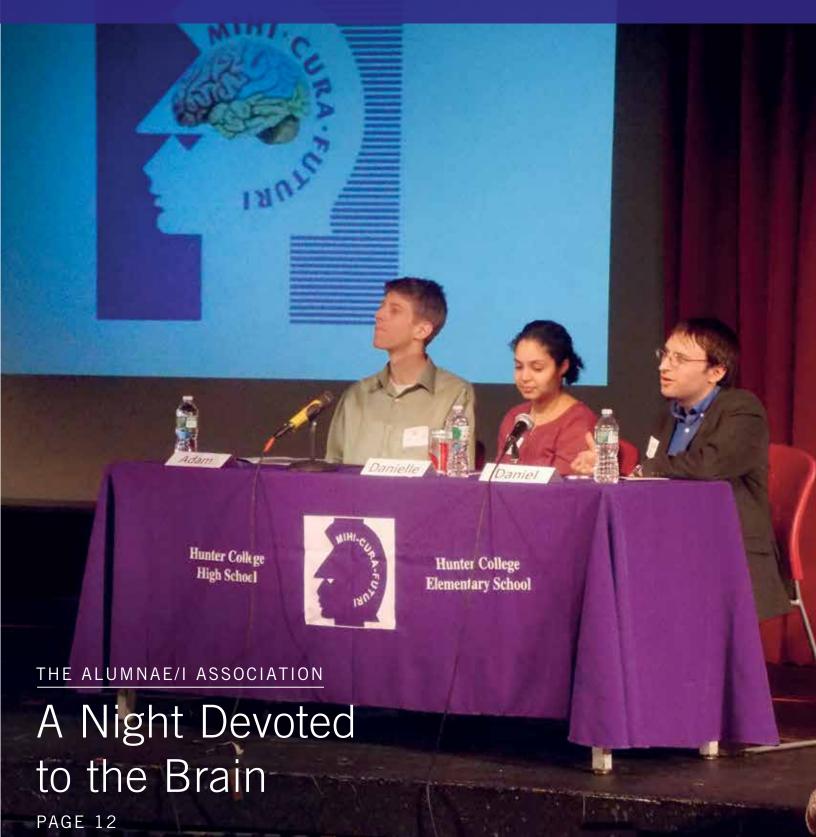
Spring 2014

AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION, INC. • VOLUME 40, NUMBER 3



Letter From the President

Dear fellow Hunter graduate,

As the academic year draws to a close, I would like to take the time now to thank you for your gifts. This year, we held a phoneathon and were so pleased to see many alumnae/i give their first gift to the HCHSAA while many others significantly increased their gift. Your participation demonstrates your commitment to the education of today's students and your appreciation for the education you received.

In addition, many of you showed interest in our programs and events. This academic year, we focused in on the extraordinary achievements of our alumnae/i. From the captivating book readings of *Backstage Pass to Broadway*, written by **Susan Schulman '62**, and *Riddle of the Labyrinth* by Margalit Fox, which focused on the unsung work of **Alice Kober '24**, to Innovations in Neuroscience: From Bench to Bedside, our panel of seven Hunter neuroscientists, it's been a spring full of Hunterite brilliance.

Of course, one of our most popular events is the reunion at the high school. This year, reunion weekend will begin with a kickoff event on the evening of May 30 at the Manchester Pub and culminate on June 1 with the General Assembly. I encourage all of you to attend as many of the reunion weekend events as you can, and reconnect with your academic roots. The full schedule is listed in The Alumnae/i Association section, and you can purchase tickets on our website (www. hchsaa.org) or by returning the payment form at the back of this issue.

Finally, we hope you will stay up to date with our upcoming events and programs this summer and fall by making sure we have your updated contact information. Most of our news is announced via the website, email, and on the "Official Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association" Facebook Group page. Be sure we have your current email address by logging into the website and updating your profile.

Thank you in advance for all your support. We look forward to seeing you at reunion and in the coming academic year!

Sincerely yours,

Christine Wong '95

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President











ALUMNOTES SPRING 2014

Table of Contents

\mathbf{m}	1	α	1	7
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LI	ιc	DUI	$\iota o o$	ν

Updates from the School	2
The Alums	
Alum Updates	4
In Memoriam	6
The Alumnae/i Association	
Reunion 2014: It's Almost Time	8
HCHSAA Events	LC
Support Your Alma Mater	13



On the cover: Adam Cohen '97, Danielle Bolling '04, and Daniel Leeds '01 speaking at the Innovations in Neuroscience panel

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Updates from the School

Seventh Grader Wins Spelling Bee

Sai Vishudi Chandrasekhar '19, pictured at left, is headed to Washington, DC to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee after beating sixty-four other New York spellers in the 2014 *Daily News* Spelling Bee. After four hours of competition, Sai successfully spelled "zaguan," the word for a Mexican vestibule, propelling her to victory. The HCHSAA wishes Sai good luck representing New York State in the national competition!

A New Idea for English Language Learners

Quentin Dupouy '15 created a free afterschool program to help English Language Learners do better academically, gain confidence, and feel less isolated. English Language Learning for International Students (ELLIS) pairs high schoolers with students in grades K-12 to provide opportunities for conversation and interactions outside of the ESL and NLA requirements of the DOE. Quentin, who moved to New York from Paris when he was four, was tutoring students in reading at PS163 when he realized there was a correlation between graduation rates and proficiency in English. To counteract the disadvantages faced by English Language Learners, and more specifically to address the isolation and bullying frequently experienced by ELL students, Quentin structured ELLIS as a peer-based mentorship program. He is now in



Photo credit: Emily Frost/DNA Info

talks with principals around the city, as well as Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell and other neighborhood leaders, to institute his program in more public schools.

