

EDUCATION UPDATE

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UPDATE

ANN & ANDREW TISCH

20 YEARS OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK

GUEST EDITORIAL

A Strong Hand on Educational Inequity: Clinton Advisor, Christopher Edley, Jr., Outlines Campaign's Views at Teachers College

By ROBERT FLORIDA

Hillary Clinton thinks that American schools are succeeding overall, but would bring a "sense of urgency" to addressing the educational inequality that is leaving many children and young adults behind. She believes the federal government should take a strong hand in addressing their plight, which is compounded by a concentration of poverty and segregation.

That is how Christopher Edley, Jr., a senior policy adviser to Clinton, described the Democratic nominee's educational views during an evening conversation with Teachers College President Susan Fuhrman on October 13th in TC's Cowin Conference Center. The discussion – this year's Phyllis L. Kossoff Lecture on Education & Policy – was titled "Taking the Election to School."

Edley and Fuhrman spoke for about an hour. The event was originally intended to pair Edley with an education adviser to Republican nominee Donald Trump, building on the debates Fuhrman moderated at TC in 2008 and 2012 between the education advisers of the two major-party presidential nominees, but the Trump campaign declined TC's invitation.

"Education plays critical roles in addressing so many challenges we confront, from social and economic injustice, to international conflict and global warming," Fuhrman said. "Education should be a central topic of discussion in every major political campaign."

Edley is the Honorable William H. Orrick, Jr. Distinguished Professor at the University of California-Berkeley School of Law, where he previously served as Dean, and Faculty Director of the university's Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy. He also co-founded and serves as President of The Opportunity Institute.

At the start of the evening, he said he was saddened that education was not on the "front burner of this presidential campaign," an absence he characterized as a "missed opportunity" for Clinton, whom he called "the best educational candidate ever." Still, he said it was an "unparalleled honor" to discuss Clinton's educational policies at Teachers College. "TC was not only the first teachers college in the nation, but it is still the best in the nation and on the planet."

Over the next hour and a half, prompted by Fuhrman, Edley described Clinton's views on a range of issues, including:

"As president, she'd like to broker a new consensus about a more comprehensive immigrant-education strategy that includes provisions for health care, housing and other social needs."

Edley said that the candidate, as a policy expert who relies upon evidence-based solu-



(L-R) Pres. Susan Fuhrman & Christopher Edley, Jr.

tions, is well aware of the abundant scientific evidence showing that brain development in the earliest years of childhood is crucial. She intends to double the number of children served by Early Head Start programs, he said, and plans to increase federal support for home visiting programs, through which nurses and social workers assist young mothers.

Clinton wants a strong role for the federal government, Edley said, but realizes that Washington must be "innovative and flexible" in working with the states. She would use the "bully pulpit of the presidency to encourage the best ideas from the ground up from the states while insisting upon accountability."

Clinton supports the Common Core, Edley said, and wants the same set of common standards for all public schools. But she also will ensure that all public schools have the resources and support to implement a Common Core equitably. Similarly, Clinton supports standardized tests, but only if they are fairly implemented and complemented by assessments that include non-academic metrics such as school climate. She also has hopes that a newly constituted Supreme Court could further level the playing field in the nation's schools by ruling on issues such as inequitable finances and racial segregation.

Clinton supports charter schools that work, Edley says, but thinks failing charter schools should be closed. She feels that successful innovations in charter schools "should be transported to [traditional] public schools," as the charter school movement originally advocated.

Edley said Clinton will work diligently to make public colleges more open and affordable and to ease the debt burden on many college students. She would allow college students to refinance their debts just as homeowners can refinance their mortgages. She would also cap college loan repayments to 10 percent of a student's income.

Funded by TC alumna Phyllis L. Kossoff, the annual Phyllis L. Kossoff Lecture on Education & Policy has helped establish the College as the nation's premier address for the national conversation on education. Past Kossoff Lectures have included the first policy address by cur-



(L-R) Phyllis L. Kossoff & Christopher Edley, Jr.

rent New York State Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia, earlier this year; a debate between the education advisers of the two Presidential nominees in fall 2012; a major policy address by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in 2009; a 2009 roundtable discussion that featured then New York State Regents Chancellor Merryl Tisch (Ed.D.'05) and Education Commissioner David Steiner; and policy addresses by two New York City public school chancellors, Dennis Walcott and former TC Cahn Fellow Carmen Fariña.

Kossoff also maintains a pioneering lecture at Hunter's Roosevelt House Public Policy Institute. #

This story originally appeared on the home page of Teachers College, Columbia University. Photographs courtesy of Bruce Gilbert.

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AN INTERVIEW WITH ANN & ANDREW TISCH OF THE YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP NETWORK

By DR. POLA ROSEN
& LYDIA LIEBMAN

In two decades, scores of young women have walked through the doors of the Young Women's Leadership Network (YWLN) and into the seats of some of the nation's top colleges and universities. What started as the first all-girls public school in three decades in East Harlem has since grown to a network of 18 schools that serve over 8000 girls nationwide.

EDUCATION UPDATE sat down with YWLN founders Ann and Andrew Tisch to discuss the origins of YWLN.

Education Update (EU): What inspired you to start YWLN?

Ann Tisch: I got the idea when I was a journalist at NBC. I was working on a story in Milwaukee, WI about a big high school in a terrible school district. They created a day care center in the school so teenaged mothers could get their diploma. We were interviewing these young moms and one of them started to cry when we asked her what she saw up ahead in her future five years out. A light bulb went off at that point and I thought: "I don't think we're doing enough for these girls." The idea I had was to get them on a completely different path. I never forgot those kids. Several years later when I left NBC, Andy invited me to join him as "Principal for a Day."

Andrew Tisch: I was invited to be Principal for a Day at one of our subsidiaries at which I was CEO. I invited Ann to join me at PS 223 and we were inspired. They had a fabulous principal. They were graduating from 6th grade with a good education but then they would go to junior high school and senior high school and everything would fall apart.

Ann: It's like a big black hole.

Andrew: This was our first exposure to the public education system in New York City. It was about 1991.

Ann: I had done a lot of education stories for the network and I felt I had a pretty good sense of what was going on around the nation. In addition, the American Association of University Women had just come out with a report entitled *How Schools Shortchange Girls*. The data showed were really not conditioned to develop girls... so the idea of an all girls environment started coming together. This was percolating in the early 90's during the forefront of the school reform movement. Dave Levin (of Knowledge is Power Program) had just come to town, charter schools were starting... all of these things were happening in school reform. I met Sy Fliegel and he really knew his way around. He had done the experiment in District Four in East Harlem and written the book. He took us by the hand and showed us what could happen.

EU: What were some of the obstacles you



Ann & Andrew Tisch with Young Women's Leadership Network students

faced in the beginning?

Ann: There were many. First, I explored many partnerships; none of which came to fruition. The process was lengthy due to a revolving door of chancellors and board members. There was also the discussion of whether or not we should become a program because in that case you wouldn't need approval of the board. But in that case we would stay a program and we wanted to become a full-blown school. We wanted to do it right. There were a lot of moving parts.

EU: What was the reaction when the school first opened?

Andrew: When YWLN first opened we had fifty-six 7th grade girls in our school in East Harlem. On the day after the school opened, on the cover of the *New York Times* was a picture of a girl standing in front of the school. She must have been four and a half feet tall surrounded by nine microphones asking her about going to an all girls school.

Ann: There was much controversy. The day the school opened there was a complaint filed by the New York Civil Rights Coalition, the New York Chapter of NOW and the ACLU on the basis of discrimination against boys. I'm happy to say that just last summer, we received word from the Justice Department that the complaint had been dismissed. Nearly 20 years later!

EU: Why did you choose an all girls

school? What are some of the advantages to a single sex education?

Ann: First, I am a product of public education. I believe in it. But I think in order to save public education we must offer parents and students choices. It's not for everyone but it should be an available option. To your second question, college professors will say that in their larger lecture courses they can tell which girls went to an all-girls school due to their lack of shyness and their participation. I think the distractions in high school and middle school are significant. How many times do we see the young women who start out as fierce little people "dumb down" because they want boys to like them? In our schools the girls don't have to worry about fashion or makeup or boys... they just come and do their personal best. We thought "why don't we offer these girls the same path the girls have at Spence or other affluent schools?" And that path includes elementary, middle and high school and they know they're going to college. There's no say about it. At our schools, our young women know it isn't IF they will go to college- it's where.

Andrew: When you raise the expectation for children they will rise to meet it.

EU: YWLN has raised more than 300 Million in scholarship money. How do you get the colleges to contribute?

Ann: After our second year, we went up

about 200 students. It was like having triplets. At that time I was starting to think about college. I had an elaborate, complicated scheme to raise money. But one day I was having breakfast with a friend of mine who used to be the head of the Spence School. She had taken an early interest in our school and I told her my idea. She shook her head and told me all I needed was a great guidance counselor and the rest would fall into place. She was right!

EU: How important is the guidance counselor?

Ann: Essential. College guidance is the real turning point. I hired a college guidance counselor who was at St. Agnes, a Catholic boys school in the Bronx. He had a record of sending all his boys to college. He came to work with us with a caseload of 55 and it was great. He knew his way around financial aid. I knew he was going to have a profound effect on juniors and seniors, but I had no way of knowing the impact he'd have on the whole school; the trickle down effect. When kids see their neighbor across the hall getting into college it creates a culture of success. So this eventually became the College Bound Initiative (CBI), which is now in 36 NYC public schools and serves more than 18 thousand students.

Andrew: There is no licensing in college guidance. Generally speaking anyone could call themselves a guidance counselor. With CBI, all the counselors are CBI employees instead of the districts'. They can't be pulled off to sub for gym. This person does everything a college guidance counselor is to do: SAT prep, essays, college visits, financial aid night, the whole thing. They go through a rigorous training program with us.

Ann: But they already come to us highly qualified. Many of them have worked in college admissions and decided to come to the other side and work with us. They are much more highly trained than the average DOE counselor. The average caseload is 44! Ours don't take any more than 85-90 students. CBI students go to college at more than twice the rate of their peers and they graduate college at a much higher rate. Colleges know that investing in a cohort of CBI graduates will be a good investment.

EU: What words of encouragement would you give to someone who cannot attend YWLN?

Ann: Whatever is happening on the outside is not your fault and there's nothing you can do about it. So when you walk into that school building be selfish, be focused and make it all about you. Get educated any way you can. Grab that education and stay focused. Do not leave school or change schools because of a boy. Keep your eye on the prize and the prize is you.

Andrew: And speak up!#

Dr. Margaret Cuomo's Vision for a World Without Cancer Comes to PBS

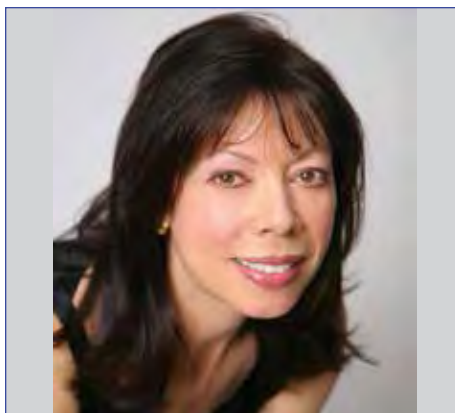
By LYDIA LIEBMAN

Physician, radiologist, author, and philanthropist Margaret I. Cuomo has a vision for a world free of cancer. In 2013, Cuomo's book "A World Without Cancer: the Making of a New Cure and the Real Promise of Prevention" is a call to action to focus on the prevention of cancer and other diseases.

PBS invited Dr. Cuomo to turn her book into a 60-minute special. She accepted, and went on to become the programs' writer and host.

The 60 minute special, which will air for the first time this November, presents highly acclaimed medical and scientific experts who describe the ways in which we can reduce the

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Dr. Margaret Cuomo

Jury Duty That Does Not Serve Us

By REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT,
ASSEMBLY MEMBER

In the last EDUCATION UPDATE, I wrote about the importance of educational opportunities for all of our constituents, of all ages. I especially wanted to bring light to the audit courses that our seniors can take without paying the tuition charged to credit seeking students at a number of colleges and universities within our reach. As a Member of the New York State Assembly representing the Upper East Side, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island, and a voice for 23,000 seniors that live in my district, I introduced a bill in the Assembly that would allow persons to opt-out of state jury service based solely on age without the burden of traveling to the court house to make the application similar to the federal court system. Why is this so impor-

continued on page 19



Rebecca A. Seawright



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HER STORY

Almansouri, in a graduation speech that moved Michelle Obama to invite her to a White House summit on women, told how she broke barriers that kept traditional Yemeni girls out of school.

AWARDS

Winner, Mellon Mays Fellowship
Winner, Colin Powell Fellowship

GOAL

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PHOTO BY ANDRÉ N. BECKLES/CUNY

CUNY★AMERICANDREAMMACHINE

THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK-1847 HUNTER COLLEGE-1870 BROOKLYN COLLEGE-1930 QUEENS COLLEGE-1937 NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY-1946 COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND-1956 BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE-1957 QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE-1959 CUNY GRADUATE CENTER-1961 BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE-1963 KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE-1963 JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE-1964 YORK COLLEGE-1966 BARUCH COLLEGE-1968 LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE-1968 LEHMAN COLLEGE-1968 HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE-1970 MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE-1970 CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW-1983 MACAULAY HONORS COLLEGE AT CUNY-2001 CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM-2006 CUNY SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES-2006 GUTTMAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE-2011 CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY-2016 CUNY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE-2016



Hunter College President Jennifer Raab Honored by Committee for Hispanic Children & Families

By LUCAS MAUTNER

Hunter College President Jennifer Raab was honored at the Eighth Annual Luncheon “Abriendo Puertas para Mujeres/Opening Doors for Women” which was held at the Copacabana in New York City. Every year, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families (CHCF) celebrates women in the business and nonprofit community whose passion has brought about significant change in the industry, and who have served as inspirational role models to the next generation. Funds raised during the Luncheon are earmarked to support CHCF’s Early Care and Education Institute, which offers family child care providers with professional development, connects parents with quality child care services, and invests in advocacy for providing quality education to young learners.

