50th Anniversary Spring Convocation Looks Ahead

The spring convocation, celebrating the Graduate Center’s fiftieth anniversary on April 16 in Elebash Recital Hall, showcased the creative brand of scholarship that has made the Graduate Center a unique institution. Presentations by six newer members of the doctoral faculty illuminated areas of future inquiry. After an introduction by GC Provost Chase Robinson, Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences Ruth Wilson Gilmore spoke on “Incarceration”; Distinguished Professor of History David Sorkin on “Enlightenment”; Professor of History Herman Bennett on “Diaspora”; Associate Professor of Music and Medieval Studies Anne Stone on “Song”; Distinguished Professor of Political Science Uday Mehta on “Violence”; and Distinguished Professor of Philosophy Jesse Prinz discoursed on “Brains.”

The convocation was sponsored by the Advanced Research Collaborative (ARC). Under the leadership of Professor of Anthropology Donald Robotham, executive officer of the Office of Educational Opportunity and Diversity Programs, ARC brings together the collaborative research activities of the Graduate Center, promoting interdisciplinary research, partnering with GC research centers, institutes, and interdisciplinary committees, connecting GC research programs with research activities at the CUNY colleges, and providing a home for outstanding visiting scholars to work with GC faculty and students.
Two New Distinguished Professors Appointed

Two members of the doctoral faculty have been named distinguished professors at the Graduate Center: Carol C. Gould in philosophy and Mitchell B. Schaffler in engineering. The appointments were effective as of February 1, 2012.

Carol C. Gould, an internationally recognized scholar, came to Hunter College in 2009 and has been on the doctoral faculty in philosophy and political science since then. She is highly regarded for work that addresses difficult problems in social and political philosophy in original and creative ways, with a sensitivity to the relationship between philosophy and practical experience. Her particular interests range across democratic theory, feminist theory, applied ethics, and the philosophy of law and of human rights. She has published more than sixty articles, and her book Interactive Democracy: The Social Roots of Global Justice is forthcoming in 2013. Her previous books include Globalizing Democracy and Human Rights (2004), which won the David Easton Book Award from the American Political Science Association, Rethinking Democracy: Freedom and Social Cooperation in Politics, Economy, and Society (1988), and Marx’s Social Ontology (1978). Gould is director of the Center for Global Ethics and Politics at the Ralph Bunche Institute, executive director of the Society for Philosophy and Public Affairs, and editor of the Journal of Social Philosophy, as well as series editor for global ethics and politics at Temple University Press. Her numerous awards include a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award in Paris and a Fulbright Chair Professorship at the European University Institute, a fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, a National Science Foundation grant, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Rockefeller Foundation. She earned a Ph.D. from Yale University.

Mitchell B. Schaffler came to City College in 2008 as Wallace Coulter and Presidential Professor of Biomedical Engineering after serving eight years as director of Orthopaedic Research at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. A renowned expert in bone biomechanics, he has done significant research on skeletal fragility and aging, osteoporosis, and osteoarthritis. Schaffler was the youngest recipient of the Remodeling in Bone Award from the International Bone and Mineral Society, and he has received continuous research funding from the National Institutes of Health, NASA, and the Department of Defense. His hundred-plus peer-reviewed publications have garnered thousands of citations, and he serves on the editorial boards of Bone and Anatomical Record. He also serves as director of the New York Center for Biomedical Engineering, a research consortium among City College and six New York City hospitals, medical schools, and research centers. He is a fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering and the American Association of Anatomists. Schaffler holds a Ph.D. in anatomy from West Virginia University and served as a postdoc in radiobiology with the University of Utah and U.S. Department of Energy.

The GC Celebrates Two Guggenheim Winners

Two members of the Graduate Center doctoral faculty have been awarded 2012 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowships: Dagmar Herzog, Daniel Rose Faculty Scholar and professor of history, and Joan Richardson, professor of English, comparative literature, liberal studies, and American studies. There were 220 Fellowships awarded this year to artists, scientists, and scholars; the winners were selected from a group of 3,000 applicants in the Foundation’s eighty-eighth annual competition for citizens and permanent residents of the United States and Canada. As categorized by the foundation’s website, these awards “are intended for men and women who have already demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.”
Dagmar Herzog, Daniel Rose Faculty Scholar and professor of history at the Graduate Center, was awarded a fellowship for a trans-Atlantic research project on the European and American histories of psychoanalysis, trauma, and desire. It is titled “With History in Mind: Psychoanalysis in a Postwar World.” Appointed to the Graduate Center in August 2005, Herzog conducts transnational and comparative research on how religion and secularization have affected social and political developments in modern Europe. An expert on the histories of Nazism and the Holocaust and their aftermath, she gives particular attention in her research to methodological innovations in critical source analysis and in gender and sexuality studies. She is the author of Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History, Sex in Crisis: The New Sexual Revolution and the Future of American Politics, Sex after Fascism: Memory and Morality in Twentieth-Century Germany, and Intimacy and Exclusion: Religious Politics in Pre-Revolutionary Baden. She has edited six anthologies, including Brutality and Desire: War and Sexuality in Europe’s Twentieth Century and Lessons and Legacies VII: The Holocaust in International Perspective; and has published in more than twenty journals and edited volumes. Herzog earned her B.A. at Duke University and her M.A. and Ph.D. at Brown University. She was a Mellon Faculty Fellow at Harvard and a member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

