

Fall
2013

AlumNotes



HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/ASSOCIATION, INC. • VOLUME 40, NUMBER 2



FEATURE STORY

Alums in the Sciences

PAGE 6

Letter From the President

Dear fellow Hunter graduate,

Over the past few years, one of the priorities of the HCHSAA board has been providing the high school with the necessary resources so that students can have the best education possible. Many of us remember our years at Hunter and the exceptional education we received fondly, and want to make sure we give back to our school.

For the past few years, we have reached record highs in giving to the high school through grants to individual departments and funding special events such as the TEDxHunterCCS conference. With our support, the school was able to provide new graphing calculators, renovate music rooms, update the computer lab, and much more.

We hope to be able to continue this tradition of supporting the school and its students, but we cannot do so without the help of the alumnae/i. As the year comes to an end, I would personally like to ask those of you who have never given to consider doing so.

The school's budget from the city simply opens the doors and pays for teacher salaries; extracurricular activities, school trips, and all equipment (ranging from gym equipment to video equipment), however, are all supported by the PTA and the HCHSAA. Please join me in contributing to the school to ensure that these necessities continue for the next generation of Hunterites.

The best way to learn about the needs of the high school and the HCHSAA's efforts is to stay in touch electronically. We announce most news on our website (www.hchsaa.org), via email, and on Facebook. Please provide our office with a current email address, or if you are on Facebook please join the "Official Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association" group so that we can keep you informed. Aside from our important work for the school, we also have events for alumnae/i throughout the year, and we hope you'll join us! You can learn more about some of our recent events in The Alumnae/i Association section of this newsletter, and can sign up for future events on our website under the Events & Updates menu tab.

Thank you in advance for all your support, and a very happy holidays. We look forward to seeing you in the new year!

Sincerely yours,



Christine Wong '95
President



6



2



13



18



20



On the cover: Naomi Miller '68 teaching charcoal identification at the Penn Museum in Philadelphia

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ALUMNOTES FALL 2013

Table of Contents

The School

TEDxHunterCCS Returns	2
News from the School	5

The Alums

Feature: Alums in the Sciences	6
Alum Updates	13
Alums in the News	14
In Memoriam	15
Corrections to the Summer 2013 Issue	15

The Alumnae/i Association

Reunion 2014: Save the Date	16
HCHSAA Events	18
Institute of Responsible Media	20
End of Year Giving	20
Your Alumnae/i Association at Work	22



“Some stories are too important to be whispered. ... ‘If the world is to have a chance to hear, the press must shout.’”

—Anna Blech '14

TEDxHunterCCS

Returns

by Shannon Alexander

The second TEDxHunterCCS proved to be a day of motivational speeches and inspiring performances given by Hunter College High School and Elementary School alumnae/i, students, faculty, and parents. The event took place on Saturday, October 5 in the high school auditorium and was co-hosted by HCHS faculty **Stephen Young '86** and former model and actress **Sari Chang**, who graciously stepped in after organizer and award-winning journalist and author **Jennifer 8. Lee '94** was unable to attend due to illness. The event was produced by Hunter parent **Francesca Bacon** and was dedicated to the memory of former Hunter College Elementary School faculty member **Alvin W. Shields**. Over 200 people attended the event and 600 viewers watched the live stream webcast over the course of the day. The theme was Hunter's motto, *Mihi Cura Futuri: The Care of the Future is Mine*.

The morning began on a high note with a presentation by current high school senior **Anna Blech '14**, entitled “Downplaying the Holocaust: Arthur Hays Sulzberger and the *New York Times*.” Based on a research paper that won Blech first place at the 2013 New York City History Day competition, as well as the Eleanor Light Prize from the HCHS Social Studies Department, Blech's speech detailed how the *New York Times'* negligent coverage of the Holocaust during World War II resulted in widespread American ignorance of the

scale of the atrocities. Articles that did appear were often left without titles and pushed to the middle of the paper. Other newspapers around the country followed the *Times'* example, and published little about the Holocaust while it was occurring. Blech argued that if the media of the time had brought the events in Europe to the forefront of public consciousness, they may have been instrumental in saving lives.

Jamal Greene '95, Columbia Law Professor, followed with a speech about the dynamic structure of the U.S. constitution and the part that we as a society play in continually shaping it. **Amie Gross '71**, founder of Amie Gross Architects, spoke about the role of architecture in society and how successful architecture allows for solitude, attentive listening, group engagement, and a sense of belonging to a neighborhood. **Lily KLEBANOFF Blake '60** followed with her speech entitled “The Tipping Point: Why Women Will Lead the World of Tomorrow,” in which she argued that women are a valuable resource that are being under-utilized around the world.

HCHS English teacher **John P. Loonam** examined the change in the social perception of poverty through its depiction in American literature, using Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and Sapphire's *Push* (basis for the 2009 movie *Precious*). According to Loonam, the shift from Steinbeck's positive representation of his hard-working characters to Sapphire's cast of mostly anti-social criminals is a direct result of government policy, which

alters public opinion of the poor and pushes them to the margins of society. In a similar vein, **Sascha Altman DuBrul '92** completed the first half of the day with a talk about the stigmatization of “mental illness” through the rise of multi-national pharmaceutical corporations. DuBrul, diagnosed with bipolar disorder at the age of 18 and prescribed medication, believes that there is a better way to conceptualize and treat mental illness. He co-founded the Icarus Project, an online support network and media project, where people labeled “mentally ill” could re-shape the concept of mental illness, share stories, build community, and find radical mental health contacts.

The second half of the day began with a rousing rendition of *Shakshouka* by **Sam Mellins '15**, performed by the Hunter High School Senior Jazz Ensemble. **Kalia Firester '15** followed with a presentation entitled “Learning from Parasites to Create Safer Genetically Modified Plants,” which won her second place in the Plant Sciences Category at the 2013 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair this past May. **Blake Eskin '88**, co-founder of 29th Street Publishing, provided comic relief with an entertaining presentation of his own subway photography. Eskin explained that what started as a hobby, snapping candid photos of people on the subway using a Spycam app on his phone, transformed into a love of and appreciation

“Why do we need to think of the poor as somewhat separate, distant from the rest of the community? I think it’s because the factual existence of poverty clashes with the mythology of America as a place where prosperity is inevitable.”

—John P. Loonam

for the art form and its contemporary accessibility. Though many bemoan the loss of human connection in our technologically saturated age, Eskin argued that technology is actually a source of heightened interaction; for example, he posted an image he had taken of a man in the subway to the social media site Facebook, where a friend recognized and identified him, turning the man into a mutual friend. Technology, Eskin suggested, is actually eliminating the very concept of being a stranger.

Other speakers included **Kevin Cheung '14**, **Brent. R Stockwell '89**, HCES faculty **Allison Rosenblum**, HCHS faculty, **Kip Zegers**, **Eliza Connolly '14**, and **Patty CHANG Anker '88**. The day was rounded out by a beautiful performance of Dvorak's *Scherzo* from *Piano Quintet No.2 in A Major, Op. 81* by the Hunter Quintet.

Images and videos of the event can be found at the official website: www.tedxhunterccs.org.

Top: Anna Blech '14 kicks off the day; Middle: John P. Loonan discusses Steinbeck and Sapphire; Bottom: Julian Rosenblum '14 of the Senior Jazz Ensemble plays.



News from the School

Hunter Junior is Second-Place Woman in 10K

Simona Dwass '15 was the second woman and twelfth place overall finisher in the Little Red Lighthouse Swim on September 21. The 10.2 kilometer race in the Hudson River begins near 79th Street and extends to the George Washington Bridge. It is the largest 10K race in the United States and attracts participants from all over the world.