“I am deeply moved to be honored by an organization that has done so much good for so many people,” President Raab said, as she took the stage to thunderous applause. “We at Hunter College share the Committee’s dedication to educating children, your commitment to starting education at an early age, and your insistence that English language learners never be left at a disadvantage. At Hunter, where one in five students is an immigrant, we know that this country takes its greatness from the diversity of its people. We at Hunter believe in



(R-L) Hunter College President Jennifer Raab & Grace Bonilla, CEO

the American dream and we are committed to making it come true.”#

Jennifer Raab is the 13th president of Hunter College. A graduate of Hunter College High School, Raab is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Cornell University. She holds a Master’s in Public Affairs from Princeton University and a law degree cum laude from Harvard Law School.

A FAREWELL FROM THE BOARD OF BEACON COLLEGE

By LUCAS MAUTNER

Recently, Eileen Marinakis stepped down from her position as Chair of the Board of Trustees of Beacon College, which she held for five years. Marinakis was appointed to the Board in 2007. She first served as the Board’s Secretary for three years until assuming the position of Chair. “I look back at who I was in 2011, when they said, ‘You take the chairmanship!’ I said, ‘Me?’ I don’t think I’ve got it. I don’t have the experience.”

During her tenure as Chair, Beacon College has been recognized for its 83.3% graduation rate, as well as the soaring enrollment numbers. Located in Leesburg, Florida, Beacon College is the nation’s foremost institution dedicated to the undergraduate education of students with learning disabilities.

“I didn’t realize how much of the job was interpersonal,” Marinakis said. “Getting the support of colleagues, getting the support of staff. This job was not as hard as you think. Laborious—yes. But it was a labor of love. Look at the kids we’re serving. Do you need any better motivation than those kids or their families?”



Beacon College President George Haggerty & Eileen Marinakis

These issues don’t just affect the kid. It affects the entire family: the siblings, the grandparents, the aunts, the uncles. Everybody is watching, waiting, trying to make a difference. So I thank you all. It has been a joy and a pleasure.” #

DEBORAH SHANLEY NAMED LEHMAN COLLEGE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION’S INTERIM DEAN

Dean Deborah Shanley arrives at Lehman College as the School of Education’s new Interim Dean with an impressive track record as a CUNY educator, including a 16-year stint as Dean of the School of Education at Brooklyn College.

Shanley is succeeding Dr. Harriet Fayne, who was recently selected as Interim Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs. Shanley’s 42-year career as an educator includes her early years as a 7th to 12th grade teacher in Miami and Brooklyn, her time as a CUNY faculty member, and then as Dean at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn. She was appointed Dean at Brooklyn College in 1998.

Her wide ranging professional accomplishments include leading a faculty team at Brooklyn College through two successful accreditation visits and restructuring the School of Education into four departments. “I bring both experienced leadership skills in a shared governance model and the skill of empowering faculty, staff, and students,” she says. “I bring a love and commitment from lived experiences to our profession and to the children, youth, and families of this great city and beyond.”

At Medgar Evers, Shanley was the founding dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Education and was able to implement a new school structure proposed by the college’s president and supported by the faculty. During that time and before online courses were available, Shanley brought two undergraduate special education classes to CUNY students through public television and radio. The classes were wildly popular with both students and the general public and were even translated into Chinese.

Beyond her work as a CUNY educator and administrator in New York City, Shanley took a series of international summer assignments in Japan, Cuba and Thailand, and was part of the CUNY Sino-American Exchange Project. As a needs assessment leader for a CUNY Project in Vietnam, she worked with Reaching Up Inc., a non-profit led by John F. Kennedy Jr. and Dr. William Ebenstein from CUNY. In addition, Dean Shanley was part of the Medgar Evers team in Sierra Leone, where she co-led a team that worked with universities on a rebuilding effort in the West African nation, after the unrest of a long-running civil war, and the nation’s first democratically elected president in 1996 under the leadership of Ambassador John Hirsch.

Shanley’s interests and accomplishments led to her work as an appointed Commissioner on the Second Century Commission for the



Deborah Shanley

National Parks, to her appointment as co-chair of the Floyd Bennett Field Blue Ribbon Panel commissioned by Senator Charles Schumer. A detailed report by the panel was released in 2011 that made recommendations about the park’s future and many of those recommendations have been implemented. She remains an active member of the National NPS Education Advisory Committee, the Northeast Region National Parks Conservation Association and served on the Planning Committee for their first Learning Summit in D.C. in April 2015.

For more than 15 years she has served as chair of the Colleges of Education group, for the Council of the Great City Schools and on the council’s executive board. Shanley also serves as Past Chair of the executive board and Governing Council of the National Network for Educational Renewal. She is currently an executive board member on the Middle School National Consortium, a member of Regent Lester Young’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Improving the Academic Outcomes of Young Men of Color and chairs the Achievement First Board in Brooklyn, one of the city’s top performing charter schools.

“We are excited and thrilled to have Deborah Shanley as our new Interim Dean for the School of Education,” says Harriet Fayne. “The breadth and depth of her experience as a CUNY educator will provide Lehman with the kind of leadership necessary to continue our mission of training and facilitating the development of competent, caring and qualified teachers.”#



BUSINESS AND CAREER TRAINING IN NYC MIDDLE SCHOOLS: NYC Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña & Exec Director Iris Blanc Speak



Iris Blanc

By ADAM SUGERMAN, PUBLISHER,
EDUCATION UPDATE

Have you ever heard of a seventh grade student starting a business? It all started in the early 1990s when NYC superintendents looked to best practices at European high schools to see how school systems prepare students for the business world. Iris Blanc, the current executive director of the program, personally observed a Practice Firms program in Austria. That program was replicated in NYC and in 1996, seven NYC high schools developed their own simulated businesses under the tutelage of a faculty member and business partner.

Fast forward to this decade where over 500 high schools around the U.S. are involved in the program. In 2016 two NYC middle schools started the Virtual Enterprise Junior Ventures Career Academy (JV) program. Although the objectives are scaled to seventh and eighth grade levels, the major strength of the JV program, according to NYC Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña, is that participants are more motivated not only in their businesses but in their overall academic work.

In the two-year middle school program, students participate in a business pitch competition, attend a college to participate in team building and public-speaking activities, take field trips to corporate offices and a business incubator, and take part in running a simulated business with a real CEO, department managers in marketing, sales, human resources, accounting, finance, and IT.

Responses from teachers were very positive. “These kids are going to be bigger thinkers. They’re more ready for high school. They’re talking about resumes, and they’re talking about marketing strategies. They’re learning a whole set of skills that are not taught in



Chancellor Carmen Fariña

your basic curriculum,” contributed Naomi Leher, VE-JV Teacher, William McKinley JHS, Brooklyn, NY.

“It was amazing to see how the students really just took ownership, how they’re engaged, and to see the teamwork.” I like the VE classroom structure because it provides an opportunity for much more independent learning and for students to explore on their own,” said Frank Bennici, VE-JV Teacher, MS 137, Queens, NY.

What are the individual skills students learn in the program? They use Microsoft office products such as Excel to write and revise copy and create spreadsheets as well as Adobe software applications such as Photoshop and InDesign to create promotional materials and e-commerce websites, newsletters, branding (e.g., logos), video commercials and annual reports. Other important abilities students acquire include communication to present their companies as well as experience working with diverse team members.

What background do teachers need to become mentors to students? According to Fariña, teachers can come from any discipline but need the desire to be creative and business mentors. Professionals in the business world can come from outside the school to be mentors as well.

How has the program affected learning for middle school participants? Students become more professional, and self-confident in their overall work. Fariña stated, “their projects generate excitement and provide an opportunity for real-world learning.”

New York Life Foundation funded the initiative. The culminating experience for students in this program will be their participation in the 2017 Global Youth Business Summit from April 3-5 at Pier 92 in NYC.#

For more information: veinternational.org/jv

Joyce Cowin Funds Hunter College’s Russian Programs



(L-R): Kenneth Cowin, Joyce Cowin
& Jack Hyland

By LUCAS MAUTNER

In Russian there is an expression, “podarok blagodarnosti,” that translates to a “gift of thanks.” No one exemplifies this saying like Joyce Cowin, whose philanthropic donations dot the streets of New York like stars in the night sky, and who has provided funding in honor of her late mother to augment Hunter’s Russian Language and Literature Program with dedicated space and additional resources. Hunter offers the largest undergraduate program in the Russian language and literature in the entire CUNY system. Ms. Cowin and President Jennifer Raab inaugurated two new student resource areas to assist students and faculty in their studies and research.

Ms. Cowin’s mother, Sylvia Berger, was a lawyer and trailblazer for women in the field of law.



(L-R) Pres. Jennifer Raab & Joyce Cowin

She provided pro bono services for two decades. Her love of learning continued throughout her life. After retiring, Ms. Berger studied Russian at Hunter College for two decades. She read all the great classics in the original language. Ms. Berger, even in her 90s, even after a lifetime of service, showed great dedication to the pursuit of knowledge. She was mentored by Professor Alex Alexander, who lead Hunter’s Russian and Slavic Languages program during the twenty years Ms. Berger attended classes.

“Hunter College’s classes were a paradise for her,” Ms. Cowin said of her mother. “Because of Dr. Alexander and all his cohorts, my mother thrived during the last two decades of her life. Hunter was a lifesaver just as valuable as penicillin. I am grateful for the excellent Russian programs that exist here.” #

Guttman Community College Puts “Work” at the Center of Learning

By NANCY HOFFMAN

Higher education is supposed to lead to upward mobility. But mobility data suggests that even with a degree those who are born poor, of color, who choose the wrong major, or all three, struggle in the labor market. Guttman Community College, the first new college at CUNY in 40 years, puts career development and learning about work at the center of the curriculum. Students take three courses the first year: Statistics, City Seminar, and Ethnographies of Work (EOW). EOW, a liberal arts course, addresses the world of work in intellectually challenging and respectful ways, making learning about work and the labor market both an academic and experiential endeavor. #

Kudos to Guttman President Dr. Scott Evenbeck for the innovative new programs at Guttman.



President Scott Evenbeck



DR. BRIDGLALL APPOINTED DEAN OF HUMANITIES AT BERGEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Dr. Beatrice L. Bridglall is a rarity in academia. She not only has her doctorate in education and health psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University, but also a Masters in Fine Arts (MFA) in creative writing and French Literature from Fairleigh Dickinson University; and a Masters in Public Affairs (Health Policy and Management) from the Wagner Graduate School at New York University. This unique combination of credentials has led to her recent appointment as Dean of Humanities at Bergen Community College (BCC) in New Jersey. At BCC, she is not only responsible for providing students opportunities that enable their capacity to read, write and think analytically, but also working with faculty and staff to conceptualize transitional/bridge programs that will serve diverse and nontraditional students; integrate humanities content or texts in developmental and required courses that emphasize close reading and analytical writing; and integrate humanistic content into other disciplines within the college, including the sciences, technology, mathematics and medicine. Additionally, Dr. Bridglall is a Fulbright Specialist in higher education; most recently as a Fulbright grantee in Greece in 2015. Her research draws on multiple disciplines (including educational, social, and developmental psychology, neuroscience, anthropology, and sociology) to understand the phenomenon of student academic development / socialization, curriculum, assessment and instruction, educational / organizational systems and conditions that impact successful learning (including parental involvement), learning and cognition, faculty expertise, and student motivation and cognition. As a scholar, Dr. Bridglall has published 5 books and over 75 research, journal and literary articles in the past decade. Her most recent book *On Exploring Craft: Writers as Architects* (2015; Rowman and Littlefield Publishers), takes an interdisciplinary approach to examining the art and technique of writing vis-à-vis the parallel concepts found in the architecture of antiquity and the crafting of literature that endures. For example, she considers the role of architectural elements, such as the elusive idea of balance in architecture and literature in Gustave Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* and *The First Sentimental Education*; she investigates architectural and narrative space in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*, and several of his short stories: "Soldier's Home" and "A Clean Well-Lighted Place", which set the stage for comprehending important architectural considerations, such as tension, compression and pacing which she analyzes in Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* and *Pnin*. Other challenging architectural elements include pattern and rhythm, which she explores in several of Alice Munro's (2013 Nobel Prize in Literature) short stories: "Dulse" and "Labor Day Dinner". She also meditates on unity



Dr. Beatrice Bridglall

and harmony in Kazuo Ishiguro's novel, *The Remains of the Day*, and continued the discussion on order and propriety in the context of William Gass' novella, *In the Heart of the Heart of the Country*. A little known fact, Dr. Bridglall has published French to English translations of two of Guy de Maupassant's short stories (*Ma Femme*, Spring/Summer, 2016, and *Le Bûcher*, Winter/Spring 2016). Her translation of *Le Bûcher* was a Finalist for The Gabo Prize for Literature in Translation & Multi-Lingual Texts in honor of Gabriel García Márquez, who received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1982.#

Dr. Susan Gitelson, (BA '63, MIA '66, PhD '70) SIPA Leader & Donor Endows the Gitelson Award

"I hope many other SIPA alumni, faculty and friends can experience the joy I have felt over the 38 years I have been giving the award as each student has demonstrated concern for other people and "human values" in different fields, countries, and themes. Through endowing the award I am looking forward to a continuing stream of worthwhile, inspiring winners for another 70, 100 or 140 years and beyond!"

- Dr. Susan Gitelson 'MIA 66

Founded in 1978 by Dr. Susan Gitelson 'MIA 66, the Dr. Susan Aurelia Gitelson Award for Human Values in International Affairs has recognized outstanding work by SIPA students at graduation. A distinguished career in academia, international consulting and as an entrepreneur reinforced Dr. Gitelson's passion for innovative solutions to policy challenges and sparked



Dr. Susan Gitelson

her decision to endow the Gitelson Award in perpetuity. Through both charitable gift annuities and a bequest intention, the endowed Gitelson award will have an expanded scope, recognizing and providing support for innovative work by SIPA faculty and students.

A triple Columbia alumna (Barnard, BA'63, MIA'66, PhD '70), Dr. Gitelson was recognized for her professional achievements and service to Columbia with the Alumni Medal in 1984. She credits her SIPA experience with providing her with the tools and background to connect with people from all over the world for thoughtful exchanges that promote international entrepreneurial business, and contributing to cultural and philanthropic endeavors.#

NYU STEINHARDT LEADERSHIP FORUM NAVIGATED BY DEAN DOMINIC BREWER

By NICOLE E. VARTANIAN, Ed.D.