Joan Richardson, professor of English, comparative literature, liberal studies, and American studies and executive officer of the M.A. Program in Liberal Studies, was awarded a fellowship for her project titled “Images, Shadows of Divine Things,” a secular, spiritual autobiography, an experiment in hybrid form. She joined the faculty in 1987. Author of a two-volume biography of the poet Wallace Stevens, she coedited, with Frank Kermode, Wallace Stevens: Collected Poetry and Prose. Her study A Natural History of Pragmatism: The Fact of Feeling from Jonathan Edwards to Gertrude Stein was nominated for the 2011 Grawemeyer Award in Religion. She is currently at work completing another volume for Cambridge, “Pragmatism and American Culture.” Her essays and interviews on such topics as Stevens, Ralph Waldo Emerson, William James, poetry, pragmatism, and the HBO series Deadwood have appeared in, among others, the Wallace Stevens Journal, Raritan, Configurations, The Hopkins Review, and Bookforum, and as chapters in edited volumes. Her awards include a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and a Senior Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Richardson’s work reflects an abiding interest in the ways that philosophy, natural history, and science intersect with literature. Having grown up bilingual and having learned to read and write Demotic Greek before learning those skills in English, she has always been deeply preoccupied with the nature of language itself. Being “in Greek” remains an essential aspect of her experience and informs her Guggenheim project.

Elebash Swings at Anniversary Benefit Concert

The 50th Anniversary Benefit Concert brought Vince Giordano and the Nighthawks to Elebash Recital Hall on April 19. A popular musician and music scholar, Giordano’s expertise in 1920s and 1930s music has given his Nighthawks band a key role in HBO’s hit series Boardwalk Empire. The concert showcased the work of Chappie Willet, a legendary arranger of the swing era who scored big-band hits for the likes of Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Gene Krupa. Some of the pieces had not been performed live for over seventy years.

Willet’s arrangements were edited or transcribed by GC alumnus John Wriggle, who wrote his doctoral dissertation about Willet. Wriggle holds teaching positions at John Jay College, City College, and Rutgers University. His resume includes credits as music editor for the Oscar and Grammy-winning scores of the Lord of the Rings trilogy, as founding member of the new music collective Anti-Social Music, and as recording trombonist for Brit-pop icon Tom Jones. His most recent article, which examines Willet’s arrangement of Beethoven’s “Sonata Pathétique,” will appear in Journal of the Society for American Music.
Robotham to Head Advanced Research Collaborative

Dr. Donald Robotham (Prof., GC, Anthropology) has agreed to serve as inaugural director of the GC’s new Advanced Research Collaborative (ARC). In this capacity, explained GC Provost Chase Robinson, Robotham will work directly with GC research centers, institutes, and interdisciplinary committees to “foster connections between the research activities of CUNY faculty at the colleges and GC research programs and seminars; and provide a home for outstanding visiting scholars, postdocs, and others to collaborate with faculty and students.”

As the focal point of the GC’s collaborative research activities, ARC will bring to realization the third goal of the GC’s 2012–16 Strategic Plan, which states: “The Graduate Center will deepen its research culture and increase its prominence as a national and international center of advanced learning and Ph.D. training by leveraging the depth and breadth of faculty excellence, the academic and cultural assets of New York City, and CUNY’s scale.”

Robotham is a graduate of the University of the West Indies and obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1987. A critic of the concepts of postcolonialism and postmodernism, he has worked extensively in the English-speaking Caribbean as well as among the gold miners of Ghana in West Africa, focusing on issues of development and concomitant difficulties caused by advanced capitalist globalization.

For the past three years, he has served as executive officer of the Office of Educational Opportunity and Diversity Programs (OEODP), a project that provides services to all graduate students enrolled at CUNY, but particularly those from underrepresented groups. Regarding his additional duties as ARC’s inaugural director, Robotham says, “The most important thing is to build collaborative research around the interests and strengths of our GC and CUNY faculty and to exploit digital technology to the fullest to maximize the collaborative sharing of ideas and data.”

