fundraising for the school. Public funds only pay for basic necessities, such as heat, electricity, textbooks, and teacher salaries. Everything else comes from private contributions. The HCHSAA provides scholarships, fellowships, student mentorship and counseling, and serves as a resource for the school by sponsoring educational, scientific, literary, and cultural programs in cooperation with the faculty and administration.

Your milestone reunion year is a great time to make a gift. Any contribution made during this year is counted towards your Class Gift. You can donate by filling out the payment form at the back of this issue, or visiting the Support the Association page on our website.

### BECOME A MEMBER

The Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association serves more than 12,500 alums around the globe. Membership dues support the ongoing operations of the office and enable us to maintain our website and online Alumnae/i Directory, produce three issues of AlumNotes annually, and present free and low-cost events such as the annual Autumn Reception, Reunion weekend, and author events. 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.

### MEMBERSHIP MAKES COMMUNITY!

Becoming a member is about more than just paying dues. When you join the HCHSAA, you become a vital and active participant in the future of the Hunter community. Membership dues are

## YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

necessary to the work of the HCHSAA - we simply cannot provide grants to the high school or programming for the alumnae/i without them. Members are fundamental to the entire Hunter alumnae/i network; we depend on your advice, ideas, and engagement. When you become a member, you not only demonstrate your support for the high school, but also take full responsibility for your role as a constituent in the wider Hunter community that the HCHSAA strives to serve every day.

## Milestone Class Updates

### 1950

**Maureen ADER Lerner**, Class Coordinator: 914-576-5131, [acoustico@aol.com](mailto:acoustico@aol.com)

### 1955

Greetings, Classmates! In four months, the Class of 1955 will be recognized as the 60th Milestone Class of Hunter College High School. Will you attend the celebration?

**Anita, Shirley, and Peggy** are holding the place for a still reluctant official Class Coordinator to step forward. In the meantime, we urge everyone to let one of us know whether you will come to Reunion in June. We have outlived most, if not all, of our teachers and, unfortunately, even some of our classmates. Join us in June. See old friends and, perhaps, make one

or two new ones. We look forward to sharing the event with everyone who can make it.

**Anita Mule:** 718-892-9734, [amule23@yahoo.com](mailto:amule23@yahoo.com)

**Shirley Whitney:** 212-674-6109, [sywhi2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sywhi2000@yahoo.com)

**Peggy Perrin:** 718-426-1341, [mbperrin70@yahoo.com](mailto:mbperrin70@yahoo.com)

### 1960

The Class of '60 has selected to have their reunion on Saturday June 6th from 12-6 at the Hunter College Faculty Dining Room. No plans have been made as yet for that evening or the following Sunday. **Irving Kizner** will not be able to join us as he is now living in MA. Please advise me as to whether you will attend or not if you have not done so.

**Jeanette Bersh:** [jeanettehunter60@aol.com](mailto:jeanettehunter60@aol.com)

### 1975

The Class of 1975 40th reunion plans are underway. **Lisa Braun** has volunteered to be the '75 class coordinator for this milestone year and would love to hear from all of her former classmates. You can contact her at: [HCHSclassof75@gmail.com](mailto:HCHSclassof75@gmail.com)

### 1990

**OTTER CONFUSION TURNS 25.** MEMBERS of the class of 1990 are invited to an exclusive evening semi-formal to celebrate THE 25th birthday OF THE WORLD'S MOST CLEVERLY-NAMED MASCOT on Saturday, June 6th in Manhattan. Details to follow this spring: sign up for our Facebook group ("Hunter College High School Class of 1990") or update your contact information with class coordinator **Ian Wright** at [Ian\\_Wright@Outlook.com](mailto:Ian_Wright@Outlook.com).



## Ideas Worth Spreading: TEDx Hunter College Campus Schools

Planning is now underway for the third biennial TEDxHCCS and interested alums are invited to submit proposals to speak.

In October 2015 the Alumnae/i Association is co-organizing a day of inspiring talks and performances by Hunter College High School and Elementary School alums, students, faculty and parents. Seven alumnae/i will be invited to present a talk as unique as his or her own experiences, with the guiding theme of the day being Hunter's motto, *Mihi Cura Futuri: The Care of the Future is Mine*. TEDx speakers are given up to 18 minutes to present their most innovative ideas in the most engaging ways they can.