As an outgrowth of its mission to connect the vital work of educational practitioners, policymakers, and researchers, New York University's Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development recently launched the Education Solutions Initiative "to make meaningful progress on resolving the critical issues facing students and educators." Its marquee Leadership Forum recently focused on six key areas of scholarship, providing insights from the scholars who prepared white papers on each topic as well as a panel of policymakers who sought to connect and analyze the policy-practice-research dots.

In his welcoming remarks, Dominic Brewer, the NYU Steinhardt Gale and Ira Drukier Dean of NYU Steinhardt, noted that one of his goals in becoming dean has been to "to build a different kind of school of education." To do so, he said, "we as an institution aspire to help improve equity and effectiveness in school systems through our research and programs," and the Leadership Forum is but one means by which Steinhardt can facilitate a "robust, meaningful two-way conversation between academia and policymakers and practitioners."

Expressing her pride as a Steinhardt alumna, New York City Schools Chancellor Carmen Farina delivered the keynote address. She urged participants to continue conducting rigor-



Dean Dominic Brewer

ous research that can inform reforms pursued by the Department of Education to improve graduation rates and college readiness, among many other priorities.

Vice Dean for Research and Faculty Affairs Pamela Morris reiterated this need, noting that "the work that we are conducting as academic scholars is often many, many steps away from the decisions and the questions that policymakers are asking." To help bridge the divide, the Leadership Forum featured scholarship by faculty and researchers from across Steinhardt's departments, who presented their white papers on the following educational issues: Universal Pre-K, Common Core, English language learners, College access, Outcomes beyond test scores and school culture.

In presenting their research, the authors shared key findings and their relevance to students and educators, and offered recommendations for further study and application. These included mechanisms for expanding access to high-quality pre-K, acquisition of English language proficiency, post-secondary success for underserved students, support for children's socio-emotional learning, and healthy school climates. The scholars who studied the Common Core noted that the initiative "operates in unique political circumstances from state to state," and focused their research on the history of efforts in New York.

Moderating the culminating policy panel was James Kemple, Executive Director of the Research Alliance for New York City Schools at NYU Steinhardt, in conversation with New York State Assemblyman Ron Kim and NYC Schools Deputy Chancellor of Strategy and Policy Josh Wallack. The panelists reflected on the roles that research and evidence play in informing their work from legislative and implementation perspectives.#



How My Book Changed My Life



By **DIANA BILEZIKIAN**

In 2014, I published a book; “Dear Diana... Diana’s Guide To Independent Living For Adolescents And Young Adults With Different Learning Styles And Special Needs.” My cousin suggested writing it after enjoying hundreds of my long, detailed, interesting e-mail messages to her and others about independent living, a subject about which I am an expert. I myself have special needs, and have spent my life learning to live independently. First, I learned at home with my parents and teachers, and then, at Chapel Haven. Chapel Haven is a program for young adults with special needs who want to learn how to live independently. I am a graduate and now a community member at Chapel Haven.

Once I had the idea to write the book, it took at least five years before it was published. The editing was much, much harder than the contents. At first, my parents helped me with editing, but once I found a publisher, I had a great deal of help from Kirsten McBride at AAPC Publishing.

I thought that writing a book would be easy, but I found out I was wrong. It was a huge amount of work. If I had known that ahead of time, I probably wouldn’t even have tried. So, it’s just as well that I didn’t know, because when I finally became a published author, my life changed for the better. I have more self-confidence. I am more outgoing. Ten years ago, I would have been anxious and nervous, but now I particularly enjoy going to events in reference to my book. For example, several times a year, Chapel Haven has Open House, which helps to give visitors an idea of what it’s like to be a student there. My jobs at Open House include selling copies of my book and also, making a brief, appropriate welcoming speech to all of the visiting families and pro-

spective students.

Every time a copy of my book is sold, the proceeds go to Chapel Haven. In addition to the fund-raising, my book has made a lot of people aware of the program at Chapel Haven. These things make me proud; proud to be doing something for Chapel Haven, and proud to be helping people with special needs who have struggled, as I have, to learn how to live independently.

After my book was published, a friend of my parents sent an autographed copy to Dr. Gerard Costa, Director Of Child Development at Montclair State University. He wanted to meet me and learn about Chapel Haven. So he came to Chapel Haven for a visit. He met Mike Storz, the President of Chapel Haven, and we told him all about our program. Then he invited me to come to Montclair to meet his class. His students were learning how to become special education teachers and other professionals. I was a little bit nervous, but with some help from Dr. Costa and Mike, I got the courage to serve as his guest speaker. I gave a short speech and answered all their questions. Once I got started, it wasn’t so hard knowing what to say. Sometimes I had to have the students repeat and clarify their questions before I could answer them, but once I understood the question, I always knew the answer because of my personal experiences. I have visited Montclair twice and I have another invitation to visit again soon. Although these students are college graduates, I feel that they can learn ever so much from me, and at the same time, I am learning from them. As a result of all this, Dr. Costa has honored me with an invitation to be a part of the Affiliate Faculty At Montclair.

Writing and publishing my book has allowed me to speak for myself and many others who are like me. I am proud to be that voice. #

BOOK REVIEW

THE CIRCLE by Alfred Posamentier & Robert Geretschläger

By **ROY LEVIT, MD**

I have had the pleasure to read, from beginning to end, a new book describing the multiple attributes of that most common of geometric figures, the circle. I say that as a person with some scientific background, but with very little knowledge or experience in the field of mathematics.

Now retired, my profession was in Medicine with my specialty in the ocular field, the eye. It is interesting that I was asked to review a book about the very geometric figure that I spent my entire productive life looking at every day, a spherical organ with circles in a plane in that sphere.

The journey starts out with an excellent discussion of the many aspects of the circle as we know it. The geometry of the lines within, intersecting with, and tangential to it, as well as the relation of circles within and tangential to each other makes for a fascinating discussion. There is also the Reuleaux triangle, which doesn’t look like a circle, but has many of the geometric and practical attributes of a circle. The Mazda automobile with the “Rotary Engine” is something which most of us remem-



Alfred Posamentier

ber, but it could have been called the Reuleaux triangle engine, a triangle acting like a circular crankshaft. The book has many such revelations that apply to our everyday lives that I did not think of before.

The many diagrams and formulae found in the explanatory discussions reflect the incredible attention that science and mathematics has devoted to the circle over the millennia. There are many references to the ancients with their stories that bring a feeling of the passion that was devoted to the solving of the mathematical

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Reading Skills	
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Multisensory Reading Instruction: PAF Part I	
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Syllables Are the Key: The Basics of Language Structure Through Syllabication	
ABCs of Testing: Using Reading Test Results to Plan Instruction	
Where Do I Go From Here? Using PAF Assessment Tools to Plan Instruction	
Beyond Decoding: Developing Reading Comprehension Skills	
Mathematics Skills	
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Positive Discipline: A Roadmap from Elementary School Through High School	
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The Robert Louis Stevenson School Partners with En Garde Arts for Evening of Theater and Discussion for Schools

By **BOB CUNNINGHAM**, HEAD OF SCHOOL, THE ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON SCHOOL

Recently, Stevenson joined forces with the En Guard Arts theater company to host a Panel Discussion on adolescent mental health and wellness following the performance of En Garde Arts' new play, "WILDERNESS." This was exciting, quite timely, and the surrounding buzz was substantial. The premier of the play was just two days later and the day before the panel, *The New York Times* ran a feature on "WILDERNESS" in the Arts & Leisure section.

The title refers to the setting, a wilderness therapy program in the Utah desert. It also refers to the wilderness of emotions between parents and their teenagers. The characters, based on real people and events, were dramatized in an honest and authentic way. Performance, movement, music and video interviews with parents were woven together to show how the pressures and complexities of growing up in the 21st Century impact adolescent mental health and wellness.

The Robert Louis Stevenson School was very proud to assemble the panel that followed the performance. It was moderated by their Head of School, **Bob Cunningham** and included:

Anne Marie Albano Director, Columbia University Clinic for Anxiety & Related Disorders, Jed Foundation

Scott Bezsylo Executive Director, Winston Preparatory School

Roy Boorady Senior Director of the Psychopharmacology Service at the Child



Bob Cunningham, Head of School, The Robert Louis Stevenson School

Mind Institute

Benjamin Davis Deputy Director, Ackerman Institute's Gender & Family Project

Eli Kaye-Karan Stevenson School Alumnus '16

Anne Hamburger Founder, En Garde Arts Theater Company

The discussion provided a wonderful forum for independent school administrators, faculty and staff to interact with mental health professionals, parents, students and others to discuss adolescent mental health. The results were both educational and powerful. This was summarized on page 24

continued on page 24



A scene from the play Wilderness

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A photograph of a female teacher with her hair in a bun, wearing a white patterned shirt, leaning over a desk to assist a young boy in a classroom. The boy is looking down at something on the desk. The background shows a typical classroom setting with desks, chairs, and colorful folders.

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LAW & EDUCATION

The N.L.R.B. is Permitting College Student Employees to Organize

By ARTHUR KATZ, JD

In a seminal 2004 opinion involving Brown University, the National Labor Relations Board ruled that (i) graduate student assistants were not “statutory employees” within the meaning of the National Labor Relations Act (the “Act”), since the relationship between the University and the student assistants was “primarily educational” and (ii) allowing graduate student assistants to organize would be detrimental to the educational process. The Brown opinion also said that “collective bargaining is not particularly well suited to educational decision-making and that any change in emphasis from quality education to economic concerns will prove detrimental to both labor and educational policies.” Furthermore, “the goal of collective bargaining, promoting equality of bargaining power is largely foreign to higher education and that collective bargaining would unduly infringe upon traditional academic freedoms.”

In late August of this year, the NLRB (in a three to one vote), in a case involving Columbia University, issued a game-changing decision that overturned Brown in a lengthy,



Arthur Katz, JD

reasoned, written opinion (364 NLRB 60) and held that students who perform services at Columbia in connection with their studies are, in fact, statutory employees within the meaning of the Act and have the right to organize. In overturning Brown, the NLRB characterized Brown as “having deprived an
continued on page 23

Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab Inducted into American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Among the 213 new members recently inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS) was Jennifer J. Raab, President of Hunter College of the City University of New York. President Raab, who is in the AAAS category of “Public Affairs, Business, and Administration” joins a very accomplished group of scholars, scientists, writers, and artists, as well as civic, business, and philanthropic leaders. The induction ceremony will take place at Sanders Theatre at Harvard University.

“In a tradition reaching back to the earliest days of our nation, the honor of election to the American Academy is also a call to service,” said Academy President Jonathan F. Fanton. “Jennifer Raab’s election to the Academy is a testament to her accomplishments in education, public policy, and in business. She will make substantive contributions to the Academy’s important and rewarding work. We look forward to her participation in our projects, publications, and events—and to her help in producing the useful knowledge for which our charter calls.”

“I am incredibly honored to be inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences,”



President Jennifer Raab, Hunter College

said Raab. “In fact it is an honor for the entire Hunter College community to be represented in this prestigious organization. I look forward to the opportunity of bringing the diverse, vibrant, and intellectually dynamic voice that is Hunter to the Academy.”

Since assuming the presidency of Hunter College in 2001, Ms. Raab has led the successful transformation of Hunter College from

THE ETHICS COLUMN

EMBRYOS ON ICE

By JACOB M. APPEL, MD, JD

I will confess—much to the amusement of my medical students—that I had never heard of television actress Sophia Vergara until May 2015 when she became embroiled in a public legal feud with her ex-fiancé, Nick Loeb, over the fate of two frozen embryos the couple created together via in vitro fertilization. Vergara aptly stars in a show called *Modern Family*, but after splitting with Loeb, who happens to be of the wealthy Loeb and Lehman families (which I had heard of), she refused her ex’s request to thaw the embryos so he might have them implanted in a surrogate. The pair reportedly had signed a contract stating the embryos “could only be brought to term with both parties’ consent”—although the document apparently failed to state explicitly what was to be done in the absence of such consensus. In January, a California court will decide at trial whether this contract is enforceable.

Vergara and Loeb are certainly not the first former couple to battle over frozen embryos. As early as 1992, the Tennessee Supreme Court in *Davis v. Davis* confronted a case where an ex-wife wanted to donate frozen embryos to a third party, while an ex-husband did not. The court in that matter offered several valuable observations that might help guide future cases.



Jacob M. Appel, MD, JD

First, the justices observed that embryos should not be thought of as either people or property, but as belonging to an “interim category that entitles them to special respect because of their potential for human life” and therefore worthy of distinctive respect in the absence of competing rights or interests. Second, the court found that in the presence of a prior agreement of the divorcing parties, courts should enforce such an agreement. Such an approach
continued on page 25

Mercy College is Proud to Announce the Mercy College Internship Grant Program

In the competitive job market of today – internships are essential. Now to help more Mercy College students have the opportunity to complete an internship, the College is unveiling a new Internship Grant Program. The Program will award eligible students a \$1,500 grant for working an unpaid, for-credit internship (380, 381, 399 courses only).

Senior Director of Career and Professional Development Jill Hart said: “This is an incredible opportunity for our students! Many internships are unpaid and thus not financially viable for students. A grant may remove that financial barrier and enable students to gain experience, skills and connections that are valuable in the marketplace.”

Mercy College President Tim Hall said: “An internship is a form of experiential learning that integrates knowledge and theory. I am so pleased to now be able to offer financial incen-

an open-admissions institution to a selective, highly ranked college with a very diverse student population that includes one of America’s largest cohorts of immigrant and first-generation students. Under her leadership, Hunter’s
continued on page 25

tives so more Mercy College students can participate in internships.”

Hart said the application process is competitive, and students will have to prove a clear relationship between their planned internship and career development goals. The selection committee will consist of Division of Student Affairs staff members and a rotating Faculty member.

The application goes live Monday, October 31. Eligible students need to apply via Career Maverick – “2017 Spring Internship Grant Awards.” Grant awards will be paid in disbursements. A minimum of 30 credits is required: Full time matriculated sophomores through seniors are eligible. Students must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. The deadline is November 21.