Simona Dwass '15 after the race

Celebrating Twenty Years of Hunter Achievement

HCHS was acknowledged in a collection celebrating twenty years of Random House's Creative Writing Competition, which awards scholarships to NYC high school seniors for original poetry, memoirs, fiction, drama, and graphic novel compositions. Since the competition began, Hunter has had ninety-six winners with eight this past year alone, including first place scholarship winners **Arielle Korman '13** in the Literature/Poetry category and **Wenyu Deng '13** in the Graphic Novel category. The Random House Foundation collection credited Hunter's English teachers **Kip Zegers** and **Richard Roundy**

as "motivating teachers without whom this program could not exist."



Arielle Korman '13 reading her poem On Running

International Science and Engineering Fair Finalists

Five HCHS students were selected to represent New York City at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona this past May. **Alexander Epstein '14** and **Anna Blech '14** won third place awards in Microbiology, and **Kalia Firester '15** won second place in Plant Sciences. The Intel International Science and Engineering Fair is the world's largest international pre-college science competition and draws students from over seventy countries, regions, and territories across the world.

New After-School Mandarin Language Courses

Fall 2013 saw the introduction of three new courses in Mandarin Chinese as part of an extension of an after-school program offered by the Chinese-American Parents Association of HCHS. Prior to this fall, the only course offered was one in cultural studies and Introductory Chinese. Thanks to the added support of the Chinese Flagship Center of Hunter College, the program now includes Introduction to Chinese Parts I and II and Hunter College Elementary Chinese I. Next year, CAPA hopes to add Hunter College Elementary Chinese II, with the goal of offering Hunter College credit to high school students in the future.

Hunter "Saddest Spot in Manhattan" Proved Untrue!

Earlier this month, Professor Yaneer Bar-Yam retracted his erroneous finding that Hunter College High School is the "saddest spot in Manhattan." Bar-Yam, who is the president of the New England Complex Systems Institute, had named Hunter the saddest spot in an article about a recently published report from his organization in *Science Magazine*. The report, which was released in August, analyzed Twitter messages from a two-week period in April 2012 for negative sentiments based on word-choice, emoticons, and key phrases. These messages were then made into a "sentiment map of New York City." The study concluded that the highest percentage of negative tweets originated from Hunter College High School's geographical coordinates.

The article caused quite a stir in the greater Hunter community, particularly among alums. Many were shocked by the report, while others cited the school's lack of windows, demanding workload, and the study's proximity to finals as possible explanations for the results. In response to the outcry, Bar-Yam re-examined his findings, and determined that the high volume of Twitter posts had actually originated from a location south of the school, which had accidentally overlapped with Hunter's coordinates, causing confusion.

Professor Bar-Yam apologized and published an explanatory note that he requested be posted with the original article. "I apologize for my incorrect inference about the Hunter College High School, for which I am solely responsible, and for the subsequent reporting that cast a shadow over the positive reputation of the school." Furthermore, he lauded the community's self-assurance and ability to question the authenticity of the report. **Lisa Siegmann**, Assistant Principal for grades 10-12, cited the incident as a prime example of Hunter students putting their critical analysis skills to use. "We teach them about the necessity of gracefully acknowledging when an academic mistake is made, and we talk (incessantly) about how easily online miscommunications can spread," she said. "They'll probably remember this example better than any of our lectures."



Marina Picciotto '81 in her lab

“To be a scientist means always to be learning. Science is never static! Keeping up with new information is challenging, but keeps us from ever being bored!”

– Laura COLLINS Zurfluh '79

Alums in *the Sciences*

Hunter is widely known for its incredible humanities program and, as a result, is often overshadowed in renown for more quantitative subjects by schools like Stuyvesant, Bronx Science, and Brooklyn Tech. What it lacks in recognition, however, it makes up for in actual excellence, with a number of brilliant alums from across the decades who have applied their liberal education to successful and fascinating careers. From doctors to archaeologists to molecular microbiologists and beyond, Hunter has been graduating thoughtful, engaged, and creative participants in a wide range of scientific fields.

The most striking aspect of each scientist we interviewed is the passion with which they talk about their careers. And while some alums knew what they wanted to do from a young age (“I wanted to be a veterinarian since I was four,” wrote **Laura COLLINS Zurfluh '79**, “never wanted to be anything else.”), most forged a unique and sometimes circuitous path to their current profession.

David Morgenroth '92 describes a trajectory that began with his seventh grade science fair project. “My project was titled *How to Keep Cut Flowers Fresh*. I remember my dad teaching me how to ask scientific questions and explaining the concept of a hypothesis. I chose carnations for the experiment since they were the cheapest flowers we could find. I tested variables such as

putting sugar, pennies, salt, or aspirin into water with each carnation. The aspirin kept the flowers alive and fresh looking for the longest amount of time, but the stems kept breaking – I still remember reading about xylem and phloem within fibrovascular bundles in flower stems to try and understand why aspirin weakened the stems so much. I also remember putting together my poster presentation while listening to the Beastie Boys first album that had recently been released on audiocassette.”

True to Hunter form, however, it was a class in another discipline entirely that sparked his ultimate professional aspirations. During his sophomore year in college, “I took an American History course that solidified my interest in going into medicine. The professor opened my eyes to the history of the common people. He stressed the importance of listening to people’s stories as a means of understanding the diversity and richness of human experience. This love of listening to people’s stories was one of my inspirations for becoming a physician – to have that special opportunity to be trusted by people from all walks of life with their most intimate stories, and to have an opportunity to shape those ongoing stories in a positive manner.”

Like many of the scientists interviewed, David currently splits his time between research, clinical practice, and teaching. “As a physician, I focus my practice on improving

mobility, function and quality of life in individuals with amputation primarily in the Veteran population. I also see patients with musculoskeletal disorders such as osteoarthritis and non-surgical sports injuries. My research focuses on gait biomechanics and prosthetic engineering concepts applied to increase mobility and decrease pain in amputees and in people with knee osteoarthritis. I have been fortunate enough to have my research funded by the National Institutes of Health, The Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Defense. I teach courses in Amputee Rehabilitation and Biomechanics at the University of Washington. An important part of my career also focuses on mentoring the next generation of scientists and physicians in my field.”

Many Hunter scientists are similar to David, teaching as well as practicing or researching. **Marina Picciotto '81** is a neuroscientist who “studies the molecular basis of behavior.” She credits her ICY project as the beginning of her career; “I knew I liked science, but it was chance that one of my friends who was a year older was looking for someone to take over her internship in a lab at Rockefeller University and she asked me if I was interested. I said yes, and from the moment I walked in to interview, I was hooked. I haven’t been out of a lab since then.” In addition to this zeal, she is also the “Charles B.G. Murphy Professor of Psychiatry, Neurobiology, and Pharmacology



INNOVATIONS IN NEUROSCIENCE PANEL DISCUSSION

The Alumnae/i Association is organizing a panel discussion on innovations in neuroscience to be held in April 2014. The proposed title is *Brain Science: From Bench to Bedside*. Interested alumnae/i who do relevant work in the fields of computer science, medicine, psychology, pharmacology, and basic science should contact **Marjorie LANDS-BERG Goldsmith '61** at margego-ldsmith@optonline.net or **Dr. Hannah I. Lipman '89** hannah10023@hotmail.com.

Top Left: Barbara McCall Corkey '54 with her lab group; Top Right: Steve Thomopoulos '91 research team; Bottom Right: Naomi Miller '68 preparing to transplant native wild grasses for site conservation in Gordion, Turkey, which she hopes will stabilize the slopes of the old excavation in an attractive way.

at Yale, and Deputy Chair for Basic Science in the Psychiatry Department. I have been at Yale since 1995 and, in addition to research, I am involved in medical, graduate and undergraduate training."

Beverly KHNIE Philip '66, meanwhile, was "the first woman ever to be promoted to Professor of Anaesthesia at Harvard and is the Current Vice President for Scientific Affairs of the American Society of Aenesthesiologists." When asked about the difference between researching and teaching, she explained that "research is about expanding the boundaries of known science, and teaching is about sharing that knowledge with others."