Hunterite is Intel Semifinalist

Azra Chaudhury '14 was named one of the Semifinalists for the 2014 Intel Science Talent Search, the most prestigious pre-college science competition in the country. She is one of 300 semifinalists out of the 1,794 students who entered this year.



NY1 Scholar Athlete

Peter Mason '14 kicked off 2014 as NY1's Scholar Athlete of the Week. "Sports are just a big part of me. I really enjoy being on a team and just competing and running and having a good time with my friends," says Peter, who is the captain of the school's varsity basketball and volleyball teams and co-president of Hunter's Athletic Association. "He puts everyone together, he makes everyone better around him. He is the glue, he is the chemistry," says head boys volleyball coach Jason Dibelius. According to the NY Daily News, his teachers also laud his spirit and abilities. "He's very much a cooperative team player in the classroom, his peers clearly respect him, they listen to him," says English teacher Lori D'Amico. "He's one of the best students that I've ever had and one of those students who, when you feel down and you think why did I get into teaching, you see a student like Peter, it's worthwhile," says Spanish teacher Jose Diaz. Hunter students truly are some of the most well rounded and capable kids in the city! You can read more about it

"He puts everyone together, he makes everyone better around him. He is the glue, he is the chemistry."

— Coach Jason Dibelius on student athlete Peter Mason '14

here: manhattan.ny1.com/content/sports/ scholar_athlete/201318/peter-mason--teamplayer-scores-big-with-upbeat-outlook



And More!

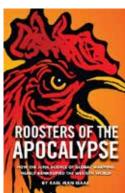
It's been quite an academic year for Hunter students in all extracurricular disciplines! HCHS students won 22% of all the awards given in the New York region Scholastic Writing competition; the Middle School Mathlete team won the Mathcounts Manhattan competition (with Alvin Chiu '18 and Brian Huang '18 listed as Countdown Round Winners, and Stanley Wong '18 as the top student in the Sprint and Target Rounds): the Debate Team had a successful Princeton Debate Tournament in December. with two double octafinalists, one guarter finalist, and one novice field winner, as well as five speaker awards; and the Junior Quiz Bowl took 2nd and 3rd places at the Bergen Academy tournament in the fall.

Alum Updates

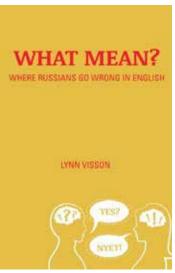


Mildred SPIEWAK Dresselhaus, Jan. '48, was listed in Computer World Online as one of thirteen women who have made major contributions in the fields of science and technology. The article was written in honor of Ada Lovelace Day (October 13) and was sent to us by Andrea Elberger '69, who writes "This would be a great encouragement to the current female students at HCHS, and a great source of excitement for many alumni who remember when HCHS was an all-female institution. Most importantly, if you point to slide #4 (out of 15), you will pinpoint the only woman for whom her pre-college education was even mentioned. And why did this one woman have her high school education mentioned? Because she went to Hunter College High School."

Rael Jean Isaac, Jan, '50, has a new book out called *Roosters of the Apocalypse*. The book, a skeptic's guide to global warming, examines the current concern over climate change and



the economic toll it causes within an anthropological rather than scientific context. Richard Lindzen, MIT professor of atmospheric sciences, wrote the forward. More information is available on the website www. priceofgreen.com.



Lynn Visson '62 announces the publication of What Mean? Where Russians Go Wrong in English (New York: Hippocrene Books, 2013). The book explores the problems inherent in speaking a language without understanding the culture in which it is spoken, and the ways they can lead to misunderstandings and miscommunication. Numerous practical examples help readers understand the cultural markers and signposts in both languages.



Anita Altman '63 is the founder of the ReelAbilities: New York Disabilities Film Festival, the nation's largest festival dedicated to promoting awareness and appreciation of the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with different disabilities. It has expanded into 14 additional cities across the country. Since 2007, the festival has been presenting award winning films by and about people with disabilities in multiple locations throughout each hosting city. Post-screening discussions and other engaging programs bring together the community to explore, discuss, embrace, and celebrate the diversity of our shared human experience. This year's festival opens March 6 at the JCC in Manhattan, with screenings in 25 diverse locations throughout the NY metro area. In November, CCNY awarded Anita the Townsend Harris Medal for outstanding postgraduate work in her chosen field. More info at www.reelabilities.org. In addition, her son Sascha Altman DuBrul '92, co-founder of the Icarus Project, which aims to provide a viable alternative to current methods of approaching

and treating mental illnesses (www.theicarusproject.org), published his memoir *Maps to the Other Side: The Adventures of a Bipolar Cartographer* this spring after participating in TEDxHunterCCS in the fall.



February 7, 2014 marked the 50th anniversary of the Beatles Arrival at JFK airport, an event attended by thousands, including a few young Hunterites! Lois ZELMAN Weiss '68 wrote in to say that two of her fellow 8th graders, Anne Krantz '68 and Patricia CONNELL Litwinko '68, were there when the plane landed. "It was my idea to ask the principal to legally leave school early," recalled Lois. "The school should have reps at the airport for this 'historic occasion' (my words then). He said only if you had a B average. I had a C average and ended up at the Plaza with a bunch of other girls from the school. A few made it into some very historic photos - one of them with Melinda Stern '68 and Diane Chavan '68 is in People Magazine (pictured above!)." Lois is also interviewed in a documentary about the Beatles coming to America regarding a petition she brought to the Plaza. "The three of us also had twelfth row tickets to the Beatles at Carnegie Hall that my mom got through Sid Bernstein!"