Students may secure an unpaid internship at a non-profit or for-profit organization (subject to Fact Sheet #71: Internship Programs Under The Fair Labor Standards Act).

The grant will have no impact on Financial Aid Awards, and will be treated as taxable income for federal and state income tax purposes. #

For additional information or assistance, students may contact the Career and Professional Development team at CPD@mercy.edu.



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Kossoff Lecture on Cystic Fibrosis at Columbia Presbyterian



(L-R) Phyllis Kossoff & Wendy Chung, MD, PhD

By LUCAS MAUTNER

Recently, the Department of Pediatrics of Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons hosted the 38th Stephanie Lynn Kossoff Memorial Lecture, presented by Wendy Chung, MD, PhD, the Kennedy Family Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine, and Director of Precision Medicine, Irving Institute for Clinical and Translational Research, Columbia University. Organized by Phyllis Kossoff, a philanthropist and alumna of Columbia University, in honor of her late daughter, the lecture seeks to shed new light on cystic fibrosis research.

Dr. Chung's lecture, titled "Precision Medicine for Cystic Fibrosis," emphasized the importance of nutrition and early diagnoses in combating the disease. There are many parts of the world where it is difficult or impossible to follow basic treatment regimens and to access resources. In some cases, healthcare providers are unable to provide the care that could save lives. Columbia University's global program at the Pediatric Cystic Fibrosis aims to be a resource to these communities in the fight to rid the world of a terrible disease.

continued on page 25

Letter from President Richard Lifton, The Rockefeller University

I'm delighted to share with you, as Rockefeller's new president, some splendid news. The Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation announced that **Charles M. Rice**, the University's Maurice R. and Corinne P. Greenberg Professor in Virology and Head of our Laboratory of Virology and Infectious Disease, has been named a recipient of the 2016 Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award. Dr. Rice will share this award with Ralf F. W. Bartenschlager of Heidelberg University and Michael J. Sofia of Arbutus Biopharma. The award recognizes their critical contributions to the development of a cure for Hepatitis C, a chronic viral infection of the liver that affects 170 million people worldwide and until now has resulted in 350,000 deaths annually. Dr. Rice's seminal work defined the elements necessary for robust replication of the Hepatitis C virus in cell culture, a discovery that allowed rapid cell-based screening and led to the development of potent drugs that directly inhibit viral replication. Treatment with a combination of two of

these drugs now cures virtually all affected individuals with negligible side effects—an extraordinary advance destined to save millions of lives. Charles Rice was recruited to Rockefeller in 2000 thanks to the visionary philanthropy of University Trustee Emeritus Maurice R. Greenberg and his wife, Corinne. Over the years, Dr. Rice's work has received substantial support from the Greenberg Medical Research Institute, Inc. (funded by the Greenbergs and The Starr Foundation). As a result, Dr. Rice and his research team had the resources, time, and encouragement needed to tackle Hep C. The resulting impact on human health is enormous. With Dr. Rice's selection, 22 Rockefeller scientists have now received Lasker Awards, including eight who are on our faculty today. It's an astonishing record. Charlie Rice's remarkable work is the embodiment of the Rockefeller credo, "Science for the benefit of humanity."

Richard P. Lifton, M.D., Ph.D., President, The Rockefeller University #

DSM-5 Diagnoses In Kids Should Always Be Written In Pencil

By ALLEN FRANCES, MD

The three most harmful fads in psychiatric diagnosis, during the past 20 years, have all occurred in kids. Rates of Attention Deficit Disorder have tripled and rates of Autism and childhood Bipolar Disorder have multiplied an incredible 40 times.

Powerful external factors have contributed greatly to this massive mislabelling of kids. For ADHD and kiddie Bipolar, drug companies misleadingly and aggressively sold the ill to peddle their expensive and profitable pills. Their marketing strategy was based on the cynical assumption that starting a kid early on pills might make him a customer for life.

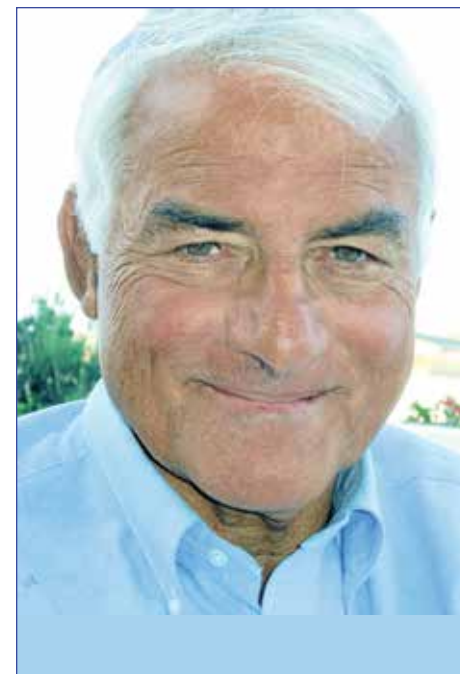
The explosion of Autism resulted from the combination of two things- the DSM-IV introduction of a much milder form (Asperger's) and the far too close linkage of the diagnosis to eligibility for enhanced school services. DSM diagnoses developed for clinical purposes are inappropriate gatekeepers for allocating educational resources. Educational decisions should be based on the child's educational need, as assessed by educators, using educational tools.

It is long past time to tame the wild DSM over-diagnosis of kids. Juan Vasen and Gisela Untoiglich are leaders of the Forum Infancias*, an Argentine organization of mental health workers dedicated to the proper diagnosis and treatment of children and adolescents.

Drs Vasen and Untoiglich describe ten reasons why psychiatric diagnosis is much more difficult and uncertain in youngsters and how rampant mislabelling leads to over-medication and unnecessary stigma. They write:

"Special care and caution are always advisable when diagnosing kids for the following ten reasons:

1) The roles and behavioral expectations of children and adolescents have changed dramatically throughout history, and also vary dramatically across different societies in the current world. It is not necessarily an indication of mental disorder when a child doesn't



Allen Frances, MD

fit into societal or educational roles that are recent, constraining, and quite narrowly defined.

2) Children and adolescents vary dramatically in the way they develop and in the chronology of their developmental milestones. Individuality and immaturity should not be confused with disease.

3) Problems that are really most properly blamed on defects in the educational system are instead often blamed on problems originating in the individual child. We would have many fewer children diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder if class sizes were smaller and schools provided more physical activity recesses for children during the school day.

4) Parent and teacher perfectionism, and the desire for bland conformity, has narrowed the range of what is accepted as normal child-

continued on page 25

Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy (DMD): About Charley and Weems

Darius Weems, a young man, afflicted with DMD, died recently. Reflecting on Weems' life and work against DMD at Friday's funeral service at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Athens, Georgia, Dr. Benjamin Seckler, a physician who started the Massachusetts-based Charley's Fund after his own son, Charley, was diagnosed a decade ago at age 3 with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Charley continues to live with the disease.

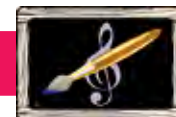
Seckler, with his wife, Tracy, at his side, told the crowd filling Ebenezer Baptist, "I love

Darius — I refuse to use the past tense."

Weems' fundraising work helped produce the recent turning point in fighting DMD, Seckler said. "Because of this kid," he said, "textbooks are being rewritten."

Seckler, too, recalled a scene in "Darius Goes West", a movie about Weems, then a teen, who offered his advice to viewers, telling them to "be kind and live life to the fullest."

"I hope you all listen to the words of this prophet," Seckler told the crowd at Weems' funeral. #



Chaim Gross Foundation Celebrates Plaque Unveiling



Mimi Gross

By LUCAS MAUTNER

Recently, the Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation unveiled a plaque to mark the historic home of Chaim Gross. The plaque was donated by the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, a group dedicated to preserving the Village's cultural history, in tandem with the Two Boots Foundation. Among the speakers present were Mimi Gross, the daughter of Chaim and an artist in her own right, having exhibited her work in places like the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, and the Jewish Museum, among others. She spoke about her father's life, legacy, and the lasting influence his career has had. Dr. Susan Fisher, Director and Chief Curator of the Foundation, spoke as well, highlighting the important work the Foundation has performed over the decades. Afterwards guests enjoyed a reception held in the studio, where they were able to eat Two Boots pizza and view Gross' artwork in an intimate setting.

Chaim Gross was born in 1904 in Galicia, a province under the administration of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in Eastern Europe. Gross fled post-war Europe in 1921 and, after arriving in the United States, studied painting and sculpture in New York. His first show was

in New York in 1932. Soon after, his work spread to major museums like the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney. Gross also worked with bronze sculpture, lithography, and Judaic subjects, among other things. Today, much of his work, including sketches and finished pieces, can be seen in his original studio.

After living in the Upper West Side for two decades, Gross purchased the four-story building near Washington Square Park in 1963 and moved his family and studio there. The family lived upstairs while Gross worked in his studio on the ground level. Today, the ground level houses a permanent exhibition of Gross' sculpture from the 1920s to the 1980s. On the second floor is a temporary exhibition space, a library and archive, while the third floor contains a dining and living area, as well as an exhibition of Gross' European, American, African, and Pre-Columbian art collections.

The Renee & Chaim Gross Foundation is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1988 by Chaim and Renee Gross. The Foundation works to preserve Gross' legacy, as well as organizes cultural activities, encouraging visitors to fully experience the studio's extensive collections. The Foundation also sponsors interdisciplinary programs, special events and exhibitions, all organized around topics related to Gross and his contemporaries. #

ARTIST ALEX BEARD PRESENTS AFRICAN INSPIRED ART IN CHELSEA GALLERY



By LYDIA LIEBMAN

Recently, revered artist and author Alex Beard premiered his latest exhibition at the George Billis Gallery. "Alex Beard: On Camel Safari" only ran one week in the Chelsea space; those that were lucky to catch it were treated to a mix of massive oil paintings with vibrant colors, beautiful inked birds, and stunning landscapes. Ten works of art, including standout oil paintings *The Camel Train* and the majestic *The Big Five*, hung in the Main Gallery while the Small Gallery housed the "Bird of East Africa"; a stunning collection of twelve works. In addition to the art pieces, Beard presented an accompanying book that explained the pieces and his artist style.

The works featured in "On Camel Safari" were created while Beard was on camel safari for a

month this past summer in Northern Kenya. When in Northern Kenya, "I walk off the grid to track elephant on foot so as to perceive the intrinsic way in nature things move and relate to each other," he said. This is then translated into his art.

Beard is a staunch conservationist, and his artwork is a great reflection of that. Each year, Beard brings the art he's made on safari back to the United States to the galleries such as the George Billis Gallery. The proceeds are then sent back to Africa, completing the circle.

Beard emphasized the importance of looking closely at his pieces. He said, "the art should inspire you to ask the question: 'why is the style in the seashell the same shape as the arms of the entire galaxy?'" He said if one can find the similarities in the paintings, then they're looking at them right. #





China Institute Celebrates 90 Years



(L-R) Performer & Dr. Pola Rosen

By LUCAS MAUTNER

This year, China Institute celebrated its 90th anniversary with a special gala at Cipriani featuring a reception, dinner, live auction, and special performance by Lux Shine, a troupe of Peking Opera performers. China Institute honored three guests for their role in cementing relations between the United States and China: Bob Chapek, Walt Disney Parks & Resorts Chairman; Richard Gelfond, CEO of IMAX; and Guo Pei, the fashion designer most known

in the West for Rihanna's iconic Costume Institute Gala dress. "As China Institute enters its tenth decade," wrote the Gala Co-Chairs, Yue-Sai Kan and Sophia Sheng, in a letter sent to attendees, "its role as a bridge between the two most influential countries on the globe today has become more crucial than ever."

Guo Pei began her career in fashion as the chief designer of one of the first independent fashion companies in China. After ten years, *continued on page 27*

Honoring Founders Ann & Andrew Tisch at (Em)Power Breakfast

By LYDIA LIEBMAN

Recently, The Young Women's Leadership Network celebrated 20 years of success at the annual (Em)Power Breakfast honoring YWLN founders Ann and Andrew Tisch at the Waldorf Astoria. Nearly 1000 guests gathered together to celebrate two decades of the Tisch's vision, dedication, and perseverance that has led to the academic success of over 8000 young women.

The breakfast kicked off with opening remarks delivered by Laura Rebell Gross, Gross is the Director of Girls' Education as well as the president and co-founder of Young Women's College Prep in Rochester, NY; a school Gross started in the image of YWLN. Gross shared some exciting updates regarding new classes at YWLN in coding plus news that over 40 students were able to attend a United Nations Event with Michelle Obama just weeks prior.

After some words from the two Mistresses of Ceremonies, 7th grader Melodie Whiting and 9th grader Madison Abreu, the digital dance team presented a lovely performance during a montage that showcased Ann and Andrew's many contributions to YWLN.

Jemina Bernard, Executive Director of YWLN, spoke next and highlighted some encouraging stats. According to Bernard, YWLN students enroll in college at twice the rate of their peers and earn bachelors degrees at

four times the rate of their peers.

The second part of the breakfast, aptly titled "Our Recipe for Success", presented the many principals, teachers and Directors of College Counseling responsible for YWLN's success. Representatives from affiliate schools, some from places as far-reaching as Austin, Texas and Chicago, Illinois, were also present. A host of YWLN alumnae came to the stage as well and shared what they were up to presently; many are pursuing Masters and Doctorate degrees.

To usher in the next part of the ceremony, past honorees Sherrie Westin, Executive Vice President of Global Impact and Philanthropy at Sesame Workshop, and Tory Burch of her eponymous billion-dollar fashion line took the stage. Both showered praise on Ann, Andrew and YWLN. "I'm in awe every time I come. You're making such an important difference in these girls' lives," added Burch.

Charlotte and Sarah Tisch, Andrew and Ann's daughters, stepped up next to introduce their parents. "We haven't lived a day without the Young Women's Leadership schools being part of our lives," said Sarah, who went on to share stories of attending the first graduation at age 6. Both shared how proud they are to have such accomplished and visionary parents.