Other alums focus solely on research.

Nicole Doria-ROSE '87 is a "Staff Scientist at the National Institutes of Health. I work at the Vaccine Research Center on the NIH campus at Bethesda. I do my own research and help to run a lab that studies antibodies against HIV."

Marcia Osburne '67 is a molecular microbiologist whose "major focus has always been on research rather than teaching. I love designing experiments to solve puzzles."

Learning how to conduct research, however, may have been one area where Hunter lagged behind the more science-oriented schools. Many alums who graduated in the

mid- and late-20th century lamented the lack of training they received in research skills. Archaeologist and Archaeobotanist **Naomi Miller '68** says that while "I was always a good student, Hunter didn't really prepare me for independent research, in the sense of how to identify a new or interesting problem." **Jean Tom '80**, who now works as a chemical engineer on "synthetic chemical processes to make new drug candidates" at Bristol-Myers Squibb, recalls that although she "loved the science courses at HCHS, the lab component was not as developed as it is in the current curriculum. So, I was a scientist in theory while at Hunter, but less in practice.... I chose to attend MIT because I wanted to be in an educational environment where the focus was science and engineering. HCHS gave me such a broad well-rounded education, with much more English, Social Studies, Music, and Communications and Theatre courses than I would have chosen myself, that I felt the need to immerse myself in the sciences for college." **Stavros (Steve) Thomopoulos '91**, whose research focuses on "the attachment of tendon to bone, which is clinically relevant to rotator cuff repair and ACL reconstruction," wishes there had been "more hands-on laboratory science and engi-

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A SCIENTIST?

"It means I get to do a job that I like. Not everyone has that! And it's something I find meaningful and important."

– Nicole Doria-ROSE

"It means always trying to understand what known data means and determining what problems need to be solved and developing an experimental plan to get the data to help solve it." – Jean Tom

"Being a scientist is more than just work, it is a way of looking at the world with an eye toward evaluating the evidence for and against any 'facts' that are presented to you. Humans make decisions based on lots of things, including how they feel, their beliefs and values, but one aspect of our decision making should be a clear-eyed evaluation of whether the premises and arguments we hear are based on real and measurable data. I think that cuts across many, many aspects of life, beyond work in a laboratory"
– Marina Picciotto

neering focused experiments" while he was at Hunter.

On the other hand, many alums expressed gratitude for Hunter's broad education. "The rigor of the science education – and all education – that I received at Hunter was unmatched in all my subsequent schooling," claims Beverly Philip. "When Hunter was all-girls and Stuyvesant and Brooklyn Tech were all-boys, Hunter was one of the rare places where young women could get an outstanding science education." "I learned so much at Hunter," agrees **Barbara Sorkin '74**, Director

of the Botanical Research Centers Program in the Office of Dietary Supplements at NIH; that you can fail and go on, that it's fine not to know the answer, and you can only learn when you're willing to acknowledge what you don't know. I learned to write and to learn, and to question.... I learned not to be afraid of asking stupid questions."

Marcia Osburne claims that "the major thing I learned at Hunter that helped me as a scientist was how to write! It's amazing how difficult that aspect of science can be for many scientists, and my very solid Hunter background in language arts continues to serve me well in that regard. I'm also happy to have received an expansive liberal arts education at Hunter, since in college and graduate school I was never able to take as many liberal arts courses as I would have liked." **Sharon KLAYMAN Farber '61** credits a creative writing class at Hunter as the start of her career in Behavioral Science. "We were instructed to write the way James Joyce did, just writing whatever came to mind, without censoring anything. I was astonished by what my usually logical mind produced! I came to understand that this stream of consciousness writing was very much like the free association process used in psychoanalysis, and that's how I became interested in the psychoanalytic process." The writing classes have also come in handy when penning her books *When the Body is the Target: Self-Harm, Pain and Traumatic Attachments* and the recently published *Hungry for Ecstasy: Trauma, the Brain and the Influence of the Sixties*. David Morgenroth agrees, saying that "in general, being a scientist means being observant, perceptive to important problems that exist, able to ask good questions, thinking of creative solutions, being a good writer and good communicator so that you are able to explain your ideas and experimental findings to others," all of which were helped by his Hunter education. **Barbara McCALL Corkey '54**, vice chair of research at Boston University School of Medicine and the former director of the Obesity Research Center at Boston Medical Center whose diabetes research earned her the Banting Medal for Scientific Achievement Award, was an art major in college. "I still love to paint," she says.

In the end, it seems as though the education at Hunter – strong in the arts and humanities as well as in the sciences and math – is as good a preparation for success

"I learned so much at Hunter: that you can fail and go on, that it's fine not to know the answer, and that you can only learn when you're willing to acknowledge what you don't know."

– Barbara Sorkin '74

as one more heavily oriented in one direction or another. "I really came to appreciate the depths of Hunter's liberal arts offerings," Marcia Osburne said, "and have always been glad that I went to Hunter rather than, for example, to the Bronx High School of Science, as Hunter is a much more well-rounded place."

STORIES FROM THE SCIENTISTS

“A fun project that we just completed examined the effect of weightlessness on mouse tendons and bones at NASA. We were involved in three Space Shuttle missions (14 days in orbit) and one Russian mission (30 days in orbit) where mice were taken into orbit. We examined the response of the musculoskeletal system to spaceflight upon landing at Cape Canaveral and in Moscow (they didn’t allow us to go to the Russian landing site in Kazakhstan!). I also participate in an outreach program that seeks to inspire female middle school students to enter science and engineering. The outreach program is run by two female professors in the engineering school. I developed a module for the program that focuses on bone. This involved a hands-on laboratory where students learned about the elements that make bone strong (namely collagen and mineral). Part of the experiment involved removing each component from chicken bones and seeing the response. Collagen was removed by bleach (2 day soak), making the bones brittle. Mineral was removed with vinegar (2 week soak), making the bones rubbery. The control was soaked in water. The girls seem really engaged with this lab; it’s particularly important to spark excitement in this group because of the dearth of females in science and engineering.”

– Steve Thomopoulos

“Nearly everyone who is infected with HIV makes antibodies, which are proteins in your blood that protect against germs. But the antibodies are mostly useless - they target the wrong parts of HIV. So far, vaccines that have been tested give antibodies that are just as poor. However, about a quarter of HIV patients naturally make some antibodies that can kill the virus - we call them neutralizing antibodies - and have broad activity, meaning they can kill viruses from around the world. We are studying these patients to figure out what their bodies did right, and how we can reverse-engineer it to make a better vaccine.” – Nicole Doria-ROSE



“I always liked fairy tales; mythology was in the same section of the library, so I read those books too; at some point (maybe 3rd grade or so) I realized that some of the Greek and Roman myths were more historical than totally fanciful, and that they were real people back then, and archaeology was how you studied them. When I was a senior (and Anthro major), I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do, so I took the Federal Civil Service exam, which qualified me for a job with the IRS. The recruiter pointed out that I would be a tax-collector, starting at grade G-whatever, and after so many years I’d be a G-whatever+1, and then a G-whatever+2, and I could retire after a certain amount of time. I

got so scared at the thought that I might know what I would be doing and what I would be earning in 20 years, that I realized my highest career value was not job security, as I had thought, but having an interesting life. That gave me the courage to be an archaeologist. With regard to archaeobotany, which is the analysis and interpretation of plant remains from archaeological sites, I always liked (house) plants. During my first year of grad school, my advisor asked me if I’d like to sort seeds (from one of his sites in Iran), and I said, ‘sure’. Archaeobotany was quite new at that time. He said if I liked it, I could keep doing it, but he had no idea how the work totally suited me. If he had offered pottery or chipped stone to study, who knows what would have happened.”

