

AlumNotes

HUNTER COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION, INC.

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A Catalyst for Change

The issue of diversity at New York's magnet public schools has been in the air for the past few years, resulting in a proliferation of attempts to penetrate a tricky, and frequently heated, topic. In the wider city community, there have been articles in *The New York Times* and conversations on WNYC, pondering everything from the fairness of the admissions tests to the issues that face students who cross a cultural divide in order to attend the best schools.¹ At Hunter, the increased awareness has created a more open and proactive atmosphere. Members of the Hunter community, particularly the student body, have taken this opportunity to start conversations and develop strategies to address the needs of the current minority constituencies, and make the school a more welcoming place for all students.

Tiffany Ramos '12 had been aware of the racial and ethnic discrepancy since her arrival at Hunter. She recalled that when she boarded the subway for her first day back in 2006, she assumed that her new school would reflect the diversity she found in her train car. But she soon learned that "what I saw on the No. 6 train was not reflective of what I was to see at my new school." As a Latina student, Tiffany felt "out of the ordinary... I was no longer an equal, unique part of a whole, but an anomaly."



Students participating in the Living with Diversity Discussion in May 2012. Tiffany Ramos '12 and Kyla KUPFERSTEIN Torres '92 at far right.

Even after joining Hunter's Organization of Latin Americans (HOLA) student group, she still felt isolated; there didn't seem to be any forum to discuss or "celebrate the beauty of diversity" as an entire community.

The challenge, however, is not simply a lack of diversity. Asian students make up a 48% plurality, but some of these students have felt marginalized as well. **Jenny Tsai '03** reflected

back to her time at Hunter in her Harvard thesis entitled '*Too Many Asians at this School: Racialized Perceptions and Identity Formation*'. In her essay, which was based on research from multiple magnet schools around the country including Hunter, she argued that "the focus of the discussion [at Hunter] was on there being too many Asian students. If the discussion had

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ALUMNOTES

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Letter From The Co-Presidents

Dear fellow Hunter graduate,

Over the past few years, one of the priorities of the HCHSAA board has been providing the Hunter alumnae/i community with a great mix of activities. Many of you have attended reunion events, including the General Assembly held at the high school, as well as your class' luncheon, dinner, or cocktail party. But in the past few years, we have also held a range of events to match the diverse backgrounds and interests of Hunter alumnae/i.

These HCHSAA events have included readings by alumnae/i authors, museum tours, young alum bar nights, outings to Broadway and Off-Broadway shows, the annual library receptions featuring alumnae/i speakers, the Decision 2012 panel of Hunter political journalists, the reception kicking off the HCHSAA's fortieth anniversary celebrations, and a wine-tasting. The next major event on our calendar is this year's Gala. It will be held on Thursday, May 2, and will honor Tony, Emmy, and Grammy award-winning actress Cynthia Nixon '84. Reunion activities have also grown from the traditional assembly and luncheon at the high school to a weekend full of receptions, tours, and a softball game, in addition to the activities organized by the milestone classes.

We also have worked to make sure that the HCHSAA offers activities at a range of prices. We sponsor a number of free events, as well as events for which tickets are sold to defray some or all of the organizing costs. Aside from these fun activities, we also hold fundraisers where ticket prices include tax-deductible contributions to the HCHSAA. These fundraisers, such as the Decision 2012 panel and the Gala, help us provide grants to Hunter's academic departments and administration and college scholarships for Hunter seniors. We provided more than \$200,000 in support last year, and we hope to do even better this year.

We also have endeavored to involve alumnae/i who live outside of the New York metropolitan area. Last year, we filmed the TEDxHunterCCS presentations and the Decision 2012 panel, thereby making those programs available to all alumnae/i and members of the Hunter community on YouTube. The first TEDx program was available to alumnae/i around the world via livestreaming, and this year's TEDx program will be livestreamed on Saturday, October 5. Please contact the HCHSAA office if you would be interested in hosting a TEDx viewing party at your home or office on October 5. And if you are a Hunter graduate who lives in another city around the country (or around the world) who would like to organize a get-together for Hunter graduates in your community, please contact us. We have active alumnae/i chapters in some cities, but we are always interested in increasing the opportunities to build alumnae/i communities wherever Hunterites can be found.

For a list of upcoming events, check out the last page of this addition of *AlumNotes*. The best way to learn about the activities we sponsor, however, is to stay in touch with the HCHSAA electronically. We announce most events on our website (www.hchsaa.org), via email, and on our Facebook group. You will miss out on these announcements if you have not provided our office with a current email address, or if you are on Facebook but have not joined our "Official Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association" group.

Finally, we encourage you to contact us if you have ideas for alumnae/i programs. Some of the best ideas for events have come from alumnae/i who are not otherwise involved in HCHSAA activities. For example, a group of professional alumnae/i poets contacted us regarding the possibility of the HCHSAA sponsoring a poetry reading. Please be on the lookout for more details on this event, which the HCHSAA will host in autumn.

We hope to see you at an alumnae/i event in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Jason P. Criss '92
Co-President

Christine Wong '95
Co-President

Submit to upcoming issues of *AlumNotes*

In our last issue, we learned about the contribution made by our Hunter servicemen and women. Now, we want to know where else our alums end up. What professions do Hunter graduates tend to pursue? Is there any one field that Hunter contributes to more than others? What do alums do after they leave HCHS?

The next few issues of *AlumNotes* will be dedicated to answering these questions. Each edition will feature a particular professional field, with stories from and statistics on alums in that field. So check back here to find out what we'll be profiling next, so that you can contribute, too!

For the next edition, Summer 2013, the professional category will be **The Arts**. If you are involved in the arts, let us know! Creators, performers, administrators, writers – if you consider your career to be in the arts, contact Lillian Meredith at lmeredith@hchsaa.org, or call (212) 396-6572.

Are Your Dues Due?

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

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

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 omission.

\$5,000-\$9,999

Jeremiah S. Lane '97

\$500-\$999

Tom Brown '94
Jeffrey Schor '82

\$250-\$499

Amy Barad '82
Diana W. Bianchi '72
Peggy Blumenthal '63
Valerie Bunda '60
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Faith M. Cleary, Jan '52
Kathryn J. Crecelius '70
Amy Einsohn '69
Jane Faggen '41
Alexis Fermanis '94
Ellen Flax '82
Katherine Gilwood '47
June OMURAN Goldberg, Jan. '52
Linda Heisner '67
Shirley Y. Herman '59
Laraine Hope '73
Leonora S. Ianuzzi, Jan. '53

Joanne WU Jennings '88
Nellie Jeon '98
Lauren Kacir '81
Alice D. Keane '83
Kris Kershaw '58
Dawn Kleinman '83
Judy Kow '79
Wilson Lee '88
Tracy Lee '91
Vera Liskiewicz '54
Seena Lowe '47
Ruth McCloud '63
Josephine McSweeney '47
Carmen Mendez '74
Suzanne Meyerowitz '47
Barbara R. Miller '62
Debbie Oestreicher '82
Terri Pollak '59
Reed B. Rayman '04
Edythe Rishin '41
Linda Rosenkranz '55
Carol Schneebaum '54
Sandra Schulman, Jan. '46
Jane Schultz '49
Harriet Sherman, Jan. '49

Laurie Siegel '70
Denise Soffel '74
Leslie DAUS Stacy '60
Jill Steinberg '82
Diane H. Tabakman '69
Ettie Ward '68
Cheryl Williams '79
Marguerite H. Williams '91
Astrid Witschi '56
Barrie Wolf '70
Helen Wolfe '56
Rose Young '60
Cathy Zumoff '64

\$100-\$249

Robert S. Blocker '82
Mary Louise Fiore '57
Judith FARBER Gelfand '67
Ruth Greenstein '62
Steven Lee '82
Jocelyn Mascoe '76
Robert Pedrero '84
Helen STERN Sunshine '63
Ruth Zerner '52
Faye Zucker '69



Ways to Contribute

Recurring Gifts

An easy and convenient way to support the Alumnae/i Association is by making a recurring donation. Recurring Gifts allow you to build a very significant contribution through smaller installments. Donations are charged directly to your credit card every month or every three months, depending on your preference. An email receipt for each gift will be sent and you will be recognized for the full amount given during the fiscal year.

For example, if you choose today to make a recurring monthly donation of \$25, your next donation of \$25 will be automatically charged to your account one month from today.

Simply click on the "Make a Contribution" link under the "Give Back" tab on our website. Select the amount you want to contribute each month and then fill out the Recurring Gift section. It's that easy.

Recognizing Someone Special

Tribute Gifts are a thoughtful way to celebrate a birthday, wedding, new baby, graduation, or any special occasion. They also serve as a special expression of sympathy by honoring the memory of a friend or relative. Tributes or Memorial Gifts can honor someone you admire, respect, or want to remember in a meaningful way, such as an alumna/us, professor, advisor, mentor, co-worker, family member, or friend who has made a special impact.