Finally, it became time for Andrew and Ann to accept their awards. Andrew spoke of how

Degrees Awarded At American Museum Of Natural History



Graduation at AMNH takes place under the Giant Blue Whale

By SYBIL MAIMIN

The American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), beloved locally and admired internationally for its wondrous dioramas of majestic animals in native habitats, giant dinosaurs, and Planetarium explorations of the universe, is also an important degree granting educational institution. Through its Richard Gilder Graduate School, the museum awards both the Ph.D. and the MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching). The doctoral program in Comparative Biology, the first museum Ph.D. degree program in the Western Hemisphere, began in 2006. The MAT Earth Science program, begun as a pilot project in 2011 and given degree-granting authorization by the New York State Board of Regents in 2015, is also the first of its kind for a museum. In a proud and beautiful October commencement ceremony held beneath the 94-foot long Atlantic blue whale suspended in the museum's

23 years ago, Ann approached him with an idea for the first YWLN school. "It was her belief in what she was doing and her perseverance that the first school opened," he said, "and it was her creativity in problem solving and managing conflict that kept her moving forward and on a mission." Ann spoke next and expressed that she felt "nearly speechless". She thanked Andrew for his continuous support. "Andrew accomplishes more in one day than most people accomplish in 10," she said. She also thanked her staff, producers, the board and their family.

The breakfast culminating in a moving performance by singer-songwriter Lydia Warr, who is a YWLN graduate and has since gone on to perform on Broadway and various national tours. Warr's uplifting voice, joined by the Young Women's Leadership School of Queens Choir, looked joyously toward the next 20 years of YWLN to come. #

Milstein Hall of Ocean Life, five Ph.D. and fifteen MAT degrees were conferred. In addition, honorary degrees were given to Gilberto Silva Taboada, curator emeritus of the Natural History Museum of Cuba who is a renowned expert on Caribbean bats and champion of U.S.-Cuban scientific collaboration, and John B. King, Jr., U.S. Secretary of Education and, previously, as New York State Commissioner of Education, a key supporter of the museum's MAT program. In remarks stressing, "science knows no country," museum president Ellen V. Futter announced an exciting new exhibit, "Cuba," developed jointly by AMNH and the Natural History Museum of Cuba, "an important milestone for American and Cuban museums."

Ph.D. candidates drew upon AMNH massive collections, worked with some of its 200 scientists, and did extensive field work in distant places. Dissertations range from studies of frogs in New Guinea to vision systems of scorpions across Southeast Asia. Graduate Bernardo Santos even had the aid of sixth graders studying science in the Bronx who helped him name a new species of parasitic wasp, *Necolinoceras laluzbrillante*. New Ph.D., Stephanie Loria of Queens, explained she always wanted to be a scientist and visited the museum often during her junior year of high school. Accepted into its Science, Research, Mentoring Program (SRMP), she came to the museum after school 1 to 2 times a week, engaged in a project on flamingos, "had lots of fun," and will now be studying for a post-doctorate at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

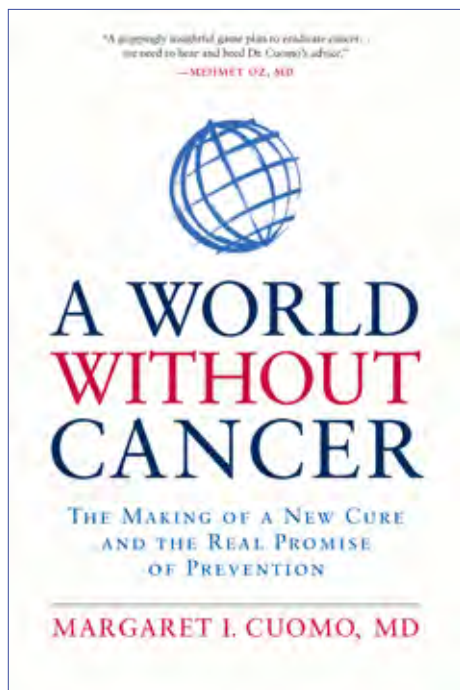
The MAT program answers an urgent need for more science teachers. Degree candidates must be residents of the United States and *continued on page 27*

World Without Cancer

continued from page 4

risk for cancer and other diseases. Also, exclusive interviews with award-winning documentarian Ken Burns and singer/songwriter Valerie Simpson provide an intimate look into the way cancer has affected their lives, and how they have responded to that challenge.

In both the televised special and the book, Cuomo outlines the many preventive measures we can take to reduce cancer risk and emphasize



es that it is an integrative approach. "All factors must be implemented together," she says, "... you need to adopt a lifestyle that will promote prevention and reduce the risk." You need to advocate for your own health and safety and that of your family." The PBS special points out that many consumer and household products contain chemicals that are linked to cancer, and should be avoided. While she acknowledges that the United States is more supportive than other countries when it comes to scientific research, more resources and greater focus should be dedicated to prevention. "We shouldn't have to fight for a healthy lifestyle and safe products in our country, yet we still do," she underscores.

With the impending broadcast of "A World Without Cancer", and the book available on bookshelves across the country, Cuomo hopes readers and viewers will start to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Jury Duty

continued from page 4

tant? Currently, the federal court system allows individuals to opt out of serving as a juror at age 70 without a showing of undue hardship or extreme inconvenience by the applicant. Many seniors who are not disabled still have difficulty traveling to court houses in order to make the application for excusal. This is why I introduced the bill that would extend at a state level the same opt out available to individuals 70 years of age and older selected for federal jury service.

Currently in New York, more than 600,000 people serve jury duty each year. As Americans, it is our civic duty and responsibility to give contribution to our democracy and the judicial system. Serving jury duty reflects the basic principles of our Constitution and gives people a significant role in administering justice. As New Yorkers living in a progressive state that has taken a lead on the most controversial issues in our nation, we failed to prevent imposing a burden on a vulnerable population - our senior citizens - while exercising our democracy. New York excuses jurors who provide a note from a doctor stating that their disability prevents them from serving jury duty, but this imposes a daunting and sometimes expensive burden on seniors and does not apply to many for whom jury service is possible but challenging. After hearing from my constituents who are not disabled but for whom travel is difficult, I knew that something must be done to rectify the way our state administers justice.

This legislation will be introduced 20 years after 27 previous exemptions and disqualifications for jury duty in New York State were repealed. The majority of the previous exemptions and disqualifications applied largely to doctors and lawyers; such white collar exceptions will not be included in my bill. It would simplify the process of opting out, without preventing senior citizens who are able to serve jury duty to do so if they choose to.#

She hopes that the PBS program will be well received and jumpstart a positive conversation about cancer risk reduction. "I hope that there will be an ongoing forum where we can talk about these things... whether it be television or some other medium," she says, adding, "As good as this PBS program is, cancer prevention is a goal that deserves further attention and action." #

"A World Without Cancer" will air on November 25 on PBS. Please check [aptonline.org/stationfinder](#) for local listings.

Women's City Club of New York Hosts Centennial Conference

By LYDIA LIEBMAN

Recently, The Women's City Club of New York, originally founded by Eleanor Roosevelt, held its Centennial Conference at the New York Academy of Medicine. The topic of the conference was "From Inequality to Equality: Policies and Programs That Work." In her opening remarks, City Club President Annette Choolfaian stressed that the conference was to focus on the solutions instead of the issues. She also reaffirmed the Women's City Club's commitment to its goals. "As we enter this next hundred years we will rededicate ourselves to the improvement of the life of all New Yorkers," she said, adding, "...we will continue to give a voice to those whose voices have not been heard through the use of education, issued analysis, advocacy and civic participation."

The event was jumpstarted by a surprise presentation of the Centennial Medal for Women in Leadership to Keynote Speaker Ana Oliveira. Oliveira is the President and CEO of the New York Women's Foundation, which is the third largest women's fund in the world with an annual giving of \$6 million. Oliveira delivered an enlightening keynote address that put the presidential election to the forefront. She stressed the importance of planning for either party's win and the consequences of it. "Success breeds backlash," she warned, "we must be ready to advance the policies we need to work on and prepare for the backlash that will ensue."

The day was arranged in four sections; health, education, housing and homelessness and employment.

The opening panel was titled "Health Care: From Health Disparities to Good Health For All." Despite New York's inclusion in the Affordable Care Act, disparities remain. The moderator was Dr. Katherine S. Lobach, Professor Emerita of Pediatrics at Albert Einstein Medical College. On the panel was Yvonne Graham, Associate Commissioner of the New York State Department of Health and Director of the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities Prevention, who outlined some of the current disparities and their causes. Also included on the panel was Dr. Neil Calman, President and CEO of the Institute for Family Health, who described what he and his group learned about how disparities are perpetuated within the New York health system; Paloma Hernandez, President and CEO of Urban Health Plan, who described the role of FQHC's in addressing disparities; and Dr. David Sandman, President and CEO of New York State Health Foundation. He described programs and approaches that go beyond the health care system in addressing the social determinants of health.

"Education: Improving Access to Effective, High-Quality Public Education in New York City" was the day's second panel. This panel targeted the problems prevalent in the New York education system, despite a \$27.6 bil-



Jaqueline M. Ebanks

lion budget. The discussion was led by Jeff Simmons, Executive Vice President of Anaf and included Sarah Garland, Executive Editor of the Hechinger Report, Dr. Danielle Moss Lee, President and CEO of YWCA of New York City and Rhea Wong, Executive Director of Breakthrough New York and Dr. Gail Mellow, President of LaGuardia Community College.

The third part of the day tackled the issues of homelessness and housing in a segment aptly titled "Housing and Homelessness: Increasing Availability and Access to Affordable Housing in New York City." The panel, led by Executive Director of the Women's City Club, Jacqueline M. Ebanks, centered around how New York City is addressing issues of availability, affordability and financing of housing as well as neighborhood stability in the face of gentrification. The panelists included Victor Bach, Senior Housing Policy Analyst, Community Service Society, Nancy Biberman, Founder and President, Housing and Economic Development Corporation and Afua Atta-Mensah, Executive Director of Community Voices Heard.

The final panel addressed employment with "Employment: How Can New Yorker's Gain Access to Jobs That Provide a Living Wage and Work-Life Balance?" In the discussion, panelists spoke of how employers and policy makers are adapting to the changing economy in the face of steady job losses since the 2008 recession. The panelists included Catherine Barnett, Executive Director ROC-NYC, Barbara Chang, Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, Angie Kamath, National Executive Director of Social Ventures and Innovation and Kathleen Culhane, President of Nontraditional Employment for Women.

The day wrapped up with a quick word from Dr. Mary C. Murphee, Vice President of Women's City Club of New York. She stressed the importance of intersectionality and partnership among the discussed policy topics. "If we don't come together now then we're making a big mistake," she said. #

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SPORTS

Paralyzed in a Bike Accident, Dennis McGorty Competes in his Second New York City Marathon



By MIKE COHEN

As a former collegiate decathlon and track and field champion at the University of North Carolina and later as an avid cyclist, Dennis McGorty knew first-hand the joy of being involved in sports. Now more than three years after being paralyzed from the waist down in a bicycle accident that occurred near his house on the way back from a long ride, McGorty is gearing up for his second consecutive New York City marathon on November 6th. Last year's marathon which was his first ever race since his injury he finished 11th place in the hand cycle division. The 46 year-old Westfield, New Jersey native, and current resident of the town, credits the incredible support of his wife and two school age children with giving him the strength to compete once again. McGorty, who rides for the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation recently spoke to Education Update reporter Mike Cohen, along with his wife Anita.

EU: When you crossed the finish line last year at the NYC Marathon- and you met up with your family - what were you thinking about with all that you had been through and the tough training required to accomplish what you had just done?

DM: It was an incredible day for me and my family. A milestone in how far we had come, and a wave of happiness of the possibilities that lay ahead.

EU: Being that you were an accomplished athlete in high school and college, what has it meant to be back to be able to express yourself physically and find this type of outlet again?

DM: It makes me feel like me again. Cycling was such a big part of my life and to be able to do it again in some form is great—not just for the sport, but for the camaraderie of cycling.

EU: What has the support of your family meant to you?

DM: It's everything. They are my biggest cheerleaders—not just for the marathon but in my life and working to continue to get stronger and gain recovery.

EU: Is there a particular person [or persons] who has helped to get you back to this point?

DM: There are many. The Westfield community, our family, and the Hilltop Bicycles cycling community rallied around us from the moment of the accident. In particular our incredible friends Michael and Kira Theesfeld have been there every step of the way with us. The Challenged Athletes Foundation together with Mapso-Tri granted me the handcycle. I ride for the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, which does so much for the paralysis community and is spearheading breakthrough advances for a paralysis cure.

EU: Could you describe the training that goes into this sport? On a daily basis or more long term goals that you set for yourself.

DM: I do a combination of training on a stationary handcycle and the road handcycle. A combination of arm strength, endurance and pacing are the critical ingredients.

EU: Where does Dennis's positive attitude come from to be able to compete at this level once again?

AM (Anita McGorty): Dennis is very focused and determined in whatever he does. He's not afraid of obstacles. Whether blasting through or chipping away at them, he'll keep going. Giving up is never an option for him.

EU: How has Dennis being involved in this sport helped you as a family deal with all that you have all gone through?

AM: It's been great to see Dennis ride again. He's so happy when he's on the bike. And the kids love it too. They are so excited and proud when they see him riding.

EU: Do you view yourself as a hero, role

BOOKS

HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD, PARTS I & II (Scholastic, 327 pp., \$29.99)

By JOAN BAUM, With The Assistance
of EMILE ROMERO, Age Ten

For those of a certain age who may have slept through the last 20 years when the publishing world exploded with Pottermania that began with *Harry Potter and The Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling -- 450 million copies in print-- the July 31 midnight release of a new Potter book (July 31 is the boy wizard's birthday)might not have seemed eventful, even though the media gave it major attention, because *Harry Potter and The Cursed Child*, coming five years after the last novel in the series, and 19 years since Harry's last appearance, is not the work of the famous author. In fact, it's not even a novel. It's the script of a play that premiered as previews in late June at London's Palace Theatre. Tell that to the hordes who lined up anyway, many in costume, at bookstores all over the country to get a copy hot off the American press. In England, where all Potter books first see the light of day, the Bloomsbury publication generated the anticipated frenzy, as did the opening nights of the two-part play, where the reception was reportedly "ecstatic."