– Naomi Miller



“I run a group for therapists who want to learn how to write about their work and/or their life in a lively engaging way. I’d be glad to open it up to other scientists. Anyone who might be interested can contact me at sharonkfarber@gmail.com or (914) 478-1924. Even if you can’t get to my office in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY (a northern suburb of NYC), there is the possibility of phone participation or consultation.”

– Sharon KLAYMAN Farber

Science at Hunter Today

The science curriculum at Hunter is more rigorous than ever before. Students fulfill five years of science requirements, including Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, and may take upper term Advanced Placement courses and electives such as Physiology, Organic Chemistry, Astrophysics, Cosmology, Internal Medicine, and Neuroscience Medicine. Over the last five years, the Science Department has also actively expanded its research program, creating more opportunities than ever before for curious and eager students to develop their interests and learn pertinent skills.

Starting in ninth and tenth grade, students can sign up for a co-curricular research seminar taught by Dr. **Disan Davis**, a research

scientist and chemistry teacher. The program uses the school's lab to teach basic research skills and techniques, while providing a safe space for students to gain experience. At the end of these seminars, they propose an independent project using the school's equipment and facilities.

Upper term students can apply to the Advanced Science Research Program, which provides opportunities to work with professional mentors on projects outside the school. Faculty member **Gilana Reiss** oversees the program, meeting with students regularly to guide them through the process of planning and executing their projects, as well as finding and working with professional scientists. The students also meet in peer groups to discuss their projects, and work on presentations and competitions. The program culminates in the annual Science

Research Symposium, where students present their work to the public and learn from a keynote speaker who has made significant contributions in their field.

On top of all this, there are also a number of extracurricular activities, such as science bowl teams which competes against other schools from all over the country, and a marine biology club where students can take care of the department's aquariums and advocate for marine wildlife. The Robotic Team – The RoHawks – has also grown rapidly over the last two years, and science chair Dr. **Philip Jeffery** hopes to strengthen Hunter's support of engineering education in the future.

If you are a scientist and would like to participate in the mentorship program, please contact Gilana Reiss at greiss@hccs.hunter.cuny.edu

ADVICE FOR YOUNG HUNTER SCIENTISTS

“Take advantage of all of the opportunities that NYC has to offer with regard to science. Even if it’s simply shadowing a scientist or visiting a laboratory, I think that’s a valuable experience. Ideally, spend time pursuing a research idea in a university setting. These experiences will give you a good idea of what a scientist does in a typical day.”

– Steve Thomopoulos



“Find a field that you really love. You have to like the work itself - the daily stuff - and also have the drive that comes from seeing the bigger picture. You will get bogged down in the day-to-day work: research is a lot of repetition, a lot of slow progress, a lot of troubleshooting of failed experiments. You need to remember why you are doing it - you have to be

passionate about it, about your burning curiosity, or desire to save the world - a bigger reason that gets you past the day-to-day.”

– Nicole Doria-ROSE



“In order to figure out what you really like, explore different areas and ideas. Don’t get locked in to one path too early at the expense of experience unless your heart is set. Talk to lots of people and explore. Seek mentorship from individuals that you respect, trust and are inspired by. I think my man Polonius from Hamlet summed it up best, ‘Take each man’s censure but reserve thy judgment. This above all: to thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man.’” – David Morgenroth

“Work hard, play hard. Spend your full attention on excellence in what you do for your career.

And spend the same effort on your personal life.”

– Beverly KHNIE Philip



“Passion and perseverance are the most critical attributes that a scientist needs.”

– Barbara McCALL Corkey



“My only advice to today’s Hunterites is to emphasize the value of pursuing work that really interests you. After working in science for over 35 years, I’m still excited to go to work in the morning and I feel really really lucky about that.” – Marcia Osburne

ON HUNTER TEACHERS

"Ms. Schaindlin was a great calculus teacher who opened my eyes to quantitative interpretation of data. This was especially useful in the engineering courses I took later in college and in analysis of data from experiments."

- Steve Thomopoulos

*

"Three are teachers you might expect to see on such a list: Mrs Goldsmith and Mr Goodman, who made Biology and AP Bio a lot of fun, and Mr Szkolar, who taught me skills that I still use all the time - when calculating anything, always write down the units. But I also have to name a fourth, and perhaps the most important: an Art teacher, Ms. Bozzo. She was the advisor for Hunter Action Against Hunger (HAAH), and she was an inspiration. Her passion for the cause of ending hunger was intense.

Through my participation in - and eventual leadership of - HAAH, I learned about the issues, and the power of our actions. In college, I continued volunteering for organizations working to end hunger, poverty, and child mortality. This work was mostly on hold while I was in graduate school. But when I finished my PhD in Molecular Biology, I realized that I wanted to take the knowledge and skills that I had just gained, and put them to use

in a way that would do the most good in the world. I learned that vaccines have saved the most lives of medical innovation in history, and I therefore decided to work in vaccine development. Since then I have devoted my career to the development of a vaccine to prevent HIV/AIDS."

- Nicole Doria-ROSE

*

"The most influential teacher I had was Mr. Marienhoff (not a science teacher!). He helped me to think analytically about our world, and he helped my writing."

- Laura COLLINS Zurfluh

*

"I will always think fondly of Mr. Nadel, my 9th and 10th grade math teacher. When my mom expressed concern about my mediocre grades during parent/teacher conferences, he told her that I was a happy kid with good friends and not to worry about me. And he had a Bob Dylan "Don't Look Back" poster in the back of his classroom. That's a cool math teacher."

- David Morgenroth

*

"Absolutely, Mr. Bryan (Chemistry), Dr. Rubenstein (AP Chemistry, Physics), Mrs. Goldsmith (Biology and AP Biology)"

- Jean Tom

*

"I specifically remember Mrs Wells, my 9th grade Biology teacher. I also add that the speech and drama I studied at Hunter prepared me well for the many leadership roles I've undertaken."

- Beverly KHNE Philip

*

"Mrs. Susan Jensen taught my 9th grade Regents Bio class, and I fell in love with biology under her tutelage - apparently (according to one of my classmates) I was forever asking questions Mrs. Jensen couldn't answer. And she recommended me for the Columbia Science Honors Program, where I totally, completely fell in love with biomedicine (and had my only formal statistics training)."

- Barbara Sorkin

*

"I had many teachers in science who were very important in making me realize that I could do science, but probably the most influential was Ms. Salzman who taught my AP Chemistry class. She made the class a lot of fun, but made it clear that I was good at science and that I could succeed at doing this in a serious way."

- Marina Picciotto

Alum Updates

George Taus wrote in to say that his mother, **Esther ROGOFF Taus, Jan. '31**, will be 100 years old on February 20, 2014! She holds a BA from Hunter and an MA and PhD from Columbia, and is a Professor Emeritus of Economics at Lehman College in the Bronx, where she was also the Chairperson of Economics. "She never misses a chance to talk about HCHS," George says. Congratulations and happy birthday in advance, Esther!

Marcella JUNG Rosen '51 wrote the book *Tiny Dynamo: How One of the World's Smallest Countries is Producing Some of Our Most Important Inventions*, which was published this year. *Tiny Dynamo* tells the stories of twenty-one Israeli inventions that improve our lives; it details the needs they address, the solutions they create, and the impacts they have on our world. Marcella is a graduate of Barnard College, and worked in top management in advertising, including at N. W. Ayer, Inc, where she was EVP Director of Media Worldwide.



Opera singer **Martina Arroyo, Jan. '53** is to be honored by the Kennedy Center at their Gala on December 29. The event, which will be aired that evening at 9pm on CBS, honors "five extraordinary individuals who have spent their lives elevating the cultural vibrancy of our nation and the world." Martina's co-recipients are Herbie Hancock, Billy Joel, Shirley MacLaine, and Carlos Santana.