Cellist **Nat Chaitkin '87** has been performing his innovative program, Bach and Boombox, to great acclaim. The interactive, casual presentation includes live performance, pop and jazz

recordings, and stories about the concert world and Nat's own experiences in the Marine Band. His mission is to bring concert music to new audiences by performing in unconventional settings and highlighting connections between musicians from Hindemith to Macklemore and Tito Puente. Nat has presented Bach and Boombox in schools, community centers, Procter and Gamble headquarters, and an airport, as well as on behalf of orchestras seeking new audiences. For more information, visit www.bachandboombox.com



Liza B. Zimmerman '87 writes that she is loving writing and teaching about wine and cocktails in San Francisco. She recently scaled back to a freelance position at the national restaurant magazine Cheers to promote her interactive wine and cocktail experiences for corporations and private individuals all over the country. Team building programs—for clients such as IBM, Microsoft, and Roche—have included blind tastings, wine competitions based on Iron Chef, and wine and food pairings under the Liza the Wine Chick banner (www.lizathewinechick.com). She also covers wine and food for national publications such as Examiner, Where SF, and Wine Business Monthly, and consults with wineries and importers on written marketing materials. She misses NYC, but not the weather, and is always happy to tell alums where to eat in San Francisco.



On Sunday, March 2, **Bobby Lopez '93** made history when he accepted his Oscar for the song "Let It Go" from the movie *Frozen*, making him the youngest artist to ever win an Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony (popularly known as EGOT). Bobby co-wrote the song with his wife, Kristen Anderson-Lopez. Watch their acceptance speech here: entertainment.time.com/2014/03/03/oscars-2014-let-it-go-acceptance-speech/

Film producer **Mynette Louie '93** recently premiered *Cold Comes the Night,* a crime thriller starring Alice Eve, Bryan Cranston and Logan Marshall-Green which was released theatrically by Sony/Goldwyn. More info at www. coldcomesthenight.com. She also premiered *Land Ho!,* a buddy comedy set in Iceland, at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival. More info at www.landhomovie.com. Last fall, Mynette was tapped to run Gamechanger Films, a new financing company that invests exclusively

in women-directed feature films. The company's launch was covered by the Los Angeles Times, Rolling Stone, Fast Company, and Variety, among others. More info at www. gamechanger-films. com. You can follow



Mynette on Twitter and Facebook @mynette.

When Tim Armstrong, CEO of AOL, held a town hall meeting in early February to explain that he was cutting retirement benefits for employees, he cited the rise in healthcare costs and used the example of two "distressed" babies that cost the company a million dollars each. One of those babies is the daughter of alumna **Deanna Fei '95**, who responded with a strong and articulate essay in *Slate*, and whose story has since appeared on *The Today Show*. "I take issue with how he



reduced my daughter to a 'distressed baby' who cost the company too much money," Deanna wrote. "How he blamed the saving of her life for his decision to scale back employee benefits. How he exposed the most searing experience of our lives, one that my husband and I still struggle to discuss with anyone but each other, for no other purpose than an absurd justification for corporate cost-cutting." Read the article: www. slate.com/articles/double_x/doublex/2014/02/tim_armstrong_blames_distressed_babies_for_aol_benefit_cuts_he_s_talking.html

Macauley Peterson '97 has moved to Hamburg, Germany, with his wife Isabel, where he is the Content Director for the new online chess platform, chess24. Their daughter, Amélie June, was born last September. (Hunter Class of '30, maybe?)

Justine Borer '99 sent her update for *AlumNotes* via the Submit Your News page on our website! She wrote: "After three years at a boutique Manhattan family/divorce law firm, I am now the principal of Law Office of

"I take issue with how he reduced my daughter to a 'distressed baby' who cost the company too much money. How he blamed the saving of her life for his decision to scale back employee benefits. How he exposed the most searing experi-ence of our lives, one that my husband and I still struggle to discuss with anyone but each other, for no other purpose than an absurd justification for corporate cost-cutting."

— Deanna Fei '95 in her Slate article response to Tim Armstrong, CEO of AOL Justine Borer. I continue to focus on family and divorce law, with an emphasis on mediation, uncontested divorces, and prenuptial agreements for future spouses in their 20s and 30s. I always look forward to connecting with Hunterites, either professionally or just catching up over coffee."



Eighteen months after launching his new healthy snack company Dang Foods, **Vincent Kitirattragarn '02** and his Dang Coconut Chips are receiving excellent reviews. The chips, which are now in over 2,000 stores around the country, have been featured in *The New York Times*, NBC News, *The Huffington Post*, and *Cosmopolitan*, among others. Vincent himself was recently mentioned in *Forbes'* 2014 "30 Under 30" list of rising entrepreneurial stars.

Want to submit an update?
Email Lillian Meredith
at Imeredith@hchsaa.org
or visit www.hchsaa.org and
click on Submit Your News!

In Memoriam

Ruth YETTER Crecelius, Jan. '39 passed away in October. After receiving her BA from Hunter College in 1942, she went on to put her biology degree to good use in blood banking and medical research. She retired as Clinic Coordinator of Rehab Medicine at Montefiore Hospital. She leaves behind her daughters Kathryn Crecelius '70 and Carolyn Crecelius Filippelli, and her grandchildren Amanda and James.

Marilyn TICK Feldman '40 died in September at the age of 89. Born in the Bronx, she attended Hunter College and Kean University before becoming a secretary for the Florence M. Gaudineer Junior High School in Springfield, NJ. A longtime member of Temple Sha'rey Shalom, she was active in her community before moving to Media, PA after the death of her husband in 2006. She is survived by her two daughters, her son, and three grandchildren. Donations may be made to the World Jewish Congress or the Magen David Adom.