The Cursed Child, based on an original new story by Rowling, is the achievement of film, TV, radio and theatre writer Jack Thorne and director John Tiffany, both award-winning pros. What readers get is a "special rehearsal edition script," with stage-set directions, and, at the end, the names of the huge London cast, many, constituting an ethnically diverse group, playing multiple roles. So, how does *The Cursed Child* stack up to the hype? The answer depends largely on what you're already read and how old you are. I confess I am a grandma who has read only two of the books in the series -- and liked (but not loved) them. Rowling handles exposition well in her novels, but in a play, references and allusions don't engage as they do on the page. Magic, of course, at the heart of any Potter tale, only complicates the plot for readers unfamiliar with the characters and with the ways of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Add time travel now as a major narrative device. Harry's 37, married and the father of two sons, Albus Severus and James and a daughter, Lily. It's 22 years since the defeat of Voldemort at the Battle of Hogwarts, and themes of the earlier books continue: As Albus says, "My father proved you

model, and inspiration to others?"

DM: It's great and humbling if people are inspired. But we're just living our life, raising our kids, and trying to do what we can to make a difference.

EU: What are your future goals in terms of riding and training?

DM: I'd like to ride more in the future, including more marathons and races. That's one of my goals, but my number one focus is being a hus-

band and father. #
For additional information on Team Reeve or to donate to Team McGorty please visit give.reeve.org/teammcgorty.
In addition to being the sports editor of *Education Update*, Mike Cohen is the founder/director of *Throwback Sports* (a sports program for children of all abilities) and a frequent contributor to *TAP into Westfield* (NJ). He can be reached at throwbacksports@verizon.net

don't have to be grown-up to change the wizarding world." Albus is a teenager, though, and does reckless things. Still he has a good heart. Whew! One online comment is worth quoting, however: "I don't know how well kids will appreciate the jokes about growing old, and how Ron [Harry's best friend and brother in law] now says "oof" every time he sits down."

Anyway, here's what a rapt ten-year old has to say in response to submitted questions. Nothing was edited.

Q. Will someone not familiar with the HP books get *The Cursed Child*?

A. No. Only someone who has read all the Potter books will fully understand book 8. There are too many new characters, many of whom are related to characters explained in the first 7 stories.

Q. *The Cursed Child* is a play. Did you ever see a movie of a Potter book and was there a difference between what you imagined and what you saw?

A. Yes, and yes. I have read the whole series and have seen all the movies, and I must say that the movies left too many things out. For example, in movie four, the Quidditch world cup match was not shown, while in the book it was explained.

Q. Who is your favorite character in the play?

A. Scorpius Malfoy because he was really heroic. When he had accidentally erased Albus out of existence, he didn't give in to what he was supposed to be. He worked to bring him back.

Q. Were you surprised to learn that Voldemort had a daughter and where there other new characters you were surprised to meet?

A. I was surprised that Voldemort had a daughter because that means that he had loved, and Voldemort is all grouchy, evil, weird, a hater and stuff.

Q. Do you have a favorite Potter story of book and where would you rank *The Cursed Child*?

A. My favorite story is this one. I rank it as #1m even though J.K. Rowling didn't write it. [An attempt to explore this comment didn't get far, perhaps because the answer reflects that old saw, "when I'm not near the one that I love, I love the one I'm near."]#

Human Rights Advocate Sam Koplewicz in Beirut on Satter Fellowship

By LYDIA LIEBMAN

Sam Koplewicz has dedicated his life to human rights. After graduating from Brown University with a concentration in Public Policy, Sam traveled to Croatia as a Fulbright Scholar and eventually went on to study at Harvard Law School. Upon his recent graduation, Sam became the recipient of a Satter Human Rights Fellowship, designed to support and promote human rights defense in response to mass atrocity or widespread and severe patterns of rights abuse. Sam just moved to Beirut, Lebanon as part of the fellowship to work with Human Rights Watch on media advocacy around the Syrian Conflict.

Throughout his life, Sam has had a plethora of experiences in human rights advocacy. At Harvard, Sam was part of and served as president of the Harvard Law Documentary Studio, a campus community dedicated to producing documentaries that explore social and policy issues. During his time with the studio, Sam traveled to the Greek island of Lesbos and shot a short documentary focused on the plight of unaccompanied minors that crossed the border into Greece from the Middle East. The refugee and migration

crisis is something Sam is particularly passionate about. "What's unfortunate is that these people are suffering legitimately and escaping to save their lives. It's happened throughout history and the truth is humans have not always been great at dealing with it," he underscored. While the film is not available for public viewing just yet, it was shown this past April at a film festival at Harvard and again at a conference in Croatia. As a human rights advocate, Sam praised the benefits of film over other mediums. "I think that film and media is inevitably becoming the more important part of the way we interact in the world," he said.

In addition to his work internationally, Sam has also battled issues closer to home. While a student at Harvard, Sam was part of Reclaim Harvard Law School; an organization comprised of both students and staff that pushed for institutional change. One of the group's prime issues was the rising cost of tuition. According to Sam, the average Harvard Law School student will graduate with close to \$200,000 in debt while the cost of tuition is rising 3.6% over inflation annually. "You're getting wonderful things from a Harvard education but when you're coming to be educated for the purpose of doing good



Sam Koplewicz, JD

Watch the online
video interview at:

EDUCATIONUPDATE.com

or on YouTube.com/EducationUpdate

and you have this level of debt there's very little choice in what you can do," he explained. While many of the group's demands have yet to be met, Sam was part of one great success: the removal of the Royall family crest, which was the seal of the Harvard Law School. While the move was mainly symbolic, it was the start of important change Sam hoped to implement.

Regarding his upcoming endeavor with Human Rights Watch, Sam expressed excitement at the possibilities in store. "I'm looking forward to try to help with what Human Rights Watch is already doing... which is turning really solid investigative research with an understanding of the legal framework and presenting it through media that are more accessible to more people," he said. #

Feminist Press at CUNY Celebrates Powerful and Inspirational Women at Gala Celebration

By LYDIA LIEBMAN

Recently, the Feminist Press at CUNY presented the 2016 Feminist Power Awards. Since 1970, the Feminist Press has been a crucial voice in preserving the legacy of female authors. At this year's celebration, honorees included Debra L. Raskin, Anne Vladeck, Sandra Wilkin, Terri Hines, Susan Beresford and Sheila C. Johnson. The list of presenters was equally esteemed and included Joan Wallach Scott, Pat Martone, Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright, Victoria Rowell and Beverly Johnson. "The women we are honoring tonight each bring a distinctly feminist quality of power to their work," Executive Director and Publisher Jennifer Baumgardner stated in her welcome. The evening also honored author Elizabeth Swados, who recently passed away from cancer just weeks after finishing her final novel *Walking the Dog* and ally Alison Bernstein. The opening remarks, which praised the Feminist Press and recognized the honorees and special guests were delivered by Assemblywoman Rebecca Seawright.

Each honoree has a deep and lasting legacy of feminism. Terri Hines, VP of Global Communications of Converse, has a deep passion for mentoring youth and female entrepreneurs. "Terri invests in the community long-term just as she invests in her family, faith, travel, culture, education and most importantly, mentoring," said actress, producer and director Victoria Rowell in her introduction. "Terri



Rebecca Seawright, Chair, Board of Directors, Feminist Press

is the kind of friend who is a friend whether you're up or down. She is the North Star that I look up to," Rowell added. When Terri graciously accepted her award she spent a considerable time acknowledging another strong woman in her life: her grandmother.

Sheila Johnson, CEO of Salamander Hotels and Resorts, has made her mark as a brilliant entrepreneur and philanthropist. "She is a friend and mentor who inspires me in so many

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AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY (AMNH)

Margaret Mead Film Festival is a Marvel

By LYDIA LIEBMAN

For the past four decades, the Margaret Mead Film Festival has distinguished itself from other film festivals by showing poignant, thought-provoking documentary films from every corner of the world. Held at the American Museum of Natural History, this year's theme "Re:Frame" sought to entice viewers to "probe their own perspectives and to celebrate stories and art forms that offer opportunities to see the world anew." This sentiment was echoed profoundly in the premiere of *Casa Blanca*, the debut film from Polish filmmaker Aleksandra Maciuszek that earned her the distinguished 2016 Margaret Mead Filmmaker Award.

Casa Blanca is an affecting documentary about Vladimir, a young Cuban man with Down Syndrome and his ailing mother Nelsa in the Casa Blanca section of Havana, Cuba. Filmed over the course of four months, Maciuszek chronicles Vladimir's "coming of age" in the wake of his mother's progressing sickness with the utmost simplicity—there are no voiceovers or talking heads to be found here. Instead, viewers are treated to what could almost be considered a character study of Vladimir, Nelsa and the accompanying characters of their lives (the fishermen, the barber, the aunt) through a series of chronological vignettes: Vladimir dances among family members during a birthday celebration, Nelsa takes a tumble during a routine search for Vladimir, the fishermen taunt Vladimir along the docks. In a Q&A immediately following the premiere, the filmmaker shared that the documentary directing program she attended at Escuela Internacional de Cine y Televisión de San Antonio de los Baños in Cuba favored observational methods as opposed to

Scene from *Casa Blanca*

presenting an agenda.

The documentary gives way to some tension when Nelsa's condition worsens and the family urges her to leave her home. While the ending is decidedly inconclusive, it is clear that the Vladimir we meet at the beginning of the film, drunk and carefree, is different from the relatively responsible, attentive young man seen toward the end.

Maciuszek's visuals are particularly beautiful. Aside from the lush coloring, certain shots remain in ones memory due in part to their well thought out composition and lingering camera work. A scene of Nelsa struggling to remove Vladimir's shoe; her face betraying signs of

great effort in every wrinkle and crease specifically is one to remember. Another stand out is a stationary shot of the docks while Vladimir and fishermen prepare for a rainstorm; the camera captures the impending storm begin as a trickle and evolve into a full blown assault on the sea with each drop reverberating beyond the screen.

During the Q&A, Maciuszek told of how *Casa Blanca* came to be. She recounted how her interest was piqued after seeing Nelsa and Vladimir walking on the street hand in hand one day. "This image was very tender and at the same time shocking," she said, "...it was very powerful. You couldn't necessarily tell who was helping who." Soon after she was introduced and

to her delight they were open to the idea. After spending time with them and immersing herself in their world she became privy to their routines, which describes as "meaningful and dramatic."

The filmmaking process was not without difficulty. "When you work in these types of things you cannot be a social worker and a filmmaker at the same time," she said. She explained how issues arose during filming; power plays between Nelsa and Vladimir were exacerbated at times by her third-party presence and community members vied for camera time by occasionally acting out. Maciuszek said that much of what was filmed ending up on the cutting room floor. "This material is not easy," she said, adding in regards to Vladimir's down syndrome, "it's very difficult to interpret conflict scenes with these types of characters." She said after showing the first cut she was stunned by how expansive interpretations were by each individual viewer. Eventually though, the film came together in the iteration that was shown and subsequently awarded at the Margaret Mead Film Festival.

According to Maciuszek, her film initially was meant to tell the story of the family bond. "To me this was a universal story with elements that are common to all of us," she said. But this idea eventually evolved into something much more expansive: freedom and the right to decide. Nelsa's decision to stay in her home despite her condition may not be the right one to some viewers, but in the end that's not what *Casa Blanca* is about.

A superb directorial debut, *Casa Blanca* is an eye-opening film by a promising new face. One can only guess whom Aleksandra Maciuszek will choose to observe next. #

TOWN HALL HOLDS 95TH ANNIVERSARY GALA BENEFIT AT THE PRINCETON CLUB OF NEW YORK

By LYDIA LIEBMAN
& LUCAS MAUTNER

Town Hall hosted a stunning event in celebration of their 95 years as a cultural institution of New York City. Jazz vocal diva Catherine Russell delivered a powerful performance. Following Russell's performance, a cocktail reception, dinner, and award ceremony took place. Hunter College President Jennifer J. Raab and "A Prairie Home Companion" with host Garrison Keillor were awarded the Town Hall Friend of the Arts Award. "We are excited to welcome Jennifer and APHC as our 2016 recipients of our Friend of the Arts Awards. Each in their own way has distinguished themselves through their talents, efforts and support of the arts. Through their support, efforts and talents, both have contributed to the forward movement of our culture," wrote Tom Wirtshafter, President, and Marvin Leffler, President Emeritus, in a letter to attendees.

Jennifer Raab has held the position of President of Hunter College for 15 years, during which time she has overseen an illustrious rise in Hunter's admission standards, graduation rates, and national standing. She has secured more than \$300 million in private support for Hunter, money that has resulted in an ambitious campus expansion and modernization campaign. Among the projects underway are a new library, a scientific research facility under construction with Memorial Sloan Kettering, a research floor in Weill Cornell's Belfer building, a School of Social Work in East Harlem, a studio art facility in Tribeca, and the historic restoration of Roosevelt House, now a public policy institute.

"A Prairie Home Companion" with host Garrison Keillor began in July 1974 and has been an institution of American public radio ever since. The show has featured performers and guests, both little-known and world-



Garrison Keillor

renowned. Town Hall has been home to the show since 1983. Garrison Keillor has been the host and writer since the program began. In 2015, Keillor announced he was retiring



Hunter College President Jennifer Raab

from the show and named his successor, Chris Thile, a mandolinist who has worked with Nickel Creek, The Punch Brothers, Edgar Meyer, and Yo-Yo Ma. #

ASSOCIATION OF BLACK EDUCATORS OF NEW YORK ANNUAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

By DR. SHEILAH BOBO,
CHAIR OF ABENY EDUCATION
CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The Association of Black Educators of New York will hold their annual Education Conference on Saturday, November 12th at Frederick Douglass Academy. The school is located at 149th Street and Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Alfonso Wyatt, consultant, author, and Founding Board Member of the Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy. This year's theme is "Supporting the Emotional

Health, Emotional Growth and Learning of All Students." A host of vendors have been invited and workshops will be presented by educators, media specialists and parent advocates. The workshop topics are as follows:

- "Restorative Practices for Positive Classroom Management"
- "Mentoring as a Means of Fostering Resilience, Grit and Persistent Practice"
- "Stop Bullying Now! Strategies and Approaches"
- "Teaching with the Brain in Mind"
- "Strategies for 'Acing' the Test"

N.L.R.B. & College Students

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entire category of workers of the protection of the Act without a convincing justification in either the statutory language or the policies of the Act." "Statutory coverage is permitted by virtue of an employment relationship; it is not foreclosed by the existence of some other, additional relationship that the Act does not reach."