Nancy KIPNIS Miller '57 has a new book coming out in November. *Breathless*, a memoir of Nancy's time in Paris as a young woman, will be published by Seal Press.

Another alum book coming out this fall is *They Called Her Reckless* by **Janet SANTILLY Barrett '59**. *Reckless* is the true story of a Korean pony who became the warhorse of the US Marine Fifth Regiment during the Korean War. "The horse hauled ammunition to the front lines, saved lives, lifted spirits, and gained the love and respect of all who knew her," says Janet.

The memoir *BACKSTAGE PASS TO BROADWAY* by **Susan L. Schulman '62** was recently published by Heliotrope Books. Susan has been a Broadway press agent for more than 40 years, and shares backstage tales of working with such legendary stars as Mary Martin, Bob Fosse, George C. Scott, Yul Brynner, Robert Redford, Zero Mostel, David Merrick, Vanessa Redgrave, and many others. A graduate of NYU with an MA from Columbia University, Susan heads her own theatrical publicity office in Times Square. www.backstagepasstobroadway.com

Judith Sachs '64 is a Dance for Parkinsons and Dancing with Dementia teacher in Philadelphia, where she also runs her own program for older adults and wheelchair or walker dancers called ANYONE CAN DANCE. In addition, she coaches young artist-entrepreneurs to speak as well as they think in her Perfect Pitching workshops, where she uses videotape playback to guide and improve performance. You can see her work at www.judithsachs.com and read her teaching artist blog posts at www.tajalt.space.com.

Author and journalist **Helen Epstein '65** was interviewed by Alan Chartock on WAMC in Albany about Melita Maschmann's memoir *Account Rendered*, which she published at Plunkett Lake Press (www.plunkettlakepress.com, the ebook company she founded a few years ago). The book, published fifty years ago, is written as a letter from Maschmann, a former member of the Hitler Youth, addressed to her high school best friend Marianne Schweitzer. Helen tracked down the 95-year-old Marianne in La Jolla, CA and asked her about their relationship, which she then described in an article for *The New Yorker's* Page-Turner entitled "I was a Nazi and Here's Why" (www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/books/2013/05/i-was-a-nazi-and-heres-why.html). Helen reviews theater and books for the New England Cultural Magazine artfuse.org, and recently reviewed a book of Leonard Bernstein's correspondence.

Ann JACOBSON Lauinger '65 has a new book of poems, *Against Butterflies*, out this summer from Little Red Tree Publishing. Her first book,

Persuasions of Fall (University of Utah Press), won the Agha Shahid Ali Prize in Poetry and was published in 2004. She is a member of the literature faculty at Sarah Lawrence College.

Dr. Beverly KHNIE Philip '66 and her husband Dr. James Philip successfully completed a trek to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro in September 2013. The glacier-topped mountain, located in Kilimanjaro National Park in Tanzania, is 19,371 feet high. Other treks have included the Annapurna Base Camp in Nepal and the Inca Trail in Peru. Both Drs. work full-time as Professors of Anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School in Boston.



Ellen Wallenstein '70 published a book of portraits entitled *Respecting My Elders*, which features photographs of creative people over eighty years old who have affected American Culture. The publication was made possible with funds raised through United States Artists (which many of her Hunter High classmates contributed to!). The book can be seen in its entirety and ordered at www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/530767. An article about the book by classmate **Laura Paull '70** can be seen at: www.3200stories.org/blog/2013/06/24/age-and-the-creative-spirit-a-photographers-portraits-of-the-greatest-generations-artists/

Donna Minkowitz '81 is the author of a new memoir, *Growing Up Golem: Learning to Survive My Mother, Brooklyn and Some Really Bad Dates*, which is now available.

This past July, Rabbi **Aaron Panken '81** was elected President of Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion by HUC-JIR's Board of Governors. Starting January 1, 2014, Rabbi Panken will become the 12th President in the 138-year history of the Institute, where he will serve as Chief Executive Officer of the four-cam-



Covers of recently published alumnae/i books

pus international university and seminary for Reform Judaism. This appointment comes after seventeen years with the HUC-JIR, including teaching Rabbinic and Second Temple Literature, and serving as dean of the New York campus and Vice President.

Jonathan Kirshner '82 recently published a new book with Cornell University Press, entitled *Hollywood's Last Golden Age: Politics, Society, and the Seventies Film in America*. You can purchase it online here: www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/?GCOI=80140100509120 or on amazon.com.

Sarah Schneewind '82 just completed a happy year on an NEH grant, researching shrines to living men during the Great Ming dynasty (1368-1644). An article from the project appears in Volume 72, Issue 2 of the *Journal of Asian Studies* (2013) entitled "Beyond Flattery: Legitimizing Political Participation in a Ming Living Shrine." She also runs a website called the Ming History English Translation Project, and recently oversaw the creation of the Late Imperial Primer Literacy Sieve, an electronic tool for figuring out what partially-literate readers might make of complex public texts. Her book *A Tale of Two Melons: Emperor and Subject in Ming China* is selling well to undergraduates, and she had a good time talking about it to Hunter eighth graders last year. She thinks often of Ms. Greenspan, Mr. Plass, Mr. Steinfink, Ms. Rummel, and Mr. Kizner who set her on this language and

history path, and Ms. Brandriss, who gave her an abiding interest in biology.

Roberto Ascalon '92 was the recent recipient of the 2013 Rattle Poetry Prize for his poem "The Fire This Time." The Rattle Poetry Prize is awarded each year to a single poem, which is then published in the *Rattle Magazine* winter edition.

The Class of 1992 has another award-winning poet: **Rowan Ricardo Phillips '92** won the 2013 PEN/Joyce Osterweil Award for Poetry, which recognizes the "high literary character of the published work to date of a new and emerging American poet." He was also one of ten recipients of the Whiting Writers' Award, given annually to writers who have "exceptional talent and promise in early career."



Douglas E. Julie '97 was named a "Rising Star in Litigation" for 2013 by *Super Lawyers*. The award rates outstanding lawyers from more than seventy practice areas. This is Julie's

second time as a Rising Star, after receiving the honor last year as well.

Alums in the News

Jennifer Raab '73 and **Edith Cooper '79** were listed as two of the "50 Most Powerful Women." Read the article in *Craine's New York Business*: www.crainsnewyork.com/features/most-powerful-women

Eric Kaplan '85, producer and writer for the CBS comedy *The Big Bang Theory*, was profiled recently in *The New York Times*. Read the full article here: www.nytimes.com/2013/09/10/science/on-the-big-bang-theory-helping-physics-and-fiction-collide.html?smid=pl-share

David Manheim '92, filmmaker and comedian, has a new web series entitled *The Last Jewish Waiter*. Read the article in *The Huffington Post*: www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/05/30/last-jewish-waiter-katz-video_n_3355570.html

In Memoriam

Hunter faculty member **Carolyn Mayadas** passed away on October 30 at the age of 71 from pulmonary fibrosis. Carolyn was the first IT director at HCHS and a member of the math department teaching computer science before retiring in 2010. She brought the school into the digital age with her technical expertise, knowledge, patience, and humor. She leaves her husband Frank, daughters Christina and Jennifer, and four grandchildren.

Lorraine LYNCH Angelillo '42 died at home on May 26, 2013. After graduating from Hunter College, Lorraine was a teacher in the South Bronx for eleven years before opening the Lollipop Nursery School in Park Ridge, NJ. She is survived by her son, sister, and four grandchildren.

Marjorie ROSENSTOCK Christian '46, passed away on July 18, 2013 at the age of 84. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Hunter College and received her Masters in Chemistry from the University of Maryland. Marjorie's husband Jack passed away in 2011. She is survived by her three children, Graham, Timothy, and Julia, her grand-son Samuel, and her sister Ellen Kleinfeld. Memorial donations may be made to the Lupus Foundation of America in Washington, DC.