Ophelia DeVORE-Mitchell '41, a former model and founder of the Grace del Marco Modeling Agency and the Ophelia DeVore School of Self-Development and Modeling as a training ground for black models, died on February 28 at the age of 91. Ophelia was a pioneer and champion for African-American models at a time when the industry was almost completely closed to minorities. As an agent, she represented many of the first mainstream black models, and her work paved the way for contemporary supermodels like Naomi Campbell and Tyra Banks. In her charm school, she taught not only Wardrobe, Social Graces, Figure Control, and Diction, but also classes designed to increase self-confidence; in an era before "black is beautiful", Ophelia promoted, advocated, and tirelessly fought for the careers of her pupils. "I wanted to change the way people of color were seen across the United States," she told the black-themed news site The Grio. "I wanted America to know that beauty isn't just white."



The Alumnae/i Association received the following obituary for **Carol Burnett '52** from Jeannette Brown at the Princeton Research Forum. "There is a saying by Maya Angelou: 'Be sure that you do not die without having done something wonderful for humanity.' In the loving home of Hilda and Lionel Burnett, this guiding principle fueled the dedication to achievement and service lived out by their

daughter Carol Eudine. This kind girl with a soft smile, big dreams, and a curious mind would surpass even the highest expectations of her Barbadian immigrant parents, excelling in school and rising in her profession to trailblazing heights. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Hunter College in 1956 and stepped from that highly competitive all-women's cocoon into New York's Albert Einstein College of Medicine where there were few women, fewer African Americans, and virtually no African American women. In fact, Dr. Burnett was the first black woman to graduate from Einstein. In spite of the visceral racism and sexism she faced in school and beyond, Dr. Burnett was never bitter. Instead, she displayed a keen sensitivity to and passion for medicine's need for greater diversity that would drive her to make a difference. She embarked on a career in pediatrics at Los Angeles Children's Hospital, followed by New York's Elmhurst City Hospital, and the NYC Board of Education where she was a District 3 physician in its School Health Project. As a pediatrician, Dr. Burnett's loving heart for children and adolescents was at the core of the compassionate care she provided. In 1973, she joined the staff at New York's prestigious Mount Sinai Hospital, where she would remain until her retirement. Dr. Burnett's career at Mount Sinai was impressive, collaborative, and often punctuated by firsts. Perhaps most notably, she was the first black Assistant Dean at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. It was a mantle she wore with humility, viewing it as an honor, not a burden, to serve as an example and leader for those following in her wake. As a Dean, she made it known that her goal was to change the 'face' of medicine. A pioneer in advocating and creating a welcoming place for minority medical students, she addressed institutional barriers to full inclusion head-on. Known for her work with the American Association of Medical Colleges Group on Student Affairs/Minority Affairs, she worked tirelessly with colleagues to write and implement Health Career Opportunity Program (HCOP) Grants. The continuing battle for equal rights became very real in the presence of one who had been on the front lines for much of her life. In 1992, Dr Burnett co-founded the Mount Sinai School of Medicine Cultural Diversity in Medicine Program (now the Center for Multicultural and Community Affairs), created to teach students the art of culturally sensitive medical practice. She was also one of the founders of the Northeast Consortium on Cross Cultural Medical Education and Practice, developing curricula and policy on cross cultural medical practice and education throughout the region. On January 28, 2014, Dr. Burnett died peacefully with family and staff around her at New York's Jewish Home and Lifecare Center. Predeceased by her devoted sister, Hilda, Dr. Burnett's warm, caring presence left an indelible impression upon patients, colleagues, friends, and family. Without question, she did something wonderful for humanity."

Beverly KOLENBERG Spelfogel, Jan. '53, wife for nearly 55 years of Evan J. Spelfogel, passed away peacefully at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital early on November 22. Beverly devoted her life to education, the environment, and the betterment of humankind. Born and raised on the Lower East Side of New York City and in Brooklyn, Beverly attended Brooklyn College, earned a Master's degree in 17th-century English literature from Columbia University (where she met and married Evan), and an additional Master's degree from Queens College in reading. After several years teaching in Washington, DC, Brooklyn, and on Long Island, Beverley earned a law degree from St. John's University School of Law and thereafter served for 28 years with the United States Environmental Protection Agency where she was Assistant Regional Counsel at the time of her passing. During her service with the EPA she also served as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of NY, interfaced with the U.S. Department of Justice, tried cases in the lower federal courts and argued several cases before the Second Circuit United States Court of Appeals. She specialized in Superfund site clean-up litigation and was a leader of the team that was instrumental in recently bringing to a close the ten year massive litigation following the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. She leaves behind two sons, Scott and Douglas, a daughter, Karen, and six grandchildren, as well as many other relatives, colleagues, and friends, 400 of whom attended Beverley's Funeral/Memorial Services on November 25 at the Sutton Place Synagogue. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be made to the Spelfogel Family Scholarship Fund at the Boston Latin School, 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur, Boston MA 02115.

Monique SPEARS Mim '77 passed away on October 19. Classmate Alyce Lee 77/78 ICY wrote to tell us that twenty-five members of their class attended the funeral, where Ellen Purtell '77 spoke for them. The following is excerpted from her eulogy: "I will miss her every day for the rest

of my life. Mo lived life, even if life did not always treat her kindly. She reached out to so many, so many called her 'big sister.' She put everyone and their problems before herself and her's. Mo had the sixth sense of the best bartender: she knew when and how to use humor, soothing words, or scathingly funny humor to make the connection, always with affection. She had an infinite capacity to care for others. She was born with this. She may not have agreed with you, but she would support your right to speak your mind and would insist that it be always civil and respectful. She seemed to know when to reach out to her flock - she was our shepherd, when I just had an unpleasant test, or was feeling blue. Our conversations ended with 'love you' and 'love you more."