When you make a Tribute or Memorial Gift, HCHSAA will notify the recipient or their family. The amount of your gift is not disclosed. We also will send an acknowledgment to you as the donor. You will receive a separate tax receipt for gifts above \$25. For questions about making a Tribute or Memorial Gift, call (212) 650-3349.

REUNION 2013

Save the Date

Join us the weekend of May 31 – June 2 for the 2013 HCHS Reunion!

As always, the Alumnae/i Association has a great weekend planned! See the schedule of events at right for AA sponsored events, and register today to secure your spot. Visit the Events Page at www.hchsaa.org, or use the form at the back of this edition of *AlumNotes* to pre-register.

Remember, the culmination of the weekend is the General Assembly, followed by lunch, which will take place on **Sunday, June 2 at 11AM**. This is the one opportunity that Hunterites have to come together as an entire group – from near and far, young and old, alums from every year are invited to attend this important and historic event. This year, the Assembly will feature not only brief talks by members of each Milestone Class, but also a performance by current students, and other surprises! We hope you'll be able to join us!

2013 REUNION WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 31

Reunion Weekend Kick-Off Party, Sponsored By The Young Alums

Young and old alike are invited to join the Young Alums for their annual bash. Visit the website, the AA's Facebook group (www.facebook.com/groups/officialhchsaa), or contact Derek Kan '02 at derek.h.kan@gmail.com for more information.

Admission: Free (cash bar)

Location: Manchester Pub, 920 2nd Avenue (btw 48th and 49th Streets)

Time: 6:00 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Family Picnic And Sixth Annual Joe Kubat Softball Game

Spend the afternoon in Central Park with fellow alums and families from all class years.

Admission: Free

Location: Central Park Softball Fields, enter at West 81st or East 79th Streets

Time: Warm-ups at noon; Game begins at 1:00 PM

Register: Advance registration on our website required; contact Matt Blumenfeld '83 at matthew@financialdevelopmentagency.com with any questions

Tour Of Central Park's Conservatory Garden

Baseball not your cup of tea? Explore our alma mater's backyard while walking with friends instead! Franz Helmke, Director of Facilities Management at Hunter College Brookdale Center and a horticulturist at the New York Botanical Garden, will lead the tour of Central Park's only formal garden. The tour will be suitable for all "walking" levels.

Admission: Free

Location: Meet at Vanderbilt Gate, East 105th Street and Fifth Avenue

Time: 3:00-4:00 PM

Register: Online at our website

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

HCHS General Reunion 2013

The main event! Join the Milestone classes for memories and lunch.

Admission: \$25 for Dues-Paid Members
\$25 for Classes '64 and earlier/'08 and later
\$35 General Admission

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

Time: 10:00 AM—Coffee, Registration, Student-Led Tours of the School

11:00 AM—**The General Assembly**

12:30 PM—Lunch and Student-Led Tours of the School

2:00 PM—Annual Members Meeting

Milestone Reunion Classes

But that's not all! 2013 is a Milestone Reunion for all class years ending in 3 and 8, and is an especially big year for the classes of '88 and '63, 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 lmeredith@hchsaa.org.

Jan. 1943	May KANTER Chariton	mc-hchs@hotmail.com
1943	Nancy VOCHIS Gabriel	nvg@thegabriels.net
1948	Alida ROGNONI Mesrop	mesropalida1@gmail.com
	Miriam KOSTINER Roschelle	mkroschelle@optonline.net
Jan. 1953	Irma JAFFE Becker	jebirb@yahoo.com
	Edith WOLF Sandy	esandy@rcn.com
1953	Shari Barton	sharb22@aol.com
1958	Gail GRANGE Berson	gjberson@att.net
1963	Susan COHEN Esquilin	esquilins@optonline.net
	Jane Solomon	jsolomon45@verizon.net
1968	Lois Radisch	ljrad@aol.com
	Miggie Warms	migwar@aol.com
1983	Matt Blumenfeld	matthew@financialdevelopmentagency.com
1988	Jill Slater	jslate@wesleyan.edu
	Christopher Zentner	christopherzentner@yahoo.com
1993	Laureen BARRAMEDA Bilodeau	laureen.bilodeau@gmail.com
	Amy Gong	amygong@hotmail.com
2003	Diana Athonvarangkul	dianathon@gmail.com
	Claire Friedman	claire.friedman@gmail.com
	Adra Greenstein	adragreenstein@gmail.com
	Jenny Tsai	tsai.jenny@gmail.com
2008	Diana McKeage	dmcckeage@gmail.com
	Maia Sanchez-Acero	maia.sanchez.acero@gmail.com

actually been about diversity, the disproportionate representations of the black, Latino, and white students would have been included in the discussion." As a result, Jenny posited, Asian students from all backgrounds are hyper-aware of their race, in a way that the white students are privileged not to be. "While the language was that of increasing diversity at the school, the subtext was decreasing the number of Asian students at the school, because they were taking the spaces of both the underprivileged minorities and the whites." She concluded that "if magnet schools truly intend to bring diverse groups of people together, [they] have to do a better job of fostering the experience of the minority children in the schools. The experience of the Asian students is at odds with what one would expect given that they sometimes make up the numerical majority of their school population. The Asian experience at these schools indicates a gap between the mission of diversity, and the way it plays out in student experience."

Diversity is frequently an extremely sensitive subject. If handled incorrectly, addressing issues of awareness can lead to further isolation of already marginalized groups, and accusations of racism can create anger, mistrust, and resentment on all sides. Regardless, members of the Hunter community were increasingly eager to deal with these issues honestly. And not just racial and ethnic diversity, but cultural sensitivity, differences in gender and sexuality, income variations, and awareness of the casual stereotyping and presumptions about classmates and peers that can be incredibly, and frequently silently, destructive.

The desire for a more open dialogue became evident in 2010, when a faculty committee selected **Justin Hudson '10** to address the school at his graduation with a Class Speech that was at once thoughtful and full of conflicting emotions surrounding his beloved alma mater. After detailing his pride in his accomplishments, and his sadness at leaving the place that had become his "sanctuary," he went on to say that nevertheless, "more than anything else, today I feel guilty. I feel guilty because I don't deserve any of this. And neither do any of you. We received an outstanding education at no charge based solely on our performance on a test we took when we were eleven-year-olds, or four-year-olds.... If you truly believe that the demographics of Hunter represent the distribution of intelligence in this city, then you must believe that the Upper West Side, Bayside, and Flushing are



Priscilla Forsyth '94, David Crenshaw '81, Martine Young '90, Yahya Jeffries-El '90, Kyla KUPFERSTEIN Torres '92, Jessica Forsyth '91 at the October 13th, 2012 Open House

intrinsically more intelligent than the South Bronx, Bedford Stuyvesant, and Washington Heights, and I refuse to accept that." The speech, which was printed in its entirety in the Fall 2010 edition of *AlumNotes*, elicited both criticism and praise, and sparked debate.

The following year, as president of HOLA, Tiffany took action. In order to make Hunter a more inclusive place – allowing everyone to, as she puts it, "feel like a part of the community on a daily basis" – Tiffany began reaching out to other cultural and racial groups to collaborate on proactive ways to change the atmosphere of the school. By the summer, members from many different backgrounds had formed a cohesive unit, and Tiffany had founded a new club. Advocating Cultural Ties (ACT) would serve as an umbrella organization for the disparate student cultural groups in an effort to open up lines of communication within the school. The goal was to bridge the gaps between all students and "establish a stronger multicultural community and create more profound diversity awareness."

ACT students found an ally in their HCES and PTA counterpart, the diversity organization Mosaic. Founded in 2008, Mosaic began as a subcommittee of the elementary school PTA because, according to one of the parents and co-founders **Asari Beale**, "it was clear that there was a great desire from parents to talk about and support each other around all issues of diversity, including but not limited to race." According to its mission statement, Mosaic's purpose is "to promote and advocate for increased diversity, social harmony, and sensitivity to differences among staff members, parents, and children. The committee addresses all types of diversity, including ethnicity, race, socioeconomics, disability, religion, sexual orientation, family

configuration, lifestyle, language, and gender." As **Carol Rial**, the other parent co-founder, put it, "we wanted some kind of diversity committee that held workshops, that was educational and that was celebratory – and we knew it was sometimes going to be awkward and painful and tense." In 2010, with encouragement from Director of Campus Schools and HCES Principal **Randy Collins**, Mosaic began to evolve into a whole-school parent organization. In the year after ACT's founding, the members of Mosaic organized a variety of events, including a panel and workshops on Racial Identity, a discussion about Access and Equity in College Admissions led by the former President of Amherst and current New York Public Library President Anthony Marx, and a presentation by ACT, all open to K-12 parents.