The NLRB said that "the fundamental error" of Brown "was to frame the issue of statutory coverage not in terms of the existence of an employment relationship, but rather on whether some other relationship between the employee and the employer is the primary one" and that the allegations on which Brown is based "are almost entirely theoretical." The NLRB then continued and said that "collective bargaining and education occupy different institutional spheres. In other words, a graduate student may be both a student and an employee; a university may be both the student's educator and employer" and that, in the view of the NLRB, such roles do not present a serious conflict.

The NLRB then discussed whether permitting students to organize violated academic freedom, and pointed out that the U.S. Supreme Court has held that "academic freedom, in the constitutional sense, involves freedom from government efforts to control or direct the content of the speech engaged in by the university or those affiliated with it" and that no such effort is involved in the set of circumstances before the NLRB.

Lastly, the NLRB said that merely because student assistants may have short, finite terms of employment (such as an academic semester, or less) should not, in itself, be relevant when weighed against the denial of the Act's coverage to large groups of employees.

Perhaps, the most succinct way to describe the NLRB's holding is, in the NLRB's own words – "where a university exerts the requisite control over the research assistant's work, and specific work is performed as a condition of receiving the financial award, a research

assistant is properly treated as an employee under the Act."

The NLRB then held that its decision will permit not only research assistants, but teaching assistants and others, whether attending the university as a graduate student or as an undergraduate, and whether the student's stipend or salary is being funded by the university, by a grant supervised by the university, or by a third party contracting for work to be done by the university, to organize and that all of such students had the right to organize as a single group, since a "sufficient community of interest" existed. "While Master's and undergraduate assistants may, arguably, have different priorities from those of Ph.D. assistants, there are also overarching common interests."

The Columbia decision was not completely unexpected; however, the NLRB's strong reversal of the 2004 Brown decision was. Although the Columbia decision (and the reach of the Act) does not directly affect public universities, private universities are significantly affected. The application of the Act to handbooks, rules, disciplinary proceedings and other aspects of university administration respecting employees is more immediate. Moreover, because student teaching and research assistants, in their respective roles as such, are now considered as employees under the Act, the various decisions of the NLRB in extending rights to unorganized workers in a broad range of areas from social media policies to the sharing of personal information about others will now be applicable to students who are newly considered to be employees.

In a strong dissent to the Columbia decision by one NLRB member, a number of potential consequences of the decision are set forth, such as student assistants who go on strike may not only be forfeiting their monetary compensation during the strike period but, depending on the actions then taken by the student assistants or the university, their academic degrees could be jeopardized or delayed. However, on balance, the Columbia decision is a step forward that has been too long in coming. #

Arthur Katz is of Counsel to Otterbourg P.C.



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Putney, Vermont

Stevenson School Partners With En Garde Arts

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Panel Discussion

marized well by a panelist who said, “I am a better educator than I was two hours ago.”

There was widespread agreement among the panelists and the audience that there are too few opportunities for this type of discussion, in part because there is still a stigma associated with acknowledging concerns exist. Stevenson is proud to lead the charge in acceptance, discussion, and treatment. As the only therapeutic school in Manhattan, our program is uniquely designed to address students’ mental health and wellness issues. However, this doesn’t mean that other schools can’t help their students. Improvements cannot be made without first recognizing and acknowledging that concerns are real.

The play WILDERNESS provided real and multi-faceted depictions without suggesting simple solutions. Other panel discussions will be held throughout the play’s New York run, which ends on November 20. Details can be

found on the En Garde Arts website. A video of the October 24th panel discussion can be found on the Robert Louis Stevenson School website: www.stevenson-school.org. #

Robert B. Cunningham is Head of School at the Robert Louis Stevenson School, New York City’s only therapeutic college preparatory independent school. Bob has served as Head since 2014. Under his leadership, the school has expanded and has become a leader in therapeutic education. He serves on the professional advisory board for the National Center for Learning Disabilities, is an in-house advisor for learning and attention for www.understood.org and is chief consultant at Twenty-First Century Minds. Mr. Cunningham served as Head of The Gateway School from 2004 through 2013. He also served as Chairman of CDE Career Institute, and was named Game Changer in the field of Education by The Huffington Post.

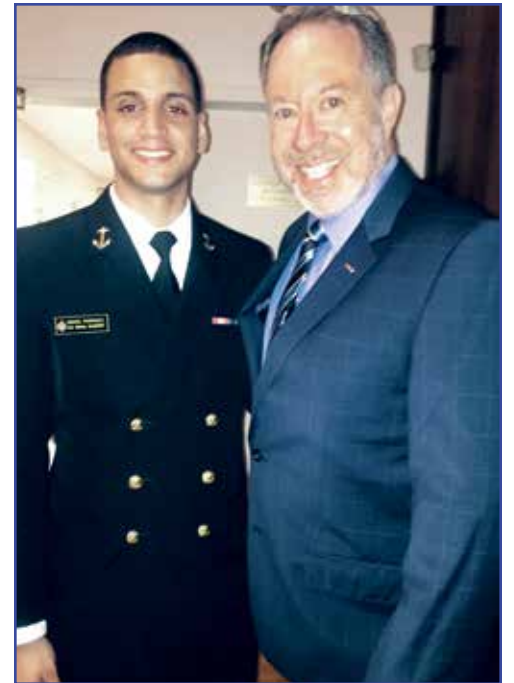
WHAT DO WEST POINT, ANNAPOLIS AND BROOKLYN COLLEGE HAVE IN COMMON?

By DAVID RUDERMAN,
CHAPLAIN, US ARMY, WEST POINT

Jewish cadets at West Point are eager to share their military culture with Jewish civilians and other service academies through celebrating the rich traditions of both Judaism and the US Army.

Jewish Warrior Weekend provides a positive religious experience for attending cadets and civilians of all faiths, facilitates inter-university Jewish cooperation, and achieves positive public exposure of Jewish service members, the United States Military Academy, and the West Point chapter of Hillel. It has occurred annually for more than 10 years.

A recent celebration (oneg) was held and sponsored by David and Karen Everett. Men and women in uniform and of all ethnic groups prayed together, sang and exchanged experiences and thoughts. David Everett, was an officer in the US Army Reserve for 30 years and heroically volunteered for deployment in Iraq, the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan at great personal danger. He currently serves as a judge in Westchester County.#



(L-R) Samuel Rodriguez & David Everett

Special Education in Israel

By GILLIAN GRANOFF

When Beth Steinberg founded Shutaf they were a small community with only a few students housed in the museum in Jerusalem. Inspired by her son Aviva and his own struggle with autism spectrum disorder, Beth struggled to navigate New York’s—her hometown—complicated resources and agencies required to access the valuable training and support that Aviva’s condition required. Beth felt her child was just another number and was afraid he would fall through the cracks. When she and her family moved to Israel, she found a smaller system that was easier to navigate. It offered a more welcoming environment for him to get both a Jewish education and the resources he required.

Beth started with a modest idea. She wanted to give children like Aviva opportunities to interact with other children from similar and dissimilar backgrounds in order to create a community that was not defined by disability. Israel provided the perfect petri dish for her idea. Dubbed “the start-up nation,” Israel cultivates the entrepreneurial spirit in an environment that has become an incubator for innovation and creation. Israelis are not known to

shy from risks. New business ideas and social ventures are encouraged to grow even before funds have been secured.

Beth felt religious schools made cultural sense for Aviva. She found an environment that embraced his disability and his Jewish heritage, while still allowing him access to resources and support that he needed to address his disability. Aviva, now 19, has thrived in his environment. Beth, despite her pleasant experiences, acknowledges that Israel still has many gaps to fill and improvements to make to fully integrate and address the unique needs those with disabilities need to succeed. According to Shutaf’s research, close to 200,000 Israeli children have some sort of disability. An estimated 1,000,000 Israelis of working age also have disabilities. Young people and adults with disabilities are underemployed and suffer terribly from problems related to loneliness, especially as they age. While laws are in place to ensure access, both to education at all levels, as well as to public spaces and employment, many are not enforced. #

Gillian Granoff has been a reporter for Education Update for many years, both in New York and in Israel.

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President Jennifer Raab

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standing in various national rankings has risen dramatically, as have both admission standards and graduation and retention rates. She has also significantly expanded the extraordinary Hunter faculty by recruiting renowned professors, artists, and practitioners from around the world. She strengthened undergraduate liberal arts education and has overseen the growth of the largest and most selective Macaulay Honors program in the City University system. Her investment in the four professional schools at Hunter has led to increased enrollment and national recognition.

Throughout her tenure, President Raab has fostered interdisciplinary work and community engagement across the various Hunter schools and campuses, including the acclaimed Hunter High School. Since she has assumed the Presidency, Hunter has significantly increased its government grants and awards and modernized and strengthened its fiscal management. President Raab has been responsible for securing an unprecedented \$335 million in private philanthropic support for the college, the most successful fundraising campaign in Hunter history.

Members of the 2016 class include winners of the Pulitzer Prize and the Wolf Prize; MacArthur and Guggenheim Fellowships; the Fields Medal; and the Grammy Award and National Book Award.

Founded in 1780, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is one of the country's oldest learned societies and independent policy research centers, convening leaders from the academic, business, and government sectors to respond to the challenges facing—and opportunities available to—the nation and the world. Members contribute to Academy publications and studies of science, engineering, and technology policy; global security and international affairs; the humanities, arts, and education; and American institutions and the public good.

The list of the 236th class of new members is located at www.amacad.org/members.

Hunter College, located in the heart of Manhattan, is the largest college in the City University of New York (CUNY) system. Founded in 1870, it is also one of the oldest public colleges in the country and famous for the diversity of its student body, which is as diverse as New York City itself.

Most Hunter students are the first in their families to attend college and many go on to top professional and graduate programs, winning Fulbright scholarships, Mellon fellowships, National Institutes of Health grants, and other competitive honors. More than 23,000 students currently attend Hunter, pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees in more than 170 areas of study.

The 1,700 full- and part-time members of Hunter's faculty are unparalleled. They receive prestigious national grants, contribute to the world's leading academic journals, and play major roles in cutting-edge research. They are fighting cancer, formulating public policy, expanding our culture, enhancing technology, and more.#

DSM-5 Diagnoses

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hood behavior and has devalued diversity. We should not medicalize difference.

5) Whenever having a psychiatric diagnosis is made a requirement for obtaining special school services, the rate of diagnosis goes up dramatically and inappropriately. This may give the child a short term educational advantage, but saddles him with long term stigma and reduced expectations and risks inappropriate medication prescription.

6) Biological reductionism has falsely assumed that all troubling childhood behaviors result from a chemical imbalance in the brain. Ignoring psychological, social, and educational factors leads to unwarranted medicalization and excessive diagnosis and treatment.

7) Accurate diagnosis in children and adolescents takes a great deal of time in each session and often many sessions over a number of months.

8) It is easy to give a diagnosis, often hard to erase one. If you choose a wrong name, the child will be forced to walk the wrong road.

9) In our country, laws and regulations are frequently written related to one or another specific psychiatric diagnosis. This often results in an increased rate of that disorder and excessive, misguided treatment.

10) Diagnosticians do not have a crystal ball. Often, only time will tell. Diagnostic uncertainty in kids is so great that labels should always be written in pencil."

Thanks so much, Juan and Giselle, for your poetic way of cautioning clinicians to be conservative, never careless or creative, in diagnosing kids. Mislabeling has serious and often longstanding consequences on how the child sees himself, how the family sees the child, and on the misuse of medication. Diagnosis should never be taken lightly.

Two previous blogs offer supplementary reading that I think will be very useful for clinicians, parents, and teachers.

Laura Batstra described her method of 'stepped diagnosis'. If clinicians take the time to really get to know the child and family they will make many fewer, and much more accurate, diagnoses.

And Dave Traxon provided a checklist of the important things every clinician must consider before prescribing psychiatric medication for kids.

Accurate diagnosis in kids is really tough and time consuming. Misdiagnosis in kids is really easy and can be done in 10 minutes. Accurate diagnosis in kids leads to helpful interventions that can greatly improve future life. Misdiagnosis in kids often leads to harmful medication and haunting stigma.

The stakes are high and the harms sometimes permanent. The best way to protect our children is to respect their difference and to accept uncertainty. I really love the idea of writing psychiatric diagnoses in pencil. #

Forum Infancias Board is integrated by Beatriz Janin, Juan Vasen, Gisella Untoiglich, Miguel Tollo, Mabel Rodriguez Ponte, Gustavo Dupuy, Elsa Kahansky and Rosa Silver

Embryos on Ice

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ensures stability and fairness between parties, while preventing so-called Monday Morning Quarterbacking.

More challenging is what should be done with embryos in the absence of such prior agreement. One view generally favors the partner who objects to procreation, arguing that the right not to be a parent is of greater importance to privacy than the right to produce offspring. It should be noted that this approach may favor individuals (often men) with longer procreative lifespans and hence more second chances to sire biological children. Another view (adopted by a few state courts, but not California's) carves out an exception for "last chance" parenting, so that if a party is no longer fertile (eg. beyond menopause or sterilized through cancer treatment), her preference to procreate should win out. Loeb has never alleged such circumstances. Rather, he has written that "keeping the embryos frozen forever is tantamount to killing them." (This is a logically troublesome stance: At what point in time, one might ask, does this "killing" occur?)

What is lost from this entire debate, unfortunately, is the irrational primacy it places upon having genetic children. Might I humbly suggest that Loeb use his vast resources to adopt a pair of children in need of a safe, stable home? That will enable him to be a father, while Ms. Vergara can restrict her participation in a "modern family" to the airwaves. #

Kossoff Lecture

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Dr. Chung highlighted the importance of technology in diagnosing the disease early. "In terms of the diagnosis, it's been interesting to me in the post-genetic era," she said. "We used to wait and see symptoms, but we're now in a genetics-first era, which starts with newborn screening and even pre-natal screening." Screening, when combined with early treatment, can raise the life expectancy of children with the disease.