Hannah MEHLER Tanenbaum '48 passed away on September 11, 2013. Born in Vienna, Austria, Hannah attended Hunter College before

receiving her Masters of Education from New York University. She also completed graduate work at the New School for Social Research and the University of Florence, Italy, as well as holding a certificate from the Cordon Bleu Institute of Washington DC. In 1973, after several years teaching elementary education in New York City, she moved to Syracuse where she was active in Planned Parenthood, serving as president of the Board for two terms, as well as the Upstate Medical Women's Auxiliary and Syracuse Stage. She is survived by her husband, two children, and two grandchildren. Donations in her name can be made to the National Wildlife Federation.

Libby GOLDSTEIN Bay '50 died at the age of 80. A Professor of English and Chairperson for the Humanities Department at Rockland Community College for over thirty years, she co-founded the Honors Program and received numerous awards and recognitions during her career. After retiring at 75, she traveled extensively. She is survived by her daughters, sister, two grandsons, and great grandson.

Tamara Dahn '64 passed away this past August. Born in Kassel, Germany, Tamara graduated from Goucher College before receiving her Masters from Johns Hopkins School for International Studies and a JD from University of California at Davis. She retired this past year from the California State Department of Health Services, where she was a senior staff counsel. Tamara spent much of her career working for legal services programs, assisting low income people with legal problems, as well

as serving as the managing attorney of the Auburn Office of Legal Services of Northern California and later as Executive Director of Solano County Legal Services and Community Legal Services of Santa Clara County. She was also the first woman President of the Placer County Bar Association, and a board member of California Women Lawyers, which honored her for her "dedicated mentoring of women law students and young women lawyers, and for her visionary leadership and positive contributions to the advancement of women and people of color within the profession." She also worked for the State Bar of California as a member of the Executive Committee of the conference Delegates, the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission, and most recently as Chair of the Committee on Women in the Law. Donations can be made to California Women Lawyers' Foundation.

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

Edith CHISEFSKY Weber '38
Selma SHAPIRO Kaplan, Jan. '39
Laura KESSLER Nadoolman, Jan. '39
Lenore FERBER Kahn '39
Janet Strumwasser HOBBS Coe '44
Miriam ORT Margulis '44
Phyllis FALCHOOK Hersh '46
Ruth M. JOHNSON Adriansen, Jan. '47
Carol STILLMAN Lercher, Jan. '47
Frone LUND Eisenstadt '55
Jo Ann STERNFELD Downey '64
Judith DAVID Dowd '65



CORRECTIONS TO SUMMER 2013 ISSUE

The name of series that **Helen Epstein '65** publishes on Plunkett Lake Press is called *eBooks of Life Writing* instead of "e-books of the writing life."

Alums in the Arts Addenda

In response to our call for contributions for our "Alums in the Arts" article, over fifty artists sent us information about their lives and careers. This overwhelming response meant that some people had to be cut in order for the article to fit within our page limit. Since there is space in this issue, we are pleased to be able to include two more of them here.

Anne SIMON Moffat '65 and her husband

have been collecting antique glass for over forty years. Focused mainly on 18th and 19th century wine glasses, they have an astonishing collection. "One of our biggest finds was a 17th century crizzled wine glass in an antique shop of no distinction in Cooperstown, NY." Recently, their hard work was rewarded when the Art Institute of Chicago accepted their collection as a gift. Anne credits HCHS with her perseverance and observational skills, "traits that have served me well both as a science journalist and art collector."



Julia GINN Jacobs '40 has had a long career as a professional performer and theater artist, starting back when she was at Hunter and dancing with the Met and at the Hippodrome. After receiving her BA in Speech

and Drama from Hunter and a Masters at Columbia, she started a children's theater group, toured with the Shuberts, and with her husband began one of the first off-Broadway theater companies. They moved up to Monticello, where she continued to perform locally and internationally with children's and community theater groups before forming the Sullivan County Performing Arts Festival. With SCPAF, she booked professionals like Alvin Ailey, Celeste Holmes, and the company of Ballet Hispanico to perform at Sullivan County Community College, and eventually ended up working with the playwright Bill C. Davis, whose Broadway-bound play *Mass Appeal* had one of its first productions there. Julia also found time to be an adjunct professor at SCCC and a teacher at Stagedoor Manor Camp, a staff reviewer for the *Times Herald*, and to perform in summer stock.

Reunion 2014: Save the Date

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!

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 here. If your class has no coordinator, and you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lillian Meredith at lm Meredith@hchsaa.org.

Jan. 1939	Beverly GUTTERMAN Rosenstein	bevrtennis@juno.com
June 1939	Elaine KIRSCHBAUM Harris	elaineharris317@gmail.com
June 1944	Margaret Dawson	margaret922@webtv.net
Jan. 1949	Mildred Speiser Harriet KONSTADT Sherman	ispeis@gmail.com hsherman@gmail.com
June 1949	Gloria Evangeline HOOPER-Rasberry Jane SCHWARTZ Schultz	rasberry13224@yahoo.com jane.schultz914@gmail.com
1954	Dorothy BADEN Lee	dlee6980@aol.com
1959	Lisa Rabinowicz	lirabinow@aol.com
1964	Susan Spector	saspector@gmail.com
1969	Diane Tabakman Jane Elkoff	dianetabakman@gmail.com jane.elkoff@gmail.com
1974	Adrienne MULLER Canesas Susanna (Suki) Scott Sandra Sindel	acanesas@gmail.com kirkbride104@gmail.com sbsindel@cs.com
1979	Helene Caloir	hcaloir@caloir.com
1984	Emma OWENS Kerins Howard Shiau Aurora Velazquez	ekerins@halstead.com howardshiau@yahoo.com 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



Alumnae of Jan. '43: Shirley (Billie) WILLINGER Bramhall, Arax DABAKIAN Hicks, May KANTER Chariton, Natalie FOSS Stein, and Marjorie DENKER Bresler celebrating their 70th reunion.

A Story Inspired by the 2013 Reunion

*This past June, **Shirley (Billie) WILLINGER Bramhall, Jan. '43** traveled from Denver to come to her 70th reunion. She sent the following article to us as a tribute to her friend **Connie HOMNICK Kanarek, Jan. '43** who despite having a stroke, attended reunion as well, and reminded Billie of the incredible ability of Hunter girls, and of the time she spent at HCHS.*

In January 1940, as a twelve year-old girl born and brought up in the south Bronx, I took the test for admission to Hunter College High School at the urging of my teachers. I was admitted and on my first day of school met a "kindred soul" from Brooklyn named Constance Homnick, who immediately informed me that when she grew up she was going to be the first woman President of the United States. Remember this was 1940, before Betty Friedan and Gloria Steinem and Hillary Clinton and our own Pat Schroeder; feminism was not a part of American vocabulary then, and there was certainly no genuine equality for women. The ads on TV portrayed us as only eager to get our husbands collars clean and white. To share a secret and tell the truth, we Hunter girls were very smart and ambitious, and many of us harbored dreams

(fed by some of our teachers) of successful careers rather than becoming housewives.

Connie was an intelligent charming thirteen-year-old with not much interest in being a housewife, and quickly helped me to the same conclusion. She became the President of our school as a senior and never lost her interest and aptitude for politics, continuing as a student of Political Science at Hunter College. She married her childhood sweetheart, young, as I did, as women were expected to do in the early '40s. Luckily, or maybe out of our great wisdom, we both selected wisely - her husband appreciated a wife who succeeded in her career and contributed to the family income, as did mine. Her husband became an attorney; they had three sons who also became attorneys. In today's world, she would also be at least an attorney, if not a Senator. She earned two masters degrees, one at Hunter College, and the other at the CW Post campus of Long Island University; she taught Politics at General Douglas MacArthur High School in Levittown, New York for 35 years, inspiring many of her students, male and female, to work in politics (including New York Congressman Steve Israel). As you might expect, she continued in politics all her life, while contributing to her family and the larger world that she had seen so clearly as a young High School student. Connie inspired me, and I hope this story will inspire HCHS girls to reach high.