It hasn't just been the parents; faculty and staff have also gotten involved. **Kyla KUPFERSTEIN Torres '92**, the Campus Schools' Director of Admissions and Outreach, has been part of Mosaic and a particular advocate for ACT from the beginning. In 2011, she pursued funding from the PTA to send four ACT students to the Student Diversity Leadership Conference at the National Association of Independent Schools' People of Color Conference in Philadelphia. According to its website, the SDLC "focuses on self-reflecting, forming allies, and building community. Led by a diverse team of trained adult and peer facilitators, participants develop effective cross-cultural communications skills, better understand the nature and development of effective strategies for social justice, practice expression through the arts, and learn networking principles and strategies." Kyla, along with

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ALUM EVENTS

Evening Discussion of the Arts in America

On an evening in September, a small group of alums met in the cozy basement of Tribeca's Bubble Lounge for drinks, food, and a conversation on the role of government and private investors in contemporary visual arts. Leading the discussion was **Nancy Princenthal '73**, professor at the School of Visual Arts, author and co-author of several recent books, including a monograph on the artist Hannah Wilke, and former senior editor of *Art in America*.

Nancy began the conversation by guiding the group through a short history of arts funding in late 20th century America. Starting with the establishment of the National Endowment for the Arts in 1966, Nancy explained how federal funding grew over the late 1960s and 1970s. In 1980, the budget for the NEA was approximately \$154 million, part of which went to peer-reviewed grants for individual artists, resulting in funding for smaller, more experimental work.

In the 1980s, however, private investors flooded the market and visual art boomed as a lucrative industry. As the wealthy took a personal and financial stake in the art world, the artistic culture shifted towards the commercial, leading art critic Peter Schjeldahl to infamously proclaim that "art is the sex life of money."

By the mid-1990s, amid fears that public taxes were being used to fund subversive and obscene work, the government was pressured to more clearly demonstrate the benefits of the public grants, and the individual artist

subsidies were terminated. Funding never increased again, and the NEA has continued to lose money ever since. The agency currently operates with a budget of \$146 million.

Today, there is a grassroots movement among young artists to skirt private investors and the government, and self-produce and -publish their work. Nancy told us about a weekend when she visited PS1 in Queens to attend Printed Matter's NY Art Book Fair. Tens of thousands of people, many under thirty, had gathered to see and buy contemporary work by known and unknown artists. Printed Matter, where Nancy worked after graduating from college, is a non-profit organization that solicits funding from institutions and major donors, following the path of many arts groups that can no longer sustain themselves on governmental and private donors alone.

Nancy concluded by asking whether we are better off not being beholden to government support, and pondering what kind of art the public gets when artists' livelihoods are dependent on the private sector. This sparked a lively conversation about the arts in New York. It was suggested that while individual artists might not be able to generate enough interest to build revenue for the city, preeminent institutions like the Met and MoMA are major attractions and potential economic stimulators. Nancy also brought up the late art critic Robert Hughes' point that blogs and digital media have fundamentally changed art criticism and consumption.



Nancy Princenthal '73

Now that everyone has a forum to voice their opinions, the role of the curator has become more important as a way to sift through the noise and determine what is actually happening in the art world, and what is just self-promotion.

The evening ended on the sobering notion that without government funding, there will never be wide-spread interest in our visual culture. A country with major and instrumental governmental arts funding is necessarily going to have a more active public arts culture, because every taxpayer is essentially a shareholder. If the NEA's budget continues to decline, discussion about the arts will cease to be the purview of the entire electorate and become, as it perhaps already has, the pastime of the rich and privileged.

Autumn Reception 2012

The annual Autumn Reception would've been better termed the Winter Reception, after Hurricane Sandy caused it to be rescheduled from its original November date to December 11. But despite the delay, alums from all over the city came to hear Dr. **Linda Fried '66** speak on the subject of aging, in a lecture entitled "Aging is for 20-Somethings; Creativity Comes with Experience."

The evening started off in the high school library, where alums from classes across a

seventy-year spectrum mingled over cheese, sandwiches, and wine, while AA co-president **Jason P. Criss '92** spoke about the recent achievements of the Alumnae/i Association. The alums then had the chance to hear from Principal **Tony Fisher** about the state of the high school now that it has consistent and stable leadership. In particular he discussed the newly implemented counseling programs, as well as the status of older programs devoted to student welfare, like the Big Sibs and 7th and 8th grade support programs. He also

explained how the administration is looking to expand the current senior year internship to better resemble the year-long programs of old. They have a working model with the Science Lab which they are using to create similar programs in fields like journalism, math research, and politics. "I plan to see you all this year," he concluded. "And the year after that. And the year after that."



Dr. Linda Fried '66

Finishing their refreshments, guests then headed upstairs to the auditorium, where Dr. Fried was introduced by **Marjorie LANDSBERG Goldsmith '61**, who expounded on Dr. Fried's many accomplishments, including her prior positions at Johns Hopkins as the Mason F. Lord Professor of Geriatric Medicine and director of the Center of Excellence for Aging Research, Center on Aging and Health, and the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, and her current positions at Columbia University as DeLamar Professor and Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health, Senior Vice President of the Columbia University Medical Center, Professor of Epidemiology, and Professor of Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

"I'm not going to talk about assisted living, or nursing homes, or diabetes," Dr. Fried began, referring to the enigmatic title of the evening's topic. "Instead I'd like to do a thought exercise. Close your eyes, and imagine yourself at 85..." It turns out, this is harder to do than one would expect. In fact, Dr. Fried explained, most young people view aging with fear and dread, fed by stereotypes of the elderly as dependent, inadequate, and a drain on society at large. This is despite the fact that life expectancy has risen by forty years in the last century; people are not only living longer, they are living better and healthier.

The problem is that they are not living happier. Depression is common among adults older than 65, usually stemming from feelings of invisibility and uselessness. For example, there are more seniors in this country than ever before, and yet it was barely discussed in the last presidential election, except in the context of an impending Medicare and Social Security catastrophe. Moreover, we tend to view the "retirement years" as a time of non-action, which frequently leads to decades of despondency for the unemployed older members of society.

The silver lining, Dr. Fried argued, is that we have a unique opportunity to create an entirely new stage of life. Human development continues throughout an individual's entire life – there is no cut-off point. People can and do learn new things into their 80s and 90s, but they are constrained by social perceptions of old age.

In developing ways to change the concept of aging – and therefore the ways in which we plan for and use our older years – Dr.

Fried has designed a program that trains older adults to be volunteers in unfilled jobs at public elementary schools. The result has been remarkable – not only did the adults succeed in their new positions, they actually flourished. They never missed a day unless they were sick, and they attacked their new roles with vigor and enthusiasm. In return, the children did better in school because they were surrounded by adults who really cared. Going beyond unpaid work, Dr. Fried declared, "we need a million models for paid work, and jobs that engage older people."

It's not just that our perception of old age is detrimental to society as whole, but it's also fundamentally incorrect. As the topic of the event suggests, it's becoming clear to neuroscientists that creativity is actually learned with age and experience. Increasingly, science is proving that wisdom really is the domain of the elders – as we go through life, we accumulate knowledge; we learn how to survive, how to get up when we're knocked down, how to process the objective world, and consequently, we develop an ability to actually use our brains more resourcefully. Dr. Fried pointed out that Nelson Mandela and Gandhi did their greatest work in their 70s and 80s, things they probably couldn't have pulled off at 20 or 30. It takes a lifetime of maturity to synthesize objective evidence with personal knowledge and subjective experience. More things are possible the older you get.

The conversation shifted to practical problems and solutions, as audience members asked questions that related to their own lives. One woman lamented the fact that some members of the medical profession tend to infantilize and ignore their elderly patients, frequently in an intersection of ageism and sexism. Dr. Fried acknowledged this, and suggested that the only way to move forward is to continue to have conversations about the importance of empowering older people, and remaining inclusive instead of condescending. The talk turned to the benefits of living in Manhattan, to the importance of designing housing or even a whole city with the elderly in mind, to one woman's experiences auditing classes in Italian and music and art history at Hunter College.

The crux of the discussion came, however, from **Dave Crenshaw '81** who, in the midst of asking a question about how he can get his school involved with senior organizations, said

that he loves to come to events hosted by the HCHSAA because he knows that "I'm going to get to sit down with some great older ladies, who are going to teach me stuff I didn't know before." And in that one sentence existed the whole point of Dr. Fried's lecture.



The Alumnae/i office received a lot of positive feedback about the lecture, including the following letter from an attendee:

To the Alumnae/i Association,

I have not enjoyed a program as good as this one in a very long time. The topic is vital, and Linda did a wonderful job presenting her thoughts about it and describing the program her efforts have brought about. Her questions to the audience were challenging but gentle. She brought us to an intellectual cliff and gave us support to look over it for implications and advice.