Previous TEDxHCCS alumnae/i speakers have included **Dr. Judy Goldsmith '78**, Pro-

fessor of Computer Science at the University of Kentucky, who spoke about the role of artificial intelligence in our future; urban planner and designer **Winston Dong '82** gave a talk titled "Design Is Activism: Help Me Design the World We Want to Live In;" **Dana Kaplan '97**, Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana, a legal advocacy organization, spoke of the importance of reforming the criminal justice system; **Author Blake Eskin '88**, a co-founder of 29th Street Publishing and former Web editor of *The New Yorker* and the host of The New Yorker Out Loud podcast gave a talk on "Subway Photography" and **Jamal Greene '95**, a Professor of Law at Columbia Law School, where he teaches constitutional law, the First Amendment, federal courts, and constitutional theory. He spoke about "Our [C]onstitution: Our [M]ovements."

Check out clips from our last TEDxHCCS on our website at [www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org). To find out how you can participate send your bio and a brief description of your proposed talk to: Francesca Bacon at [fbacon@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:fbacon@hunter.cuny.edu).

*Seven alumnae/i will be invited to present a talk ... with the guiding theme of the day being Hunter's motto, Mihi Cura Futuri: The Care of the Future is Mine.*



## Become a Member of the Alumnae/i Association Board of Directors

Are you passionate about the education you received and the people you met at HCHS? Would you like to help ensure that the tradition of fostering creative, intellectually curious and original thinkers continues for students of past, present, and future? The Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association is accepting nominations for alums interested in serving on the Board of Directors for fiscal year 2016. Board members will help

develop strategies to further important initiatives such as:

- Fostering leadership and encouraging participation among alums from all regions and constituencies
- Supporting volunteer led regional groups and affinity groups
- Engaging current students as future alumnae/i
- Supporting the Annual Fund and student scholarships
- Recognizing alums for accomplishments and service
- Planning events such as the Autumn Reception and Milestone Reunion

We seek a diverse group of alumnae/i leaders who are willing to commit their time and expertise in working collaboratively to further our organizational mission and strategic initiatives. Qualities considered important for effective HCHSAA board members include:

- Commitment to active participation in activities sponsored by the HCHSAA
- Ability and willingness to assume the responsibilities of the Board, such as attending and participating in meetings, serving on committees or task forces, and acting as informed ambassadors for the School
- Ability to work well with people individually and as part of a team
- Excellent communication skills

The length of term is three years, which may be renewed up to a maximum of two consecutive terms.

If you are interested in serving as a Director on the HCHSAA Board, please contact Elyse Reissman, Executive Director, at [elyse@hchsaa.org](mailto:elyse@hchsaa.org). Be sure to include a written statement of interest and attach a copy of your resume. Nominations are due no later than April 15. If you have questions please call (212) 650-3349.

## BEN SAMUELS-KALOW '08

*teacher*

### Ask a SEP Teacher: An Interview with Ben Samuels-Kalow '08



*Ben Samuels-Kalow '08 is an Economics and Technology teacher at the Laboratory School of Finance and Technology in the Bronx. In addition to classroom teaching, Ben also teaches karate at his school.*

**Why do you think computer science, software engineering, and computational thinking are important for young people?**

"I think thinking is important for young people. It's also important for old people too, but for some it's too late. We talk about science thinking and engineering thinking, but most young people are natural scientists and naturally curious about engineering and the way things are put together. This is often manifested by students who are eager to take things apart but frustrated by the difficulty of constructing an item in the first place. It's important to give these thought processes a name, and a vaunted place in our school day. There are a lot of classes where failing 37 times in a period is a troubling occurrence, but in my SEP class, every failure is just useful data, feedback from the problem we are tackling.

I teach an 11-person, self-contained special education class. These are students who struggle with the conventional and mandated subjects..Many days, the SEP content challenges my students, but on the best days, it challenges me: to be the best teacher, to find a way for all of my students who succeed, and to see their own potential in ways they cannot in any other class.