Cystic fibrosis is a deadly genetic disorder that primarily affects the lungs. According to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, there were 959 newly diagnosed patients in 2013, of which 62% were detected by newborn screening. In 1998, out of 992 newly diagnosed patients, only 5.7% were detected by newborn screening. Cystic fibrosis caused 414 deaths in 2013, and the median age at death was 27.5. The disease causes difficulty breathing, including frequent lung infections that produce mucus, as well as other symptoms like poor growth or clubbing of the fingers and toes. There is no known cure for cystic fibrosis.

Phyllis Kossoff founded the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in memory of her daughter, Stephanie Lynn Kossoff, who lost her life as a freshman at Barnard College after living with the disease for 19 years. Today, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is the world's leading force in financing research and spreading awareness to eradicate the disease. #

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FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE MADELEINE ALBRIGHT OFFERS FRANK DISCUSSION

By KISA SCHELL

In her classically witty and terse fashion, former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright started off her discussion with “Every younger brother wants to auction off his sister.” This reception, was hosted by the founder of Asia Initiatives, Dr. Geeta. Madam Albright spoke at length about her numerous engagements, reflecting on the changing world since her time as Secretary of State: “We are looking at ways of how to deal with what I think is one of the most complicated subjects in the world at the moment. I think the world is truly as complicated as anything I have ever seen and part of it is the double-edged sword of everything. Globalization is clearly the way that we all now operate and we know how interconnected we are. But it has a downside, and that is that it’s so faceless. People are feeling lost and are looking for how to identify with their own kind. There’s nothing wrong with trying to figure out who you are. The only problem is when your identity decides to hate the people next door with some other identity. So all of a sudden, there’s this kind of exclusionary aspect towards things and I believe that there’s nothing more dangerous— patriotism is nice, nationalism is dangerous. Seeing what’s happening in Europe where the EU is supposed to take care of national differences, all of a sudden national differences have been exacerbated and you’ve got the Hungarians acting perfectly dreadfully towards everybody and it’s really a problem. That kind of nationalist phenomenon that has been set loose is a major problem for us to deal with. The other double-edged sword is technology. It has clearly connected us and empowered a lot of people, especially women and especially where bills can be paid and you don’t have to walk all over and all kinds of things. The problem is that it has created what I call a ‘political-phenomenon’ that we are dealing with as people: it has disaggregated voices and everybody is getting their own information from that they already listen to. It’s kind of an echo-chamber of things that they believe and everybody has their own version of the truth. You should be very glad that you don’t live in Washington because when I drive, I listen to right-wing radio and I get very angry and it’s amazing that I have not been arrested. But I do think it’s important to listen to what you disagree with. But too many people are just listening to what they already believe in. And then I stole this line from somebody but it works so well that I just have to repeat it: People are talking to their governments on 21st century technology, their governments hear them on 20th century technology and are providing 19th century responses. There’s no confidence in institutions and it’s true of international institutions, it’s true of federal national institutions, and the only people that are really trusted are local— the mayors or city councils. But on the



whole, there’s a complete disconnect between governments and how the people feel. So I think the world is a mess (that’s a diplomatic term of art), and I think we’re at a very difficult time. The issue truly is, for somebody who very proudly represented the United States, trying to figure out what our role is. One of the things that I do when I teach is that every country makes decisions based on five factors. And they are objective, which is what is the country’s geographical location, what is the resource space, what are the demographics. The United States very rarely changes their objective factors, actually the Soviet Union did change its geographical location, the borders of Russia are different than the borders of the Soviet Union. Our objective factor that has recently changed is the oil fracking and what it has meant in terms of energy and dependence. The second

factor is subjective, how do the people feel? That’s much harder to measure. And there’s no question in terms of the United States that the people are tired from Afghanistan and Iraq and foreigners and a variety of our issues. The third is how is our government organized? In our case, executive-legislative relations where two different parties control various branches of government, that creates an issue. The fourth factor are bureaucratic politics that are reflected in what our budget looks like because that shows, basically, what our priorities are. And the fifth are the role of individuals. And it’s just a great analytical tool to figure out. I make my students not only do our 5 factors, but the 5 factors for every country we deal with and it’s just a good way to analyze things.”

Speaking about the current presidential race, Albright voiced her support for Hillary Clinton

and reflected on how democracy plays a role in our campaigns: “As chairman of the board of the National Democratic Institute, who believes in democracy, and we have offices everywhere and people ask us: ‘What is the main element of democracy?’ And I say ‘Compromise,’ and they say, ‘Yeah, like you guys?’ So clearly, we are not very good examples of that. But those are the issues that are out there and the campaign is very much out there in terms of support.”

Albright then opened the floor to discussion and was asked one particularly poignant question about what it takes to get people to collaborate. She stated: “I think it’s the most important question. The only way to do this is to put yourself into somebody else’s shoes. I think that diplomacy is frankly about trying to figure out what the other people need and compromise and try to figure out how they do their 5 factors or whatever their various issues are. And we have stopped doing that. And I think partially, it goes to this point of thinking that— if I may put it this way— there are a lot of Americans who feel that we have been taken advantage of and that we have sacrificed blood and treasure in Afghanistan and nobody is grateful. Americans are the most generous people in the world with the shortest attention span. What I talk about a little bit is something called the Karzai effect, based on President Karzai who not only didn’t thank us for the number of Americans and NATO partners who had died in Afghanistan, but who had said we had done it all wrong. There really is this kind of sense that if people don’t appreciate what we do, to hell with it. We are just going to worry about ourselves. What needs to happen is the understanding that empathy and listening to other people is the most important part of it and it does come down to individuals. I think governments can do an awful lot. I do think NGOs and individuals and various organizations can and must develop the kind of ties that allow that. And it’s hard if you’re not appreciated. But I do think that, actually President Clinton said it first, that we are an indispensable nation. I said it so often that it became identified with me. There is nothing in the word indispensable that means alone. It just means that we have to be engaged. And the word came up, frankly, when the Clinton administration took over, we had spend so much time abroad that people under the Regan administration were trying to figure out in terms of doing things abroad that American people felt left out. But those of us in National Security issues felt that unless the U.S. is involved, nothing happens. I know what it was like to sit around the table at the United Nations and know that if the U.S. did not speak, nothing happened. We don’t have to be first, we don’t have to be always out there telling people what to do. But we need to be engaged, either as governments, NGOs or individuals. And I think that’s the only way.” #

China Institute

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she founded Rose Studio, which propelled her to international fame and gave her the reputation of one of China's most daring and prolific designers. Her style borrows elements of traditional Chinese court culture and combines them with Renaissance-inspired designs and silhouettes. In 2015, her dress caused a stir when Rihanna wore it to the Met's Costume Gala. The dress featured a golden-yellow floor-length cape and a large train with yellow fur edging.

Under Richard Gelfond, IMAX has transformed itself from a niche provider of science and nature content to a Hollywood movie force. In 2015, IMAX presented some of the year's highest-grossing blockbusters, like *Jurassic World*. 17 years ago, Gelfond expanded IMAX into China, merging seamlessly with the burgeoning Chinese film and exhibition industry. Today IMAX employs more than 90 Chinese nationals with offices in Shanghai and Beijing, as well as nearly 341 theaters across the country.

Bob Chapek joined Walt Disney Parks and Resorts in February 2015 as Chairman. He oversees the travel and leisure businesses, including six resorts in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Chapek leads a global team of over 135,000 Cast Members, Crew Members, and Imagineers whose mission includes conjuring the special Disney magic for millions of guests per year.

China Institute was founded in New York City in 1926. It is the oldest bi-cultural, non-profit organization in the United States to focus exclusively on China-U.S. relations. China Institute offers programs, courses, and seminars on various aspects of culture such as visual and performing arts, history, music, and literature for learners of all ages. #

American Museum of NH

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commit to teaching in New York State for four years. The 15-month program is fully funded and prepares teachers in earth and space science for grades 7 to 12 in high-need schools. New Jersey native Maya Pincus, who visited the museum as a child, learned of the MAT program through a Google search. She is already teaching at the Urban Assembly School for Criminal Justice and reported, "This program has prepared me beyond belief." MAT recipient Arthur Funk, who is teaching earth and agricultural science at Lehman College's Celia Cruz High School, explained he designs his classes to include lessons on climate change and food sources, subjects "outside the standard curriculum but necessary for future voting citizens to understand." His goal is not to give answers, but "to get his students to think about difficult questions." The museum program, said Funk, is "top notch." MAT candidates spend four days a week co-teaching in a city school, and all-day Saturday studying at the museum. Pincus taught with Stephen Riemersma at Brooklyn's Midwood High School. Impressed with the program, master teacher Riemersma explained that he received support and access to resources from the museum. The program, he reported, is "much more comprehensive than ones from other colleges. It is very immersive." The MAT program has already produced 50 graduates who are teaching in high need schools around the state, including in New York City.

At the commencement, special recognition was given to Maritza Macdonald, the special director of education policy, who is retiring in January after twenty years of service at the museum. She was cited for "her enormous contributions to science education at the museum and internationally."#

The Feminist Press

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ways," described supermodel Beverly Johnson in her introduction. In her acceptance speech, Sheila Johnson thanked the many women who have been influential in her life. She ended her speech with a buoyant recall of Madeline Albright's famous quote: "there's a place in hell for women who don't support other women" to thunderous applause.

Visionary philanthropist Susan Berresford spent nearly four decades with the Ford Foundation and was deeply involved for many initiatives that directly impacted the growth of women's studies while plaintiff-side employment attorneys Debra L. Raskin and Anne Vladeck have championed for women's rights in the workplace for more than thirty years. CUNY Trustee and founder of Bradford Construction Sandra Wilkin has grown her construction management firm into one of the leading woman-owned business enterprises in New York's \$50 billion building industry. #

The Circle

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geometry of the circle. The Greek mathematician Archimedes (287-212 BCE) using sand and a sharp stylus as a compass, designed and developed war machines used against the Romans. He lost his life despite the edict of victorious Rome to spare the life of this invaluable scientist and mathematician. An unsuspecting and uninformed Roman Legionnaire beheaded Archimedes while he was studying by drawing circles in the sand.

Early astronomers and theologians used the circle to evolve and describe their respective fields. Artists such as Escher and Rembrandt used the geometry of circles in their art. The engineers in the space program of today, the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEW YORK, NY

Mary Erina Driscoll, Dean,
The City College of New York

To the Editor:

I was a former doctoral student in Dean Driscoll's class at NYU. She is an amazing teacher and educator. I am currently a professor at Bronx Community College and have applied what I learned in her classroom with the work that I do with first-generation urban community college students.

Nelson Reynoso

BOCA RATON, FL

I Don't Hear America Singing
in the South Bronx

To the Editor:

Wow, Gisella! Very impressive. I have always been so proud of you.

Elizabeth Moscoso

IBARRA, ECUADOR

Don't Blame Teachers for Shortcomings
of Teacher Prep Programs

To the Editor:

Greetings from Ecuador. I have read this column and came to a question: what guides your teaching work as an institution? In my country, some teachers say we are guided by Jean Piaget. Others say we are guided by Ausubel, and yet others will say Vigotski.

Dennis Mauricio Cevallos

engineers designing the robotic technology for medicine, and pure mathematicians are all working to make our lives better today using the knowledge of the math and geometric principles of the circle.#

TRANSITIONING FROM COLLEGE TO CAREER: AN INTERVIEW WITH CAITLIN LEAHY, ACCOUNTANT

By LUCAS MAUTNER

Caitlin Leahy graduated from NYU in 2014 with a Bachelors Degree in Accounting & Marketing and a Masters Degree in Accounting. She is currently a Tax Senior at a Big Four accounting firm. She sat down with EDUCATION UPDATE to discuss the transition from college to the workforce and to share some advice.

EU: What was your favorite and least favorite major class? Favorite and least favorite non-major class?

CL: I'd have to say my favorite major class was Financial Accounting. My least favorite major class was International Business. My favorite non-major class was The Science of Happiness and my least favorite was Writing the Essay, which is NYU's freshman comp.

EU: What was the biggest shock transitioning from college to the workforce?

CL: For me, it was the realization that this is the rest of my life. For the next forty years, until I retire, I will basically be doing the same

thing every day. There is no end date.

EU: Were you excited to graduate or reluctant?

CL: I was definitely excited.

EU: What skills did you learn in college that prepared you for your job?

CL: It wasn't a skill I learned in class or from a textbook. I worked 50 hours a week while going to school. The endurance, the ability to work hard and for long hours, is the best thing I can take from college. I use it every day. It definitely prepared me to do the same in the real world.

EU: What skills did you wish you learned in college that could have helped your job?

CL: I wish that we got a chance to try the job that we were going into before selecting it. College doesn't prepare you for the real life



Caitlin Leahy

work force. I would have had more realistic expectations if it was a required thing we had to do in school. I worked a lot in college, but I was not prepared for the corporate culture.

EU: What was one thing you learned in school that you don't use in your job?

CL: Italian.

EU: How are the relationships with your coworkers different than those with your schoolmates?

CL: My friendships with my coworkers, both while I was in school and now in my corporate job, are much stronger than the relationships I had with my schoolmates. Work is hard. It's demanding. Bills are hard to keep up with. I felt like a lot of my schoolmates and I couldn't relate because we were on two completely different levels. I worked

a lot and they had all the time in the world to just focus on school. My coworkers and I dealt with a lot of the same issues in life. We had to focus on making money, we had to focus on paying rent, on paying bills and credit cards. We also spent a lot more time together. A class is only one to two hours. A work shift is eight to twelve. There's just more time to bond with coworkers.

EU: Bosses or professors: which do you prefer?

CL: Bosses—even when I was in school. You can just relate to them on a lot more personal level.

EU: Knowing what you know now, what piece of advice would you give to your graduating self?

CL: I would tell myself, "Don't wish to grow up so fast. Money is nice, and it's nice to be independent from your family, but being a waitress will be the most fun you'll ever have in your life. Enjoy it for as long as you can."#

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