I wasn't a guest expecting to hear about Medicare/Medicaid or Social Security, but I was one concerned about being prepared for aging the rest of the way gracefully and making the most possible of my time. I came away refreshed and reassured, eager to rethink what I've been doing and open to some new directions. I hope the middle-aged members of the audience are reexamining their retirement plans and considering more active, rejuvenating next steps. The younger ones may want to reassess their careers/jobs, take an early break, and retrain.

A troubling question loomed for me: will living longer mean living longer well and happy, or might it mean living longer with incurable diseases or incapacitating handicaps? It is troubling to consider, as Linda pointed out, that such a remarkable success in human history might be one we decline to prepare for properly. I think I'll try to follow her suggestion about creating a whole new stage of life for myself. I'm thinking about that tap dancing I always wanted to do and those Henry James novels I very recently had regrets about not reading yet.

What a great program!

*Good thoughts,
Margaret "Peggy" BETZ Perrin '55*

ALUM UPDATES

Marquis *Who's Who in America 2013* has featured **Bernice WORMAN Hauser '49**. The list includes profiles on people from many different professions, and Bunny is listed as an Academic Administrator. In addition, her most recent article, "Why Pumpkin Seeds?" was just published in the Fall 2012 issue (Vol. XXXI, No. 3) of *Teachers Clearinghouse for Science and Society Education Newsletter*.

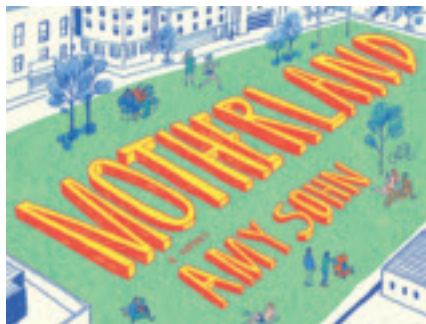
"When I was at Hunter," writes **Amelia BLEICHER Winkler '51**, "**Audre Lorde '51**, who edited the *Argus* literary magazine and went on to become the New York State Poet Laureate, asked me to join the staff, but talk of paths not taken, I opted instead to write for *What's What...* Now, many years later, I have become a poet, and am pleased to inform you that my first collection, *Waking at Night*, will be released by Finishing Line Press in January 2013! It's never too late to find your true self!" Amelia's poems have previously been published in small presses and anthologies, including *Big City Lit*, *Jewish Currents*, and *The Westchester Review*. Her other work includes essays and articles for publications including *The New York Times* and *The Jewish Week*, and teaching programs co-sponsored by Poets & Writers and the Greenburgh Arts and Culture Council in Westchester, NY. The book is \$15.99 including shipping and handling, and can be found online at www.finishinglinepress.com.

Barbara BLAHO Doonan '54 has recently published a chapter entitled "Prevention and Management of Obesity by Isoflavones" in *Isoflavones: Chemistry, Analysis, Function and Effects* (Royal Society of Chemistry 2013). Barbara received her PhD from CUNY in 1978, was a Principal Scientist at Altria Group Inc. until her retirement in 2010, and is currently a Research Associate at New York Medical College in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Leonore Tiefer '61 co-organized a grassroots conference in Washington this February, entitled "Selling Sickness, 2013: People before Profits." For more information, check out www.sellingsickness.com.

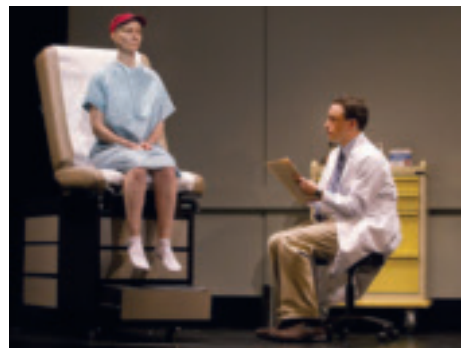
In February of 2012, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn appointed **Gail Schechter '80** to the newly constituted Housing Appeals Board as the designated "affordable housing advocate." For almost the past two decades, Gail has served as the executive director of Open Communities (until October 2012, the Interfaith Housing Center of the Northern Suburbs), a civil rights and fair and affordable housing advocacy organization in the Chicago area. A passionate clarinetist in her spare time, Schechter is a member of the North Suburban Symphony, the Savoyaires, an Evanston-based Gilbert & Sullivan troupe, and participates in the annual Kinhaven Chamber Music workshop in Vermont. She is also an adjunct professor in the Master's in Public Policy and Administration program at Northwestern University's School of Continuing Studies.

Amy Sohn '91 released her newest novel this past summer about misadventures in New York parenting. *Motherland*, the follow-up to her 2009 best-seller *Prospect Park West*, follows five mothers and fathers as their lives become increasingly tangled. Amy has written as a freelance journalist for *The New York Times*, *Slate*, *Details*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Elle*, *Men's Journal*, and *Playboy*, among others, and served as a contributing editor at *New York Magazine* for six years. This is her fourth novel, which can be purchased at independent bookstores or through online retailers.



We have another addition to the list of Hunter couples! **Emily Stein '93** wrote in to say that she and her husband **Jonathan Berenbom '90** "barely knew each other at Hunter but met years later and got married in 2007."

The Alumnae/i Association was informed that there was more than one Hunter alum in Broadway's hit production of *Wit* last winter. **Greg Keller '92** was featured in the role of Jason Posner, the former student turned primary care doctor of the play's lead character, played by **Cynthia Nixon '84**.



As a follow-up to his *New York Times* bestselling book *Likeable Social Media*, **Dave Kerpen '94** has published *Likeable Business: Why Today's Consumers Demand More and How Leaders Can Deliver*. The book lays out eleven strategies for organizations of all sizes to spur growth, profits, and overall success, and can be purchased through Amazon and bookstores everywhere. Aside from the books, Dave's company Likeable Media was named the 28th best place to work in the city this past year by *Crain's New York Business*.



Douglas E. Julie '97, an attorney with Levi Korsinsky in New York, was named a "Rising Star in Litigation" for 2012 by Super Lawyers. The award rates outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas. Douglas was nominated as a top up-and-coming attorney by his peers, and then examined by an attorney-led research team. With his award, he joins a select group of litigators that includes no more than 2.5% of lawyers in any given state.

ALUMS IN THE NEWS



Peggy WALZER Charren '45, founder and president of Action for Children's Television, has been named one of the 100 Most Influential Women in Advertising by *Advertising Age*. Through Peggy's perseverance, "the

number of allowable ad minutes during kids' TV programming has dwindled" since she co-founded the company in 1968, and ACT successfully established formal guidelines and rules governing advertising for children's programming with the passage of the Children's Television Act of 1990. Peggy was so successful that the company disbanded in 1992, declaring that the organization had met its objectives.



AlumNotes has discovered another Hunter couple – this time from *The New York Times*. **Joshua Pittman '95** and **Nicole Duignan '97** were the featured Vows article in the Sunday Styles section on December 2, 2012. Their romance started in the spring of 1992, and lasted into the following school year, when "she became interested in another boy and broke up with Mr. Pittman." They did not speak for the remainder of their time at Hunter. But, as with all the couples profiled in the *AlumNotes* Winter 2011 feature ("Mrs. and Mr. Sarah Maria Jones"), the Hunter bond remained strong. After

running into each other in the subway in 2009, "they met for Chinese food on Mott Street, and were delighted to discover they were very similar to their teenage selves.... Conversation flowed, and their romance revived." They were married on November 17, in Washington Heights.

Adam Cohen '97 has been named one of the "Brilliant Ten," *Popular Science's* annual list of the "greatest scientists of tomorrow." Adam, a professor of chemistry and physics at Harvard University, has been engineering neurons to "glow when they fire," an idea he came up with through a kind of biomimicry – that is, the science of studying natural models to solve human problems. For inspiration, he turned to a microbe from the Dead Sea that produces a protein which converts sunlight into voltage. By making the protein work in reverse, turning an electrical impulse into a flash of light, he has been able to record signals

from isolated mouse and human brains cells. The hope is that the incandescent cells will help neuroscientists study the effects of pharmaceuticals on complex neural circuits. In his interview with *Popular Science*, Adam said that he will also be able to address other problems. "If I can contribute to our energy supply or regulation of the environment, that would be great. I have some crackpot schemes."



Help Us Go Green!

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

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

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

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

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL

Young Scientists

The HCHS Science Department wishes to congratulate our four Siemens semifinalists this year: **Shirley Mo '14**, **Sindy Tan '13**, **Isabel Udo '14**, **Zhihan Zheng '13**. Siemens is a project-based competition for juniors and seniors, administered by the College Board and funded by the Siemens Foundation, which recognizes remarkable talent and fosters individual growth for students willing to challenge themselves through science research. The department would also like to congratulate **Maxine McGredy '14**, who was selected by the Child Mind Institute to be a recipient of their Rising Scientist Award. The honor is given to ten outstanding 11th and 12th grade students from New York metropolitan area schools with rigorous science curricula, and who have demonstrated excellent achievement in science.