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

Sara Klein '28 Mae HIMMELSTEIN Lovett '30 Florence BURRELL Murdich '32 Grace BUTLER Pintz, Jan. '34 Jane McNICOL Carey '34 Margaret C. GUMBS Harrison, Jan. '35 Clara KURAJIAN Yeramian '37 Annette CASSIDY Noe '38 Francesa JONES Braithwaite, Jan. '40 Julia BASS Bossinger '40 Alice FURLONG Cavallaro '40 Roslyn KIRSCHNER Fallick '40 Bernice PRESNE Goldin '41 Jean MURGATROYD Stiles '41 Doris WOEHRLIN Johannessen, Jan. '42 Elaine DWORK Chanley, Jan. '46 Harriet KRONMAN Fein, Jan. '46 Frieda LEMONT Silverman, Jan. '46 Malamo CORNIOTES Megalos, Jan. '47 Rosalind NETTER Lewis '47 Jean Carol SHERRY Weston '47 Barbara MILSTEIN Beyda, Jan. '49 Suzanne May SCHWEIGER Marks '49 Ethelyn STONE Bernstein '50 Susan BRADY Dereckskey '50 Lucille ABRAMS Meirowitz '53 Lenore LIPPES Fleming '57 Harriet Krantz '57 Joanne GALDAMEZ Woolfolk '58 Iris SCHLEIFFER Cleveland '60 Inara MARKOVSKIS Moricca '61 Maureen Cullen '80



RECONNECT REDISCOVER REUNION 2014

Reunion 2014: It's Almost Time

As always, the Alumnae/i Association has a great weekend planned, culminating in the General Assembly on Sunday, June 1. We'll have more information on the events as the year goes on. Visit the Reunion page at www.hchsaa.org/reunion-landing, or use the form at the back of this edition of *AlumNotes* to pre-register.

JOIN US
THE WEEKEND OF
MAY 30 – JUNE 1
FOR THE HCHS
REUNION 2014!

What is the General Assembly?

The General Assembly is a chance for Hunterites to gather together as a single community.

We come from many different back-grounds 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.





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 throughout the weekend. 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!

FRIDAY, MAY 30

9pm - Kick Off Party

Start the weekend off at the Manchester Pub on 2nd Avenue. There will be a cash bar, raffle prizes, and Hunter spirit. FREE/REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

SATURDAY, MAY 31

12pm - Picnic and Softball Game

The seventh 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.

2pm - Central Park Conservatory Tour

Baseball not your thing? Come instead to the Conservatory Garden, where we'll travel the grounds with Franz Helmke and learn about the beautiful flora in the park's only formal garden. Michelle MARDER Kamhi '54, co-editor of Aristos, an online review of the arts and co-author of What Art Is (2000) will also speak to the group about the garden's two sculptures.

FREE/REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

3pm and 4pm - Tour of the Old High School

The building on East 68th and Lexington will be open for tours at 3pm and 4pm. Walk the halls of the old building, which looks remarkably unchanged to this day. FREE/REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

HCHS GENERAL REUNION 2014

Location: Hunter College High School, 71 East 94th Street

9:00 AM Check-in and tours of Time:

the high school

11:00 AM General Assembly

12:30 PM Lunch

2:00 PM Annual Members

Admission: \$25 for Dues-Paid Members

\$25 for Classes '64 and earlier/

'09 and later

\$35 General Admission

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

After the General Assembly on Sunday, June 1, our 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

director candidates and voting by proxy will be available on the AA website (www.hchsaa. org) the week of May 19.

Milestone Reunion Classes

2014 is a Milestone Reunion for all class years ending in 4 and 9, and is an especially big year for the classes of '89 and '64, who will be celebrating their 25th and 50th reunions.

The following alumnae/i are organizing

special reunion activities for their respective milestone classes. If you have not heard from your coordinator, please contact them at the email address listed at right. If your class has no coordinator, and you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lillian Meredith at Imeredith@hchsaa.org.

Jan. 1939 **Beverly GUTTERMAN** Rosenstein bevrtennis@juno.com June 1939 **Elaine KIRSCHBAUM Harris** elaineharris317@gmail.com Shirley FISHMAN Silverberg srsi1@aol.com June 1944 **Margaret Dawson** margaret922@webtv.net **Esther WIGDEN Glass** ewglass@optonline.net Jan. 1949 Mildred Speiser ispeis@gmail.com Harriet KONSTADT Sherman hsherman@gmail.com June 1949 Gloria Evangeline **HOOPER-Rasberry** rasberry13224@yahoo.com Jane SCHWARTZ Schultz jane.schultz914@gmail.com 1954 Barbara BLAHO Doonan bbdoonan@aol.com **Dorothy BADEN Lee** dlee6980@aol.com 1959 Lisa Rabinowicz lirabinow@aol.com 1964 Susan Spector saspector@gmail.com Diane Tabakman 1969 dianetabakman@gmail.com Jane Elkoff jane.elkoff@gmail.com 1974 **Adrienne MULLER Camesas** acamesas@gmail.com Susanna (Suki) Scott kirkbride104@gmail.com Sandra Sindel sbsindel@cs.com 1979 Helene Caloir hcaloir@caloir.com 1984 **Emma OWENS Kerins**

If you cannot attend, information regarding

ekerins@halstead.com **Howard Shiau** howardshiau@yahoo.com Aurora Velazquez aurora.velazquez@icfi.com 1989 Jessica Liberman jessica.liberman@moodys.com 1994 Alexis Fermanis akfermanis@gmail.com 1999 Anri WHEELER Brenninkmeyer anrielizabeth@gmail.com 2004 Christina Lee cjleeq@gmail.com 2009 **Alexander Bores** alex.bores@gmail.com Alexandra Essey alexandra.essey@morganstanley.com

HCHSAA Events

Backstage Pass to Broadway

On one of the many cold nights in February, alumnae/i and their guests gathered in the cozy high school library to listen to **Susan Schulman '62** tell glamorous tales of the Great White Way. Susan's new memoir, *Backstage Pass to Broadway*, is a fascinating and often laugh-out-loud funny history of her extensive (and ongoing) career as a Broadway and Off-Broadway publicist. Over the course of an hour, Susan read aloud from her book, and augmented her written stories with further unpublished tales of show business.