To share a secret and tell the truth, we Hunter girls were very smart and ambitious, and many of us harbored dreams (fed by some of our teachers) of successful careers rather than becoming housewives.

HCHSAA Events

Parrish Art Museum Day Trip

Following the success of the Storm King Art Center day trip, the HCHSAA organized yet another adventure to a contemporary art museum outside the confines of New York City. On the last day of July, groups of alums escaped the sweltering city for the relative cool of eastern Long Island to see the spectacular work on display at the Parrish Art Museum.

Founded in 1898, the Parrish houses a permanent collection of work created by the artists of Eastern Long Island – Roy Lichtenstein, April Gornik, James Whistler, Fairfield Porter, and many others. The new home of the museum, which opened in November 2012, is three-times larger than its former space and is a work of art in and of itself. Designed by Herzog & de Meuron, the galleries are flooded with sky light, and feature work that often relates to or is enhanced by the natural world beyond the glass walls. The HCHSAA groups were led by knowledgeable docents through the museum, and treated to the various current exhibitions, including a collection of work by Jackson Pollock, Alfonso Ossorio, and Jean Dubuffet entitled “Angels, Demons, and Savages,” and the site-responsive “Platform” program featuring Josephine Meckseper.

After the hour-long tour, the thirty alums who had traveled with the HCHSAA re-boarded the bus and headed to the Southampton home of **Evelyn Konrad, Jan. '46**. There, they ate lunch, relaxed in the backyard, and some even took a swim in her pool. Too soon, however, the clock struck 3pm and it was time to go. Reluctantly, they climbed on the bus once more and headed back into Manhattan in time for the mid-week rush hour, and a return to city life.

Top: Alums listen to the docent at the beginning of the tour. Middle: Admiring the collection. Bottom: Summer lunch in the Hamptons.



Autumn Reception

Hunter is well-known as the scholastic home of future actors, scientists, politicians, journalists, doctors, and lawyers (among much else!). On October 10, however, alums gathered in the library of the high school to celebrate some of Hunter's distinguished poets: **Heather Dubrow '62**, **Rowan Ricardo Phillips '92**, **Erica Ehrenberg '96**, and HCHS faculty member **Kip Zegers**.

The evening began at 6pm, with casual conversation over drinks and light fare. Guests connected with fellow poetry lovers from a wide range of graduating classes, and books by each poet were perused and purchased from the HCHSAA. The group then assembled in one of the library's adjacent rooms for the main event.

Each poet read a selection of new and published work, reading in his or her distinctive style. Heather, professor of English and Chair in the Poetic Imagination at Fordham University, read first, with selections from her book *Forms and Hollows*

as well as newer work to be published in the next year. She was followed by Erica, a Wallace Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University, a poetry fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, a writer-in-residence at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and a teacher at Fordham, who read from her manuscript-in-progress called *Bruno Goes to the City of the Night to Plead for His Possessions*. Next was Rowan, Associate Professor of English at Stony Brook University, who read from both his award-winning debut collection *The Ground* and forthcoming new work. Finally, Kip Zegers, a veteran HCHS teacher of 30 years, read from his collection of poems about Hunter titled *The Poet of Schools*. All the poems covered an expansive range, concerned with the political or the fantastical, with the antics of alter-egos to the events of memories, and all were beautiful and provoking. It was an incredible evening, and one which perfectly encapsulated what the Autumn Reception should be – an evening of celebration, learning, and connection.

The poems covered an expansive range, concerned with the political or the fantastical, with the antics of alter-egos to the events of memories, and all were beautiful and provoking.



Left: Rowan Ricardo Phillips '92 reads from his recently published book *The Ground*; Top Right: Helen Dubrow '62 recites new poems for a rapt audience; Bottom Right: Books by the poets were for sale outside the library.

Giving

Institute of Responsible Media

Journalism in our digital age has increasingly become the domain of the ill-informed and untrained; every human with a Facebook account can report every rumor as though it were fact, teenagers learn how to research via Wikipedia long before they're taught how to use primary source material, and it can be almost impossible to tell fact from fiction online. To ensure that Hunter students maintain and enhance the integrity of the print media at the school, and to help them learn valuable research skills, **Mildred Speiser, Jan. '49**, decided to get involved. Two years ago, she approached the English Department to see what what could be done to make sure that Hunter students were learning how to be thoughtful, precise, and above all responsible journalists.

She was in luck, because English Department chair **Lois Refkin** was at that time considering starting a program for that very



purpose. Together, the two women discussed their options and the Institute for Responsible Media was born.

The program is run by **Nicole Cusick**, a teacher and journalist who has written for *Men's Journal*, and meets twice a week during lunch period. Around 50 interested students in the ninth and tenth grade are accepted to the class, where they learn the principles of print journalism: fact checking, interviewing skills, contextualizing quotes, structuring articles, and writing features. Armed with this knowledge, the ninth and tenth graders will go on to be the leaders of the newspapers by the end of their time at Hunter.

The first year of the program was incredibly successful, and this fall Lois had to sift through

125 students who were eager to take the class. As this second year commences, Lois and Mildred are already figuring out how the Institute can grow. They've been discussing the possibility of hosting a conference with other schools to talk about journalism, inviting alums in the field to come discuss their work, and doing outreach to another school to share ideas about student journalism. Nicole is also looking into the possibility of Mildred sponsoring journalism internships for the older students. "It's been a lovely partnership," Lois says of working with Mildred. "She's been very generous both financially and also with her time, and with connecting alums she knows in journalism with the program."

End of Year Giving

Gifts to the Alumnae/i Association allow us to create and sustain a social and professional network for all alums of the high school, and serve as the funds from which we are able to provide operating and endowment support to the school itself. The AA helps finance programmatic support, scholarships, fellowships and other student aid programs, and serves as a resource for the school by sponsoring educational, scientific, literary and cultural programs in cooperation with the faculty and administration. As 2013 comes to a close, we are tremendously grateful to those alums who have already made us a part of their philanthropic plans, and we ask those who haven't to make the HCHSAA a priority this holiday season. Gifts to the AA may be unrestricted or directed. Unrestricted gifts are among the most valuable, because they allow us to allocate funds wherever the need is greatest, and to take advantage of unique opportunities as they arise. Directed gifts allow you to designate your donation to a specific program, a support group, or a priority area at the high school. When you make a directed gift to the HCHSAA, you enjoy the satisfaction of knowing you are supporting a program that is personally meaningful to you.

Ways to Give

There are many ways to give to the HCHSAA. You can contribute online, through the mail, by making a single donation or spreading your gift out over multiple payments. You can even include us in your estate plan.

MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION ONLINE...

It's fast, easy, and secure to donate online. Visit our website www.hchsaa.org and go to the Support the Association page, where you can Donate Now and make your one-time gift.

...OR SEND A CHECK

If you'd rather, you can send a check to our offices. All checks should be made out to HCHSAA, Inc. and you should put your donation designation (Annual Fund, Class Gift, or Membership) in the memo line. Send it to our address:

695 Park Avenue
Hunter College East, Room 1314E
New York, NY 10065

MAKE A RECURRING GIFT ONLINE

A recurring gift is an ongoing, specific gift amount that is automatically charged to your

credit card on the first or the fifteenth of every month. Visit the Support the Association page and fill out the form to set up your gift, and then you don't have to worry about remembering to give back to Hunter again!

MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies have matching gift programs that match charitable contributions made by their employees, which can double or even triple your gift to the HCHSAA. To find out if your company has a matching gift program please check with your human resources department.