There is a poster I designed that hangs on the wall of my classroom, and it was the subject of the very first lesson of the year. In Japanese, it reads "七転び八起き" (Nana Korobi Ya Oki), and in English, "Fall down seven times, get up eight." This is a proverb I learned as a karate student, and one I teach to my students in karate class, but it hangs on the wall of my computer lab because it is the creed of those who would write, test, debug, and iterate to create something new."

from: March 21 2014, SEPNYC.org @bensk

*Want to submit to the Alum Corner? Email Monika at [mmitchell@hchsaa.org](mailto:mmitchell@hchsaa.org) with your art, writing, or anything else!*



# Calendar of Upcoming Events

## MARCH 12, 2015

### **Hamilton Performance and Talkback with Lin-Manuel Miranda**

*The Public Theater will be overrun with Hunterites when the HCHSAA comes to see Hamilton, a new musical by award-winning alum Lin-Manuel Miranda '98! (Note: this event is sold out).*

## MAY 5, 2015

### **An American in Paris at the Palace Theatre**

*HCHSAA is organizing a trip to see this revival of An American in Paris, produced by alum Jane Dubin '74.*

## JUNE 6, 2015

### **Reunion Weekend**

*It's a milestone year for all classes ending in 5 or 0. If you are interested in being a class coordinator to help plan events and have a say in how the weekend is structured, please email Monika Mitchell at [mmitchell@hchsaa.org](mailto:mmitchell@hchsaa.org).*

**To register for an event, visit our website at [www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org).**

## 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.



If you wish to only receive your future copies of AlumNotes electronically, check this box ☐

## PAYMENT FORM

To pay your dues, register for reunion, make a donation, or purchase merchandise by credit card go to our website [www.hchsaa.org](http://www.hchsaa.org) and click on "Make a Gift." To pay by check, complete the form below and mail this entire page with your check payable to HCHSAA in the enclosed envelope. Donors who give \$100 or more a year (excluding dues) will be recognized in *AlumNotes* annual Honor Roll of Giving. To make address corrections please use this form, login to our online directory and make the change, or email [info@hchsaa.org](mailto:info@hchsaa.org).

### MEMBERSHIP

Levels	Benefits	circle one	
		1 Year	5 Year
BASIC	Annual subscription to <i>AlumNotes</i> . Discounted admission to Reunion General Assembly and other programs throughout the year. Access to Members Portal and Jobs Board at <a href="http://www.hchsaa.org">www.hchsaa.org</a> . Eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting of Members.	\$40	\$200
SENIOR	Same benefits as above for the class of 1970 and earlier	\$25	\$125
JUNIOR	Same benefits as above for the class of 2010-2013	\$25	N/A
PREMIUM	Same benefits as above plus your choice of a free gift ( <i>below</i> )	\$90	\$450
NEW GRADS	Same benefits as <i>Basic</i> for the class of 2014	FREE!	N/A

SUBTOTAL DUES \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Gifts to the 2014-15 Annual Fund support Hunter High School programs, activities and academic departments.

Gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law, and, if this is your milestone reunion year, will be counted towards your class gift.

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other Amount ☐ *This is a Class Gift*

SUBTOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### REUNION

(Price includes continental breakfast and lunch.)

Register now for the General Assembly  
before prices increase on March 15.

Members \$30 pp x \_\_\_\_\_ Adults (s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-Members \$40 pp x \_\_\_\_\_ Adults (s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Seniors \$35 pp x \_\_\_\_\_ Adults (s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SUBTOTAL REGISTRATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### MERCHANDISE

 Cost includes postage and handling. Please circle size for tee-shirt(s)

Quan.	Item	Cost	Size (circle)				Subtotal
	Adult T Shirt	\$22	Sm (34-36)	M (38-40)	L (42-44)	XL 2X	\$
	Coffee Mug	\$12 2 for \$20					\$
	Gifted Cook Apron	\$20					\$
	Teddy Bear	\$20					\$

☐ THIS IS MY *FREE* PREMIUM BENEFIT -or- SUBTOTAL MERCHANDISE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ My check is enclosed. -or- ☐ Charge to my (circle one) AMEX MC VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME

YEAR OF GRADUATION

Please print name as it should appear in Honor Roll of Giving (if different)

EMAIL ADDRESS

HOME/MOBILE PHONE

WORK PHONE

Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc.

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