CUMUN Conference Winners

This past January, HCHS brought twelve student delegates to the Columbia Model United Nations Conference and Exposition. Even though many of our students were competing for the first time, we still won the Best Small Delegation Award. There were also a few individual winners: **Daphne Asteriadis '14** won Honorable Mention on Costra Nostra; **Russell Bingham '16** and **Douglas Wong '16** won Honorable Mention on the European Union; **Luna Beller-Tadia '14** won a verbal commendation on Occupy Wall Street; **Katharine Frank '13** won verbal commendation on the British East India Trading Company; **Martha Jachimski '13** won Honorable Mention on ADHOC by playing John Ashcroft; **Nick Jasinski '14** won Honorable Mention on Oslo Accords; **Jonathan Lin '15** won Honorable Mention on Operacion Zamora; **Philip Ma '13** won verbal commendation on Paris Peace Conference 1919; **Belinda Zhou '13** won verbal commendation on Chinese Politburo; and **Cecilia Silberstein '15** and **Karina Xie '15** also contributed to our Best Small Delegation Award!

History Bowl

On January 13, Hunter's **History Bowl** Teams A and B competed at the Long Island regional competition. Team A won the Varsity competition, and Team B came in third place in their first competition ever. Both teams qualified for the Nationals. In the individual History Bee, **Zihan Zeng '13** won the Varsity division and **Douglas Wong '16** won the JV division. **Marianna Zhang '14** won the Geography Bee.

Senior to Represent US in Mathematics

After taking two four-hour long mathematics exams, **Andre Arslan '13** has been invited to represent the United States at the annual Romanian Master of Mathematics and Sciences competition. The international teams can have up to six students; this means that Andre is among the six best young mathematicians in the country! The contest, which is often used as a criterion for the selection of the USA team for the International Mathematics Olympiads, is being held in Bucharest from February 27 - March 3.

HCHS Community Pitches In

Hurricane Sandy decimated parts of New York, from the Rockaways to Staten Island and lower Manhattan, and shut the city down for days in its wake. While the school itself was spared any

damage, many members of the community were not so lucky; some students and faculty were stuck without transportation, while others were forced to evacuate their homes or were without heat and electricity.

In the days following the storm, as the toll of the devastation became clear, Hunter families jumped into action. The high school PTA called all the families living in Zone A and Staten Island; they left messages in English, Spanish, and Korean, and stopped only after they had determined that everyone was safe. Parents and faculty living in unaffected areas inundated the PTA with offers to house any student who was affected by the storm, from damaged houses to disrupted commutes.

While Hunterites took care of each other, the school looked for ways to help the wider New York community. "There are many efforts going on from different organizations," **Amelia Betancourt**, Hunter's Community Service Coordinator, said, "and we want to make sure our donations will go directly to the victims of the storm." After researching the best ways to contribute to the relief effort, Amelia, along with fellow Community Service coordinators **Giovanna Termini** and **David Butts** and student government groups, started collecting contributions of food and supplies for Occupy Sandy. After two weeks, they had collected enough to fill two vans, which Giovanna and parent **Peter Shao** drove to the Occupy headquarters in Brooklyn.

"The HCHS and HCES PTAs and Service Office met and decided to have a whole school approach," Amelia said, highlighting the collaboration of the parents, students, faculty, and administration. And it's not over yet. Aside from continuing with the



Left: Students load a car full of supplies for victims of Sandy. Right: Supply Drive in November

supply drives, the Community Service Department is finding ways to help out educational institutions. They have sponsored a book drive for a damaged Staten Island library, and are looking into the possibility of adopting a school that was either damaged by the storm or is currently hosting

students whose school was destroyed. The relief effort continues, and there is still a lot to be done. To find out how you can help out, email PTA member Nancy Orenstein at pnonyc@yahoo.com or visit the Occupy Sandy website at www.interoccupy.net/occupysandy. The Service Office will also be posting opportunities for student relief efforts on the Community Service bulletin board outside room #236.

Electronic Babies Teach Tenth Graders about Life

The Family Life unit of the tenth grade Human Sexuality class has always been geared towards preventing teen pregnancy and encouraging safety. The segment used to be an intellectual exercise; armed with a PowerPoint presentation, health teachers identified risky behaviors, doled out statistical information, and explained the emotional, physical, and social consequences of having a baby.

While knowledge is certainly powerful, the Health Department knew that adding an experiential element to the class could really drive the message home. The answer lay in the robotic baby.

The RealCare Baby 2 was created by the company Realityworks and is designed to act and respond like a live infant. It requires feeding, burping, changing, and general love and attention, and cries at all hours of the day and night. Unlike an actual baby, however, the RealCare Baby is linked to a computer system, which records the



Students with their RealCare Babies

actions of the student caretaker, and grades them based on how well they administer to the baby's needs.

After one night of parenting the RealCare Baby, students are asked to consider how having a child might change their lives. "The project is an exercise in responsibility and communication," explains health teacher **Michelle Rushforth**, "and ultimately prompts students to think about the challenges of teen pregnancy." The students, for the most part, are excited by the assignment, and come away from it with a greater understanding of their own ability to determine their futures.

If any alumnae/i in the healthcare field – gynecologists, midwives, etc – are interested in being guest speakers in the 10th grade health class, please feel free to get in touch with the HCHSAA office at info@hchsaa.org.

"The Baby Project teaches you about yourself and your overall level of patience"

"Illustrates the WORST characteristics of an infant, but at the same time, teaches you a lot"

"It's clear to me how powerful it is to plan for a child"

"Real babies have a less annoying cry, Ms. Rushforth!"

—Student responses to the RealCare Baby Project

"A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

spanish teacher and Community Service Coordinator **Amelia Betancourt**, and history teacher **David Joffe**, selected students, led workshops to help them prepare for the event, and chaperoned and encouraged them once they arrived. They reported that as a result, the conference was enormously influential, and the students returned with ideas for events and workshops. The following February, under David and Amelia's guidance, ACT put together the Day of ACTion, with a full day of assemblies of student-led open discussions on diversity at Hunter, including race, gender identity, sexuality, and economic background. Students were encouraged to speak up and be prepared for the discomfort and potential conflict, while remaining respectful and open. The event was so successful that ACT then hosted a Mosaic parents' night, during which they not only ran through the Day of ACTion, but also had a panel of students from various backgrounds answer questions about how diversity at Hunter affects their lives.

Many faculty members are committed not only to supporting the students, but also learning from them and their issues; for example, the faculty developed a diversity committee in the spring of 2011. The committee, chaired by David Joffe, holds meetings that students can attend and participate in, and organizes professional development training for the staff. In 2011, the training included conversations and workshops on topics ranging from the book *Tiger Mother*, to how to intervene when kids are telling inappropriate and insensitive jokes in the hallways, to how cultural norms affect class participation and awareness of students whose home cultures differ from their school culture. This year, the faculty were assigned *Whistling Vivaldi and Other Clues to How Stereotypes Affect Us* by Claude Steele, and were led in discussions by Joshua Aronson, Associate Professor of Applied Psychology at NYU whose work focuses on race and gender gaps in educational achievement, and Jane Bolgatz, Associate Professor of Social Studies Education at Fordham who researches how teachers, students, administrators, and parents address issues of race and racism. Hunter High School teachers have also introduced new classes into the curriculum: *Introduction to African American Studies and Race, Class, and Gender in American Society* in 2009;

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

YOUR ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION



From left to right: one of the two volunteer groups; building a home; members of the RoHawks; students working on their robot.

Your Alumnae/i Association At Work

Thanks to your incredible generosity, this past year the Alumnae/i Association was able to support the students in new and innovative ways. Here are just two examples of how our grant money was put to use.

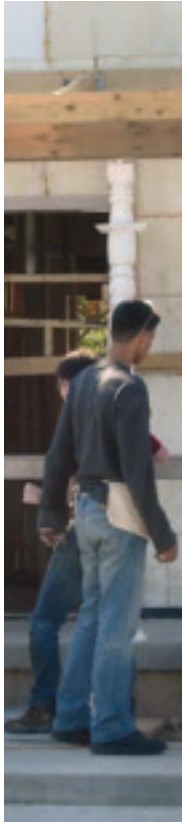
Student Service Trips

This past summer, students from the high school went on service trips to West Virginia to volunteer with Almost Heaven Habitat for Humanity. Funded by the Alumnae/i Association and led by **David Butts** of the Mathematics Department, a total of nineteen students over two separate week-long trips helped build houses for low-income people in need. They met people in the community and developed relationships with their co-workers and each other. “My mission had two major components,” David Butts said.