GIFTS OF STOCK OR SECURITIES

Gifts of stock are a smart way to help support our mission while also receiving great tax benefits. As long as you have held the stock for more than twelve months, you can deduct its full fair-market value at the time of your gift, regardless of how much you paid for it. You also have the chance to reduce or completely eliminate your capital gains taxes. The HCHSAA accepts gifts of stocks or securities and sells them upon receipt. For more information, visit www.hchsaa.org/support-the-association/ways-to-give/stock-securities.

PLANNED GIVING

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

Designate Your Gift

BECOME A MEMBER

When you give to the HCHSAA in any of the above ways (except for estate planning), you can designate part of your gift to go towards your membership. The Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association serves more than 12,000 alums around the globe. Membership dues support the ongoing operations of the office and enable us to maintain our website and online Alumnae/i Directory, produce three issues of *AlumNotes* annually, and present free and low-cost events such as the annual Autumn Reception and Reunion weekend. Your membership in the Alumnae/i Association makes you part of the HCHSAA community and strengthens your ties to other alums and friends — and your ties to the school.

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

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

ANNUAL GIVING

Contributions to the Annual Fund are unrestricted, 100% tax-deductible contributions that provide direct support for high school programs and activities. The AA's Annual Fund helps us to better serve students, address faculty and administration requests for support, and capitalize on new opportunities.

By making a gift to the Annual Fund, alums provide a vital and necessary stream of academic and student support.

HONOR SOMEONE SPECIAL WITH A GIFT IN THEIR NAME

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

Honor Roll Updates

The following individuals were inadvertently omitted from our Honor Roll of Giving list in the last issue of *AlumNotes*. We are pleased to recognize them now, and apologize for the mistake.

\$2,500-\$4,999

Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61

\$1,000-\$2,499

Daniel Berenbaum '83
Matt Blumenfeld '83
Marie DeRosa '76
George Fan '88
Beryl Herdt '50
Florence ROSENFELD Howe, Jan. '46
Angela Liang '91
Hannah Lipman '89
Louis F. O'Neill '86
Kim MAXFIELD Pillemer '92
Joshua N. Rosenbaum '89
Greg S. Rowland '93 and Amy ABBZIA Rowland '94
Jason Samuels '94
Tai Wong '88 and Judy CHIN Wong '88

\$500-\$999

Rita ALTCHER Angel '56
Kent K. Anker '87
Rhoda RATNER Barr, Jan. '48
Hogan Chen '00
Thomas Kam Chu '85
Amy Farber '71
Alexis Fermanis '94
Caroline G. Harris '71
Jessica Leonard '04
David Kerpen '94
Elizabeth TAXIN Nemiroff '95
Steven Nussbaum, MD '82

Agnes I. Park '97
Ian Robinson '82
Joan D. Rosenthal '72
Kathleen O'CALLAGAN Scott '77
Alex Southwell '89
Christine W. Wong '95

\$250-\$499

Jonathan A. Arak '83
Jordan Baltimore '92
Susan MAJORS Battley '68 PhD
Shari A. Berenbaum '67 PhD
Lawrence Chan '99
Sewell Chan '94
Andrew Clateman '84
Ashley Dinan '93
Rona Feinberg
Amie Gross '71
Emma OWENS Kerins '84
Reza Keshavarz '83
Evelyn Konrad, Jan. '46
Dara Lamb 74/75 ICY
Anna Law '84 MD
Gloria I. Lerner '60
Malgorzata Lewandowska '00
Matthew J. Lurin '84 MD
Susan McDonough '92
Jocelyn Maskow '76
Peggy Betz Perrin '55
Abhinav Prasad '93
Muzzy Rosenblatt '83
Ronit Setton '82
Maureen L. CAMPBELL Smith '77
Miggie Warms '68
Judith Weinstein, PTA

\$100-\$249

Lionel Adal '84
Sandip C. Bhattacharji Esq. '81
Irene KULMAN Blaustein '47
Neil Botwinoff
Ben Dattner '88
Greg Goldstein '90
Vera Julia Gordon '47
Micahel Granne '93
Jamal Greene '95
Marianne Haughey '84 MD
Yen Hua '96
Annie Lee '05
Chisun Lee '92
Matthias W. Li '95
Irene Lu '84
Michael Mandrin '08
Lynn SILVERSTEIN Najman '68
Pamela J. Roach '71

Your Alumnae/i Association at Work

Brand New HCHSAA Website

If you haven't visited www.hchsaa.org recently, you might want to check it out. After a year of planning, and five months of design and function meetings with our graphic and technical teams, we are so proud to finally have a website worthy of our alumnae/i community!

What's different? Almost everything!
Most importantly, it's a single site. For

years, we were maintaining two linked but completely separate sites – one for our basic information, and the other for the Online Directory, Event and Reunion Registration, and donations. Visitors to our site required two usernames and two passwords, and frequently (understandably!) were lost while navigating back and forth.

After merging our old www.hchsaa.org with the Online Directory, that is no longer a problem. There is only one login for the new, comprehensive website. And this login will direct you easily and clearly to your profile page (where you can update your contact information for us and for your fellow alums) as well as to an easy-to-use Alumnae/i Directory.

You can also submit your news to us quickly and easily, and follow the updates of your fellow alums by subscribing to our Alumnae/i Updates News Feed.

And if you're a member, there are even more benefits! You can access our Members Portal, where you can search the directory by occupation and college, and a Members Job Board, where you can post listings and find Hunterites to work with! Not a member? It's easy to join. Just visit our Support the Association page.

But of course, the most obvious change from the old website is the look of the new one. The site is now clear, easy to understand and navigate, and attractively laid out. There is continuity of color and font, and the user experience has never been better.

We would not have been able to do this without your generous support, and we hope that this new site will help us serve you better. We hope you'll spend time exploring, and let us know what you think!

Old Home Page



New Home Page



Old Membership Directory



New Membership Directory





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 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, or email info@hchsaa.org.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

- | | |
|---|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> BASIC | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> JUNIOR (Classes of '09 -'12) | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NEW GRADS (Class of 2013) | Free |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREMIUM | \$85 → |

Includes your choice of merchandise (below) or check ☐ No Gift and your dues are 100% tax-deductible.

Subtotal \$ _____

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Please accept my tax-deductible contribution towards the AA's 2013-2014 Annual Fund: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other

Subtotal \$ _____

MILESTONE CLASS GIFT

Please accept my tax-deductible contribution to this year's Class Gift: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ Other

Subtotal \$ _____

MERCHANDISE (includes postage and handling)

☐ Please send me the following gift as a benefit of my Premium Membership ☐ I would like to purchase the following items

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						\$
	Canvas Tote Bag	\$20						\$
	Teddy Bear	\$20						\$

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

ALUM/MEMBER NAME

GRAD YEAR

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

EMAIL ADDRESS

HOME PHONE

WORK PHONE

☐ I want to change my address. Fill out your new address below.

STREET

CITY

STATE

ZIP

ROWAN RICARDO PHILLIPS '92

poet

Heralds of Delicioso Coco Helado

For Roland Burns

The moods of the cantaloupe king are moods
Of the melon king in green variations.
Both entered the orange parlor like nations
Seeking peace from their wintered wars in the woods.

Both entered the parlor to say goodbye
Or farewell or peace or adios, ciao,
Adieu, or tschüß; however the ground
Seals its truce. But the old interpreter just sighed.

The old interpreter would not speak—
And instead sighed those winters like a spout,
Drowning the parlor with what he spat out
Until the parlor broke in half at grief's peak

And the kings could taste as they fell through the snow
Delicioso coco helado.

from his award-winning collection The Ground

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.

Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association, Inc.

Hunter College East, Room 1314E

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New York, NY 10065

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www.hchsaa.org

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