"I've lived my entire life within a thirteen block radius," Susan began. "Growing up, there was Hunter, ice skating at Wollman Rink, ballet class, bike riding in Riverside Park, social dancing at Viola Wolff, the Public Library, swimming at the 92nd Street Y, and Broadway." She went on to describe how she became a "theater kid, sitting up in the cheap seats or standing in the back of the orchestra. and then waiting outside stage doors," and after college apprenticed herself to press agents before opening her own office. Over the next hour, Susan regaled her rapt audience with anecdotes, such as the story of how, at 23, she became the primary press agent on Applause because she was the only person in the office that Lauren Bacall trusted. Or the time she danced with Bob Fosse, who "looked at me, as if for the first time, and said 'Susan, you're a very good dancer.' Overcome by his charisma and sex appeal, and in a dazed, somewhat addled state, I replied 'So are you!'" She told stories about Yul Brenner and George C. Scott and Mary Martin, about shows that succeeded, and ones that failed.

She also explained the work of the press agent, especially the importance of creating the right expectations for the audience. "People don't realize that, before anyone goes to a show - before they even decide that they want to see a show - they need to know something. And how do they know that? Maybe it's through an ad, maybe it's hearing somebody on the radio, maybe it's seeing somebody being interviewed. Somehow or other, they're getting a message about what the play or the musical is going to be in a way that interests them enough to plunk down a lot of money to see a show. And that has to do with how a





Top: Susan Schulman '62 regales the audience with tales from Broadway's golden age. Bottom: Members of the class of '62.

press agent creates that correct expectation." If a press agent misrepresents the show, she explained, the audience and critics will come expecting something different and leave disappointed.

After her talk, Susan took questions from the audience. She discussed the differences between Broadway then and now, about the length of runs and the advent of movie stars in productions, and about the rise in ticket prices and stage unions. Then, she sold and signed copies of her book, and talked one on one with her fellow alums, whose stage-struck enthusiasm mirrored her own. The evening, as a whole, served as a reminder of the great and enduring power of theater - the ability it has to capture the imagination. As Susan summed up, "if it's wonderful, it's wonderful. When you see something wonderful on stage, it's magic. That's why we're all here. That's why we're all in the theater. It's magic."

The Riddle of the Labyrinth

"On March 30th, 1900, a workman's spade unlodged the first clay tablet... Europe's earliest written record. Inscribed with a stylus when the clay was still wet, they dated to about 1450 BC, nearly seven centuries before the advent of the Greek alphabet. The characters they contained...resembled the symbols of no known alphabet, ancient or modern."

So began the reading on Monday, March 3 of Margalit Fox's thrilling new book *The Riddle of the Labyrinth: The Quest to Crack an Ancient Code.* In a room overlooking midtown Manhattan, the author and *New York Times* writer read a long selection from her book detailing not only the discovery of the language known as Linear B, but also explaining the way that ancient scripts are understood.

"The script itself is filled with internal clues. The decipherer's job is to know how and where to find them." But how, Margalit asked her audience, do you know if the symbols are even writing? "At bottom, all writing really does is take the sounds of a language and map them onto a series of designated graphic symbols: the characters of that script." She explained the three types of writing systems that make up every language in the world; the decipherer must figure out not only which category a script falls into, but also the direction of the sentences, the direction of each letter, and the locations of word breaks. Over the course of the evening, Margalit gave her audience the tools to understand Linear B from the perspective of those who discovered it.

Moreover, she told the story of **Alice Kober**'24, a Hunter alum who, along with Michael
Ventris, "emerged as best equipped to crack

the code. [She] was a firey American classicist, the lone woman among the serious investigators whose immense contribution to the decipherment has been all but lost to history." Alice discovered Linear B while in college and became captivated by the puzzle. Without her twenty years of work - searching for symbols during her spare time - the code may never have been deciphered. Margalit explained how Alice moved through the code, treating the symbols as abstract objects, searching for patterns of symbols of form without meaning. Through this method, she was able to determine that Linear B was an inflected language, a discovery that proved invaluable.

With the aid of slides, Margalit clearly and effectively guided the audience through the

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meaning of the script and the various discoveries that led to its decipherment. Her talk was so successful that it lead to a half hour of questions from the audience. It was a deeply stimulating and very Hunter event.







Top: Margalit Fox explains ancient scripts; Bottom Left: Detail of Linear B; Bottom Right: Alice Kober '24 and an original tablet of Linear B.

A Night Devoted to the Brain

On the evening of Tuesday, April 8, six alumnae/i neuroscientists gathered in the high school auditorium to discuss their groundbreaking work. The panel, comprised of MDs, PhDs, and MScs, spoke for two hours, detailing how the most recent innovations in brain science and neurosurgery are changing everything, from our understanding of autism and nicotine addiction to the creation of computers that can work in congress with our bodies to enhance our lives.