“First, I wanted to provide a hands-on service opportunity that involved manual labor in a location that is drastically different from New York City. Secondly, I wanted the students to experience poverty and need in a way that is different from serving homeless people in soup kitchens. We met people that would be living in the houses we built. We met the neighbors of these people, who also live very modestly. And we met people who are employed by the construction being done who drive several hours a day just to make a little money.” He added that “many students seemed truly moved by the experience. It also seemed to bring a group of Hunter people together in a unique way that, I hope, provides some strength to our community.”

Based on the student responses, it seems David’s hope was fulfilled. One student wrote that “this trip is incredibly valuable for Hunter students, because our ambition dictates our actions for the future, and we do things with our own futures in mind and, in the process, we sometimes lose sight of big things we can do at any time. This trip

reminded me of how far little acts can go; how a box of nails, a hammer, and a willing high school student can make a difference.” Another student noted how “being able to spend time with people I knew vaguely from school in an out-of-school setting, getting to live and work side-by-side with them, was amazing. Leaving the trip, I felt close with every person in our van.” But, they cautioned that while it was a “fabulous trip, if it were to be done again next year, which I very much hope, I would add a word of warning for those considering it: Do not do this trip if you do not want to get dirty, have your peers see you at your most disgusting, or be separated from your phone or other electronics. You must also be alright with being helpful and considerate and a good sport even when things are ridiculously hot and sticky. You should not do this program just to get service credit; do it to do it, and you will have as good a time as I did.” David is currently planning two more trips for this coming summer, which will also be made possible by alumnae/i support.



Robotics Team Attends Regional Competitions

With the help of the Alumnae/i Association and the PTA, as well as their corporate mentor, AllianceBernstein, the **Robotics Team** was able to fulfill its goal of competing in two regional FIRST Robotics Competitions. These events are crucial to the development of the team, because they are the only opportunity the students have to explore how their robot works (or doesn't), to manage technological failures quickly and effectively, and learn from the successes and failures of their peers from other schools.

The Robotics Team – nicknamed the RoHawks – participated in both the New York City and Maryland Regionals. The students had to modify their original design after they realized that their robot's bumpers couldn't hold up against constant collisions. They also added a pneumatic lift to the design, making it better equipped to handle specific challenges in the game.

Most impressively, the RoHawks won the Maryland competition, and were able to attend the Nationals Competition in St. Louis. "The opportunity was extraordinary," says team advisor and Assistant Principal to Grades 10-12 **Lisa Siegmann**. "We saw 400 robotics teams from around the world in serious engineering competition. While we did not make it out of the qualifying rounds, seeing the level of design and manufacturing of the teams who did make it into the final rounds has helped raise our understanding of, and goals for, future competitions." It's a good thing, too – this year, the challenge will be to build a robot that not only can shoot Frisbees, but must also be able to climb a ten-foot pyramid that will be centered in the competition courts. On behalf of Hunter's alumnae/i, the Association wishes the RoHawks lots of luck for 2013!

The RoHawks Need Your Help!

The RoHawks are seeking corporate sponsorship in preparation for the 2013 competitions. As a FIRST Robotics Team, the RoHawks are responsible for competition entrance fees, raw materials, specialty parts, tools, and transportation, totaling well over \$10,000. In return, they learn skills that enhance their education and prepare them to be the next generation of engineers, programmers, and scientists. In order to meet their budget needs and remain competitive, they need the help of donors like you.

To learn more about how your company can support the more than 40 students engaged with robotics, contact faculty advisor Brian Park at bpark@hccs.hunter.cuny.edu or Assistant Principal Lisa Siegmann at lsiegman@hccs.hunter.cuny.edu. All donations through the Alumnae/i Association are fully tax-deductible, and sponsors will receive recognition on the robot, website, and team t-shirts.

YOUR ALUMNAE/I ASSOCIATION

Want to Hang Out with Alums in YOUR Area?

You don't have to be located in New York City to spend time with your fellow Hunter alums. The Alumnae/i Association has satellite chapters all over the world, and these alum-run groups are constantly in action, setting up events or lunches, or taking suggestions for ways to get regional groups together. Be in touch with your local chapter head! Don't see one close to where you live? Contact the AA for information about how to start your own! Visit www.hchsaa.org or email your Communications and Membership Associate Lillian Meredith at lm Meredith@hchsaa.org.

Join the Board!

Are you passionate about the education you received and the people you met at HCHS? Would you like to help ensure that the tradition of fostering creative, intellectually curious, and original thinkers continues for students of past, present, and future? The Hunter College High School Alumnae/i Association is actively seeking volunteers to join our Board of Directors. Alumnae/i who are interested in serving as a director should read through the description below and submit a letter of interest and resume by April 15, 2013.

Alternatively, should you be interested in becoming more active within the HCHSAA but are unable to commit to the responsibilities of a director, please consider joining one of the standing committees of the Board.*

Job Description and Expectations

Board Members advise, govern, oversee policy and direction, and assist with the leadership and general promotion of HCHSAA so as to support the organization's mission and goals.

Major responsibilities:

Attend monthly Board meetings in Manhattan (meeting dates are decided in September).

- Review agenda and supporting materials prior to Board and committee meetings.

Young Alums (Classes of '95 – '12)
Derek Kan '02
Derek.h.kan@gmail.com

NORTH-EAST

Southern New England Region and Greater Boston

Nancy Weissman '76
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SOUTH-WEST

Texas

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ladygail@att.net

INTERNATIONAL

Israel

Lorell FELDENSTEIN Blass '45
lorell@netvision.net.il

- Board members must not miss more than two meetings per academic year.

Serve on committees or task forces and offer to take on special assignments.

- Committees include events, fundraising, programs, grants, reunion, and finance.
- Special assignments include *AlumNotes*, website maintenance, and event planning.

Assist the Board in carrying out its fiduciary responsibilities.

- Review and award funds as per HCHSAA's mission and guidelines.
- Review the organization's annual financial statements.
- Fundraising.

Be informed about the organization's mission, services, policies, and programs.

- Inform others about the organization.
- Stay apprized of developments related to HCHS and Hunter alums.

Attend some of our special events, including reunion in June, our spring fundraiser, and several other social or networking events throughout the year.

Pay annual dues and financially support HCHSAA in a manner commensurate with one's ability.

Length of term: Three years, which may be renewed up to a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Contact: If you are interested in serving as a director on the HCHSAA Board, please contact Elyse Reissman, Executive Director, at elyse@hchsaa.org. Be sure to include a written statement of interest and attach a copy of your resume. For questions please call (212) 650-3349.

Privacy and Security

The Alumnae/i Association takes your privacy very seriously – from your personal information to your website passwords, we want to make sure that you are protected. To that end, we would like to remind you that we do not share your addresses, phone numbers, or emails with anyone outside of the community, and we encourage you, as fellow Hunterites, to have the same discretion. If you have old directories that you no longer want, mail

them back to us at our offices and we'll take care of them. Please do not sell or auction them off, online or anywhere else.

You should also know that when you join our online directory, you can choose to make all or part of your information private. If you have any trouble with your privacy settings, feel free to contact the office at (212) 396-6572.

** For more information, contact the Alumnae/i office.*

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.

"A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

African American History and Literature, which replaced the *Intro* class, and *Asian Literature* in 2011; and this past year, *Modern Asian History*. According to the Course Catalogue, these classes teach students to approach familiar subjects like History and English from a non-white perspective, asking them to consider, for example, how "systems of hierarchy are formed and maintained by race, class, and gender," or whether "the black person/artist need[s] to be politically engaged in being black to merit study as black, rather than as American or both." These classes can also serve as a connection with the wider issues in the school. Tiffany Ramos took these classes, and points out that "within David Joffe's own *African American* and *Race Class Gender* classrooms, he would incite student interest in diversity and involvement in ACT." That kind of faculty involvement, she said, "was an integral part of ACT's success." David and Amelia Betancourt have also developed a diversity training session for the Big Sibbs, which they led for the first time this year.

What is remarkable is the increased transparency and team-work between all members of the Hunter community. David Joffe attributes this phenomenon to a few things, not least that there is sustained and encouraging leadership from the administration. "Without a supportive administration, it doesn't happen," he says. "Without the money to send the kids to the conference, without access to assembly time, it doesn't happen." Tiffany Ramos agrees, citing the fact that "almost immediately upon my founding ACT, my principal, Dr. **Tony Fisher**, wanted to help. He supported me wholeheartedly because he recognized that my cause would finally address the issue of diversity, which had been neglected for years." Dr. Fisher adds that "diversity work, at its best, is about more than ensuring that students from under-represented populations feel safe and fully part of the community (although that is a vitally important task); it's about recognizing that students from a range of backgrounds and across all spectra of diversity feel that they are contributing meaningfully to the fabric of the school. In creating ACT, our students took a crucial leadership step in that direction." And it's not just for programs within the school. Aside from her work with ACT, Kyla Kupferstein Torres has also presided over outreach initiatives like the HCHSAA-funded Lighthouse program, where high school students tutor elementary school students at PS 161.

Of course, most important has been the

participation and honesty of the students.

Andy McCord, a parent and current co-chair of Mosaic in the high school, summed it up with "the kids have gone farther than anybody.... The school started to change with Justin Hudson's speech... [and] the ACT kids have found a way to bring all these kids from all these different groups to talk much more openly about what they're feeling and dealing with than the parents can." David Joffe mentioned a particularly powerful assembly where kids openly and honestly discussed the pain and prevalence of racial slurs, where one boy said simply "I never heard the word until I came here. It makes me angry and it makes me upset." Randy Collins attributes a lot of the momentum to ACT. "It's very powerful," he said, "especially when the students give testimony about things that happen in the classroom or in the high school that people weren't aware of or didn't realize was a problem."

On October 15 of this past year, Mosaic and ACT ran a summit, where members of ACT discussed their experiences as students of color, and the difficulty in crossing the cultural divide. They followed these presentations with a question and answer session, and then break-out groups to create recommendations for the school to address these issues. Mosaic is planning another school-wide presentation for this spring. As an outgrowth of the October Summit, its members are encouraging the high school administration to be sensitive to school practices to ensure that all students are treated with equal fairness and respect. "It's not in the closet anymore," said **Rachel Barany**, a parent and member of Mosaic. "People are more able to talk about it."

Alumae/i are pivotal to the work of ACT, Mosaic, and the faculty and staff. Their experiences both as students and in the wider world give them a poignant and often professional perspective. **Jessica Forsyth '91** has been particularly involved. As a psychologist specializing in issues of racial-cultural identity, Jessica has participated on Mosaic panels, led post-panel parent discussions, and participated in planning the October summit panel, which she also moderated. Working with HCHS Student Ambassadors, led by **Camera Ford '12** and **Nora Dolliver '12**, Kyla Kupferstein Torres organized the first of a series of outreach programs involving alums. Focused on increasing diversity at Hunter long-term, these open houses are available to black and Latino families with students in elementary school, with the goal of raising awareness of the high school and its admissions policy among underrepresented

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IN MEMORIAM



The Alumnae/i Association regrets to announce that **Mary Galvez Rodriguez**, beloved foreign language teacher who taught at HCHS for over three decades, passed away in October. After her graduation from Hunter College,

Mary began her long career in 1951, teaching French and Spanish, and eventually becoming the head of the department in the 1970s. In a testament to her work at HCHS, the guest book on her obituary page at legacy.com and on the HCHS Facebook page overflow with notes from former students, remembering her as “an inspiration to us all,” and “a memorable teacher and a great lady.” Her son Paco writes that “she believed whole-heartedly in the mission of Hunter up to her final days.” After retiring in 1984, she relocated to Long Island, then to Baltimore, all the while continuing to indulge in her love of world travel and exploration. She is survived by her brother, two sisters, two children (including HCHS graduate **Maria Teresa RODRIGUEZ Ruibal ’66**), six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Sister Anne Cecile Merrill, OP, formerly **Marie Merrill ’30**, passed away on November 8, 2012, at 101 years of age. Sister Anne was a Sister of St. Dominic of Blauvelt, NY, and throughout her career served as a preacher, teacher, librarian, college professor, and inspiration to countless students. She entered the Congregation immediately following high school on September 8, 1930, at St. Augustine’s Parish in the Bronx, and while there received her BA in English from Manhattan College, an MLS from St. John’s University, and a Professional Diploma in Curriculum and Teaching from Teacher’s College, NY. In 2000, Sister Anne retired after 35 years at Dominican College to volunteer and also serve the Congregation as Historian until 2006.

Pearl GOLDMAN Weissler ’34 passed away on November 9 at the age of 93. A proud graduate of HCHS and Hunter College, she earned her BA cum laude in Chemistry, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and won the Joseph A. Gillet Memorial Prize for

Proficiency in General Physics. She then went on to earn her MS in Physics from Columbia University. One of the few women physicists of her generation, she worked for her entire career in the Sound Section of the National Bureau of Standards, which is now known as the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and was the president of the Washington, DC chapter of the Acoustical Society of America. As a scientist, mother, and grandmother, she has been a model and an inspiration to her whole family. She is survived by her three children, four grandchildren, and three step-grandchildren. Contributions in Pearl’s memory may be made to the Acoustical Society of America, Hunter College High School, Hunter College, or Expanding Your Horizons: Motivating Young Women in Science and Mathematics.



Janet RIEDERS Kahan Pressman, Jan ’39,

passed away in July at the age of 89. After Hunter High, Janet attended Hunter College, where she was the first graduate to major in Psychology and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and later obtained her MA in Psychology from Columbia University. She and her first husband, Robert H. Kahan, had three children, whom she raised while establishing her career as a professor of psychology in Miami and then in Los Angeles. Aside from her professional career and taking care of her children, she was an accomplished painter, winning juried competitions and selling a number of pieces. In 1964, she was remarried to Paul Pressman, had two more children, and then established her second professional career as a family therapist, specializing in troubled teenagers. She moved to Portland, OR in 2010 to be near her oldest son. Janet is survived by her five children, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. In Janet’s remarkable and wondrous life, she touched many people, and made many long-lasting and intense friendships. Janet was very open about her beliefs and opinions, never hesitating to express them in no uncertain terms; throughout her life, in choosing her friends, she had no regard for gender, race, sexual orientation, or age. Following Janet’s explicit wishes, there was no memorial ceremony and her ashes were scattered at sea. As a staunch friend and sup-

porter of Reed College in Portland, where her husband Paul, sons James Kahan and Adam Pressman, and daughter-in-law Kathia Kahan went to school, her desire is that in lieu of flowers or other remembrances, people wishing to commemorate her life can contribute to the Pressman Scholarship Fund at Reed.



The Alumnae/i Association has been informed that **Etel PAPA Billig, Jan ’50**, died in March 2012 at the age of 79. Etel was pioneer in Chicago theater, working not only as an actress in the city,

but as a trailblazer of professional theater in the suburbs, where she co-founded the Illinois Theatre Center with her late husband. Over the course of the theater’s 36 years, Etel maintained strong ties not only with the actors she directed and worked with, but also with her patrons and subscribers. It was not uncommon for her to interrupt her famously intimate pre-show announcements to make sure that everyone in the house had the view they wanted of the stage, and to make inquiries if they failed to pick up their tickets for a performance. Outside of her work with ITC, she also taught acting in Chicago, and appeared on stages in the city, including at the Goodman Theatre. She is survived by her two sons, Jonathan and Curt. Her theater, where she suffered the brain aneurysm that ended her life, closed in April.

Helen Kinslow, Jan ’51, died peacefully at home on May 9, 2012 at the age of 78. She was buried in Gateway to Heaven Cemetery beside her parents, Thomas and Josephine Kinslow. Helen was a devoted daughter and a proud graduate of Hunter College High School, where she was elected Vice President of her senior class and voted “most indispensable.” Helen received a BS degree from Cornell University and an MA in Social Work from Case Western Reserve University. She worked in her field at the Community Service Society, Manhattan State Hospital, and Bedford Hills prison. Helen is survived by her brother William Kinslow (Pat), her nieces and nephews, her half-sisters Teresa D’Annza and Margaret Nagel, her step-children Lorna Culbert and Marlene Urban, her companion Ted Bekowski, and her many friends.

Helen faced many difficult challenges in her life courageously. She will be greatly missed for her sweetness, perseverance, and generosity. Helen remained “indispensable” until her end to all who knew her. Helen loved animals and was a dedicated vegetarian. Donations may be made in her name to the ASPCA at 242 East 92nd Street in New York.



Irene TAVISS Thomson '58 passed away in January. After Hunter, Irene attended Brooklyn College before receiving her PhD in sociology from

Harvard in 1967. She taught at Farleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey from 1975 to 2007, where she received the Becton College Teacher of the Year Award, the Student Government's Outstanding Faculty Member Award, and the university award for Distinguished Research. Her scholarly work was published in multiple journals, including *American Sociological Review*, *Sociological Forum*, and *Social Forces*. She also wrote the acclaimed books *Culture Wars and Enduring American Dilemmas*, *In Conflict No Longer: Self and Society in Contemporary America*, and *Our Tool Making Society*, and co-edited *Human Aspects of Biomedical Innovation* and edited *The Computer Impact*. She was known as an inspirational teacher, and a supportive and loving wife and mother. On learning of her passing, one colleague said, “she came from a world where ideas really mattered and she brought that perspective and commitment to her teaching at FDU. Her death is a real loss.” Irene is survived by her husband Michael, and her children Ken and Janet.