The panel began at 7pm with introductions from HCHS Principal Dr. Tony Fisher and former HCHS science teacher and current board member Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61, as well as panel moderator Hannah I. Lipman MD, MS, HCHS '89. Then, it was time for each scientist to discuss their work, condensing the complicated scope of their studies into seven-minute presentations. Adam Cohen PhD, HCHS '97 went first. "My dream is to look at a brain and see the patterns of signals whizzing around between the neurons - to see how they work when the brain is functioning properly and to see how they are misregulated in disease." He went on to explain how he has been developing tools to make neurons light up when they fire, allowing him to study which neurons control different aspects of behavior. He also described how skin cells can be reprogrammed back through embryotic development to become stem cells, and then converted into neurons by being redeveloped down a different path, thereby creating genetically identical neural cells. Currently, he's using this technology to study ALS.

Next, Danielle Bolling MSc, HCHS '04, a third year PhD student in the interdepartmental neuroscience program at Yale, described her work in the Child Studies Center investigating the neural correlates of social and emotional processes in youth with autism spectrum disorders. In her research, Danielle and her colleagues ask children to lie in scanners and play computer games that simulate social exclusion through a game of electronic catch, and a shape-matching game that exacerbates the inflexible rule adherence that tends to be inherent in autism. While the children perform the tasks, Danielle maps the neural responses of the insula (a region of the brain that is fundamental to emotional processing), and analyzes typical and atypical activities in reactions to the different situations. Danielle also looks particularly at the unaffected siblings of children with autism to try to understand the



Hannah Lipman '89, Jeffrey Greenfield '90, Marina Picciotto '81, Ben Rapoport '99, Adam Cohen '97, Danielle Bolling '04, and Daniel Leeds '01.

alternate neural mechanisms that unaffected siblings use to combat their inherited social vulnerabilities.

Next was **Daniel Leeds PhD, HCHS '01**, an assistant professor of Computer and Information Science at Fordham University whose work is at the intersection of computer science and neuroscience. He is particularly focused on how artificial intelligence can present new hypotheses for how the human brain works. In his research, he is working to understand how the brain takes visual properties out in the world and combines them into objects.

After a break for questions and answers, Jeffrey Greenfield PhD, MD, HCHS '90 followed up with a discussion about his work in pediatric neurosurgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Weill Cornell Medical Center and his interest in translational medicine – that is, how doctors and surgeons can take what they learn in the operating room back to the laboratory in order to affect changes in treatments for their patients.

Marina Picciotto PhD, HCHS '81 has focused her research on the role of nicotine acetylcholine receptors in behaviors related to nicotine and opiate addiction, as well as how depression, learning, and appetite are affected by tobacco smoking. Her work looks at rules of individual molecules in complex behaviors and uses genetic engineering to make causal inferences between changes at the molecular level and the levels of molecular attraction, cell biology, circuit level interactions, and behavior in humans. The problem, she explained, is that most people begin smoking in adolescence, which causes changes in the brain that leads to a persistent behavior that, even when

people quit, is triggered again and again by the cues in the environment.

Finally, **Ben Rapoport MD, PhD, HCHS '99**, who works with Dr. Greenfield as a Resident at New York-Presbyterian and Weill Cornell Medical, discussed his interests in microelectronic devices and how they interface with the brain and nervous system to repair damaged neural circuits and enhance brain and neural functions. Using pace makers and cochlear implants as early examples of machines enhancing the lives of human beings, he talked about his work with deep brain stimulation – electrodes that are implanted in different areas of the brain – and the way these implants can be powered by glucose.

The audience, which included not only alumnae/i, their guests, and current and former faculty, but also excited high school students who sat rapt at their predecessors, spent each presentation writing questions on index cards which Dr. Lipman used during the question and answer sessions to stimulate conversation. The evening culminated in a lively discussion between the scientists about each other's work. The most exciting part of the event was that, despite the vast difference in the work of each neuroscientist and the varied skills each subset of research requires, all of their work is surprisingly interconnected. From physical brain surgery to computer science and brain mapping, the different areas of neuroscience, that at first glance seemed so completely separate. were actually completely interdependent. "The links between the various levels of investigation are actually beginning to become possible," explained Dr. Picciotto. "I think that's why it is an incredibly exciting time to be a neuroscientist."

Support Your Alma Mater

A Generous Gift

Mike Rashes '90 has committed to make a gift of \$40,000 towards the much needed renovation of the high school lockers. The PTA, in turn, has matched that gift so that the lockers can be renovated this summer. The HCHSAA is deeply grateful to Mike and his commitment to Hunter High.

Every donation, whether large or small, is appreciated by the school. Listed below are the ongoing needs; if you, too, want to donate to a specific project, include it in the memo line of your check, or write it in the comments section on the website payment form.

PROGRAMS

Advisory

The eighth grade advisory program, now in its fourth year, continues to be an integral part of the 8th grade experience at Hunter. Students report that this ten-minute period three times per week is a place that they can call their own and feel comfortable. The time that they spend in their small advisory class enables them to feel connected to an experience common in middle schools and helps them to avoid feeling that they are little fish in a big pond of upper-termers. Led by the Grade 7-9 Assistant Principal, the team of 18 advisory teachers continues to revise and hone the set of activities and discussion topics, which range from goal setting to how to handle Facebook and other online issues. Finally, an additional goal of Advisory is to help students create a close connection to an additional faculty/staff member, and surveys taken of students in the past couple of years show that the program has succeeded in doing exactly that. The total cost of the program is approximately \$20,000 per year.

Writing Lab

Now in its first year, the Writing Center has exceeded expectations. Thanks to the generosity of a grant from the Alumnae/i Association, a Task Force of faculty from several disciplines. led by English/Communications & Theatre Department Chair Lois Refkin, spent the 2012-2013 school year studying successful writing labs from schools both local and far-flung, and analyzing what a successful lab would look like at Hunter. As part of their deliberations, the Task Force polled the entire student body in order to determine which writing tasks students would be most likely to seek help. The resulting structure includes a mixture of dedicated faculty time in a designated Writing Lab location, coupled with coordinated peer review and tutoring of younger students by juniors and seniors. Funding for this program

covers the cost of faculty and proctor time. The cost of maintaining this program is \$20,000 per year.