Carolyn Forsman '61 passed away on January 19. Born and raised in the Bronx, Carolyn graduated from New York University after HCHS, and went on to earn a master's degree in library science from the University of California at Berkeley. She began her career as a librarian and educator before founding her jewelry business in 1979. She was named to the Honor Roll of Freedom by the Freedom to Read Foundation in 2001, and she received the Museum Store Association Service Award

in 2009. She is survived by her sister, Barbara, nieces Megan and Rebecca, and nephew Jason. A memorial service will be scheduled for this spring. Memorial contributions can be made to the Cancer Research Institute (www.cancer-research.org) or Freedom to Read Foundation (www.ftrf.org).

Miriam RODGERS Ellman '65 passed away on September 21, 2012. At Hunter, Miriam was an avid folk dancer, helping to found a Folk Dance Club, and was an active member of the Folklore and Social Service clubs. She graduated from City College, later earning a BSN. She worked as a nurse or a case manager most of her career, visiting homebound, mostly elderly patients both professionally and in her spare time as a volunteer. She raised two children in New York City with her husband, Eliyahu, and had six grandchildren. She and her husband were very active in their synagogue and received a prestigious award for their many contributions. Miriam had an adventurous spirit, traveled the world, and experimented with various lifestyles before settling down. She was loved and admired by many, and will be deeply missed.

Rosalyn “Ronny” RAVITCH Schwartz (class year unknown) passed away peacefully on October 30. After graduating from HCHS and Bryn Mawr College, she married Bernard Lee Schwartz and settled in Scarsdale. There, she raised a daughter and two sons, and, starting in 1964, ran public relations, advertising, and foreign sales for Patchogue Plymouth Company. After moving to La Jolla, CA in 1969, she directed public relations for Sherman Clay piano chain before leaving PR to assist her husband in his career as a portrait photographer. As a result, she ended up overseeing his exhibition at Colnaghi Gallery in London, and the publication of his book *Contemporaries*, which included portraits of Prince Charles, Margaret Thatcher, and Pope Paul VI. She went on to organize exhibitions at JFK Center for Performing Arts and the British Embassy, among many others. In 1983, she was appointed a trustee of Bryn Mawr, and served on the board of ICP in New York. She served twenty-five years as the president of the Schwartz family foundation before retiring to Belvedere, CA. She is survived by her brother, three children, five grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Her memorial service will be held in New York on May 11, 2013.

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

Lillian KENT Laikind '29
Ethel LARSCHAN Noble '30
Harriet LINDENBAUM Kessler '33
Shirley BRODY Dule '37
Olga PIDHIRNIAK Melbourne '37
Judith KOFF Okun, Jan. '39
Berenice Weiler '39
Shirley WEISS Taylor '40
Edith LOEB Flinkman, Jan. '42
Elaine SOBEL Mitchell '42
Lillian SCHAFFEL Ader '43
Eleanor FRITZ Santic, Jan. '44
Susie PUDEBEUTEL Schulman, Jan. '44
Joan ELLWOOD Thomas '45
Edith Belsjoe, Jan. '47
Marlene Feingold, Jan. '49
Leila WEINSTEIN Fallet '49
Martha KLEMPNER Einson, Jan. '53
Jayne KEIBEL Falk, Jan. '53
Mary Helena Binnom '53
Illy FENSTER Brown '53
Eva WATERS Sevita '53
Vera DUBAS Liskiewicz '54
Leona AVERY Tabell '60
Michele HEALY Ubelaker '63
Amy OBER Flanders '74
Carmella BRISBON Manley '77
Patricia F. Orna '84
Leona RUBTCHINSKY Cutler (class year unknown)
Marjorie TELLER Singer (class year unknown)



The Alumnae/i Association would like to take this opportunity to apologize for the following mistakes made in the “In Memoriam” section of the last issue of AlumNotes:

Amy C. Lewis did not attend HCHS and is not to be confused with Amy G. LEWIS Drais '96, who is in fact alive.

We listed Kimberley Brisbon '77/'78 ICY as deceased, but there has since been some confusion about whether or not this is true. If you have any information regarding Ms. Brisbon, please contact info@hchsaa.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We received a number of responses to our Fall 2012 feature article on alums in the military (“Hunterites in the Service”). Many people were surprised by how many members of the community have served, while others expressed their appreciation for **Alejandro Alves '01**’s dedication to lauding these unsung heroes. There were three letters in particular that stuck out, however, and we have reprinted them below.

To: Captain Alejandro Alves

Sir:

According to the article in AlumNotes, your “earliest” HCHS veteran so far was of the Class of '46. I am pleased to send you two names from the all-girls HCHS class of January 1937 who served in World War II! We two have remained friends from freshman year and when we spoke recently, we agreed I should submit our names to your list. We are, in the order of enlistment:

*Catherine BRAND Ginsberg, Jan. '37
Sgt WAC 1942-1945*

and yours truly

*Angelina CAIOLA Gange, Jan. '37
PbM 2/c WAVES 1943-1945*

We are proud to have served!

*Sincerely,
Angelina C. Gange
HCHS January 1937*

To The Alumnae/i Office

I noticed in a recent bulletin that one person mentioned being a World War II veteran. I was a lieutenant in the Navy WAVES and a recipient of a presidential citation for “Service Over and Above the Call of Duty.”

The article mentioned that you didn’t know if there were any others. I’m still alive!

Beatrice GUARNIER Ferrante '34



Beverly Rosenstein with others being inducted as members into the American Legion Post 162

And First Lieutenant **Beverly B. GUTTERMAN Rosenstein Jan. '43**, WAC WWII writes: “When I came to New York on a “Leave” during my army service, I visited Dean Hannah Eagan, whom I knew while I was a student at Hunter College, because I had been a Class Officer. She asked me to sit for my portrait in uniform, to be painted by Art Professor Joseph Cummings Chase, as an alumna in the Armed Forces. I believe it hangs in Roosevelt House.”

“A CATALYST FOR SOCIAL CHANGE”
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

communities at a younger age. One event was held last spring, two this past fall, and there are more scheduled for spring 2013. Over thirty alums from a range of classes and backgrounds have participated and spoken about their experiences at Hunter and beyond.

The creation of ACT and Mosaic are indicative of a whole-school movement towards honest analysis and determined change. Not

everyone agrees on what the next steps should be, or how to address the challenges of fostering a diverse environment, but the conversations are taking place in a proactive and frequently supportive manner. After all as Asari Beale points out, “the more we talk to each other, the stronger we are as a community.”

1. The population of all five boroughs is approximately 23% black and 29% Hispanic. In 2012, the public school population of New York City was approximately 27% black and 40% Hispanic, according

to the Department of Education. At Bronx Science, the student body is 3% black, 7% Hispanic, and 33% on a free or reduced lunch plan. At Stuyvesant, those numbers are 1%, 2%, and 32%.

And though Hunter is not part of the DOE’s Specialized High Schools, it too reported similar numbers to New York State in 2011: 3% black, 2% Hispanic, and 11% with free or reduced lunch. The HCHS statistics, as **Christopher Hayes '97** has pointed out in his recent book *Twilight of the Elites*, represent a demographic shift; in 1995, Hunter was 12% black and 6% Hispanic.



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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 send news items for Class Notes or make address corrections please use the reverse side of this form, or email info@hchsaa.org.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

- ☐ BASIC \$35
☐ JUNIOR (Classes of '08 - '11) \$20
☐ SENIOR \$20
☐ NEW GRADS (Class of 2012) Free
☐ PREMIUM \$85

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

Subtotal \$

REUNION REGISTRATION Sunday June 2, 2013 at HCHS

Classes of 1964-2007

Dues-paid rate* \$25 pp x _____ adult(s) = \$

Non-dues-paid rate \$35 pp x _____ adult(s) = \$

Classes of 1963 and earlier \$25 pp x _____ adult(s) = \$

Classes of 2008 and later \$25 pp x _____ adult(s) = \$

*You may pay now to receive this discount

Subtotal \$

ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Please accept my tax-deductible contribution towards the AA's 2012-2013 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)

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Upcoming Events for 2013

March 7 - Hunter Grapevine

Wine pairing and conversation with Julia Moskin '85

April 21 - Day Trip to Storm King Art Center

Private tour of the sculpture gardens

May 2 - Spring Gala

Honoring Cynthia Nixon '84

October 5 - TEDxHunterCCS

Featuring members of the Hunter community

October 10 - Autumn Reception

Celebrating the poetry of Heather Dubrow '62, Rowan Ricardo Phillips '92, Erica Ehrenberg '96, and HCHS teacher Kip Zegers

Visit the website for more information on these events and all things Hunter: www.hchsaa.org