Robotics

Each year, Hunter's robotics team participates in the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). Now in its fifth year, the team is open to all students grades nine through twelve and has grown to include over forty students. The competition involves a challenge that is unveiled each January. The team has six weeks to respond with an independently designed, manufactured, and assembled robot. The RoHawks receive some support from the PTA, the Alumnae/i Association, and from student fundraising activities, but funding is limited and corporate sponsorships, which many schools rely on, is hard to secure because most of the companies who support robotics teams are located in areas of the country with heavy manufacturing and aerospace industries. Of the companies in New York City who might be interested, Hunter is handicapped by the fact that it is not part of the Department of Education and falls outside that funding stream. The annual cost of this program is close to \$30,000 a year.

National Association of Independent Schools People of Color Conference/ Student Diversity Leadership Conference

For the last four years, the high school has sent faculty to the NAIS POCC (and, whenever possible, students to the concurrent NAIS SDLC), important conferences dedicated to helping schools deal with issues of diversity. Faculty members have already come back with important professional development activities for the rest of the faculty. Students who have gone as a group have reported that attending the SDLC has been "life-changing." All agree that sending both faculty and stu-

dents is vital to maximizing the experience for all, and enables further the work of both student and faculty groups dedicated to issues of diversity at HCHS. Depending on location, the cost of sending three faculty members and five students is between \$12,000 and \$15,000 per year.

FACILITIES/INFRASTRUCTURE

Dividing doors for double rooms

These doors are quite old and their inability to prevent sound from going from one room to the next greatly impacts instruction. Three of the six doors have already been replaced; it would take approximately \$60,000 to replace the other three doors.

Technology

In the past, generous donations from alumnae/i has allowed the HCHSAA to consistently provide the high school with financial support for computer labs and other technological upgrades. Whether for the Art and Music Mac Lab, the Foreign Language Lab, upgrading the Library technology, replacing faculty laptops, or just general use, the school's technology needs are significant and in the tens of thousands of dollars annually. The Alumnae/i Association is an important source of that funding.

Weight room upgrade

The complete upgrade of the HCCS weight room with all new equipment will cost up to \$75,000 and is planned over five years. It is already in progress, with generous support from the HCHSAA and the HCHSPTA, and is roughly halfway to completion.

Is it Your Milestone Reunion?

This is your chance to give to your Milestone Class Gift! The Class Gift is an important part of the HCHSAA fundraising, and we appreciate all our milestone alums who give during their reunion year.

Public funds only pay for basic necessities, such as heat, electricity, textbooks, and teacher salaries. Everything else comes from private contributions. The HCHSAA helps finance programmatic support, scholarships, fellowships, and other student aid programs like 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.

The school counts on this money, and it makes a tremendous difference. Your milestone reunion year is a great time to make a gift, since any contribution except your membership dues 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. Thank you.

Become a Member

The Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association serves more than 11,000 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 book readings. 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 contributions are necessary to the work of the HCHSAA - we simply cannot provide grants to the high school or programming for the alumnae/i without them. Membership itself is fundamental to the

entire Hunter alumnae/i network - there is no point in having an Alumnae/i Association without the advice, ideas, and involvement of faithful alumnae/i.

When you become a member, you not only demonstrate your support for the high school, but also take full responsibility for and ownership of your role as a constituent in the wider Hunter community that the HCHSAA strives to serve every day.

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL!

This spring, when you get two Hunter friends to join the HCHSAA for the first time, we'll send you a free mug! Tell them to go online to our website and, under Support the Association, click Become a Member, and list you as a referral in the comments box. Or, have them fill out the form below and send it back to us at HCHSAA Inc, 695 Park Avenue, Hunter College East, Room 1314E, New York, NY 10065.



My Friends are Joining HCHSAA

MAIL FORM TO: HCHSAA Inc, 695 Park Avenue, Hunter College East, Room 1314E, New York, NY 10065

MY NAME (REFERRAL) IS:			
FRIEND'S NAME	GRADUATION YEAR	FRIEND'S NAME	GRADUATION YEAR
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DIANE DI PRIMA '51

poet

Buddhist New Year Song

I saw you in green velvet, wide full sleeves seated in front of a fireplace, our house made somehow more gracious, and you said "There are stars in your hair"— it was truth I brought down with me

to this sullen and dingy place that we must make golden make precious and mythical somehow, it is our nature, and it is truth, that we came here, I told you, from other planets where we were lords, we were sent here, for some purpose

the golden mask I had seen before, that fitted so beautifully over your face, did not return nor did that face of a bull you had acquired amid northern peoples, nomads, the Gobi desert I did not see those tents again, nor the wagons infinitely slow on the infinitely windy plains, so cold, every star in the sky was a different color the sky itself a tangled tapestry, glowing but almost, I could see the planet from which we had come

I could not remember (then) what our purpose was but remembered the name Mahakala, in the dawn

in the dawn confronted Shiva, the cold light revealed the "mindborn" worlds, as simply that, I watched them propagated, flowing out, or, more simply, one mirror reflecting another. then broke the mirrors, you were no longer in sight nor any purpose, stared at this new blackness the mindborn worlds fled, and the mind turned off:

a madness, or a beginning?

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Want to submit to the Alum Corner?

Email lmeredith@hchsaa.org

with your art, writing, or anything else!

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;

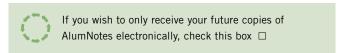
To serve as a resource for students of the School to enhance their education;

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.





PAYMENT FORM

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