Robotham, along with Robinson and Associate Provosts Louise Lennihan and Ann Henderson, welcome input, ideas, and suggestions, and encourage active participation from throughout the GC community, as they work together to establish the collaborative. For more information about it, see http://www.gc.cuny.edu/About-the-GC/Provosts-Office/Strategic-Plan/Strategic-Planning-Council-(1).

Faculty Lunch Hears of Future Plans and Lost Languages

“Today, for the first time in four years, I have nothing to say about the budget!” declared President William P. Kelly, who gave opening remarks at the spring luncheon for central faculty on February 7. “This gives us a chance to look forward rather than to simply scuttle about with numbers.”

Kelly drew attention to the Graduate Center’s “Strategic Plan,” which seeks to chart a future for the institution over the next five years in response to fiscal uncertainty and decreasing investment in public higher education. Within the next few years, said the president, the Graduate Center will “focus intensely” on readying current and future doctoral students for the ever-changing “landscape of American higher education.” The plans include increasing financial aid, pursuing competitive funding, and establishing an Office for Professional Development and Placement, which will provide support in preparing résumés and finding employment as well as instruction on using academic software systems, such as Blackboard and Moodle.

Among Kelly’s other goals is “enhancing our research culture . . . everything from extending the transdisciplinary approach that we initiated with funding from the Mellon Foundation to investing in a variety of new faculty positions and supporting selected centers and institutes.”

Following Kelly’s address, Provost Chase Robinson introduced Juliette Blevins (Prof., GC, Linguistics), who served as honorary speaker at the luncheon. A world-class
phonologist, Blevins gave a brief presentation on “Endangered Languages and Linguistic Research.”

“We are living in the middle of a global language crisis,” Blevins said. Only “eight languages in the world, which [collectively] are spoken by over half of the human population,” continue to thrive, while “thousands” of minority languages are “severely endangered, and around four hundred are on the verge of extinction.” She offered other dismal facts. Since the 1990s, languages have been vanishing fast: “One language dies every two weeks . . . and fifty to ninety percent of the world’s languages will disappear this century.”

How do languages vanish and why? Aside from disease, short life expectancy, war, genocide, and natural disaster—all of which threaten languages spoken in remote corners of the world—Blevins suggests that many speakers are abandoning their cultural roots because of “attitudes” toward their language’s viability in a world dominated by the titans of language: Arabic, Bengali, English, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Urdu.

“The bottom line,” said Blevins, “is that language loss means the loss of centuries of accumulated human knowledge . . . when a language disappears, we don’t know what history, ecological knowledge, or what scientific discoveries could be lost with it.”

But there’s hope for preserving and revitalizing waning unique languages. By promoting multilingualism in education and beyond, Blevins, joined by her colleagues and students in the GC’s Ph.D. Program in Linguistics, will continue to work with minority speakers and pioneer the field of linguistics, with the goal of preserving and studying languages on the cusp of extinction.

—Rachel Ramírez

Art History Program Adds Traditional Korean Art

Thanks to a three-year $75,000 grant from the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS), the Ph.D. Program in Art History is now offering courses in traditional Korean art. In the spring semester Youngsook Pak, a leading authority on Korean art and a visiting professor from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, initiated the pilot course. Dr. Pak, a pioneer in teaching the history of Korean art, studied Eastern and Western art history at the universities of Heidelberg and Cologne and at Harvard and received her Ph.D. in East Asian art history from Heidelberg in 1981. In the coming semesters, the art history program will offer additional doctoral seminars not only in traditional and contemporary Korean art but also in Korean architecture and urbanism. The AKS award will also support the creation of visual resources for teaching Korean art as part of the program’s CUNY DiD project, one of the foremost online searchable databases of digital images in use in the United States.
Faculty Honors

Zaghoul Ahmed (Asst. Prof., Staten Island, Physical Therapy) is one of only five research scientists to receive the prestigious 2011 NYC BioAccelerate Award. Ahmed’s research seeks to benefit individuals suffering from neurological disorders.

Robert Bittman (Dist. Prof., Queens, Biochemistry, Chemistry) provided the keynote speech on “Synthetic Sphingolipids as Immunoregulatory Agents” at the 2011 Southeast Regional Lipid Conference in Cashiers, North Carolina.

Randolph L. Braham (Dist. Prof. Emer., City, Political Science), director of the Rosenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies, was awarded the Order of Cultural Merit, Commander Rank of the Romanian Republic. The ceremony took place on March 19 at the Consulate General of Romania in New York City.


Joseph W. Dauben (Dist. Prof., Lehman, History) was awarded the 2012 Albert Leon Whitman Prize, established by the American Mathematical Society in 1998, for his contributions to the history of Western and Chinese mathematics and for deepening and broadening the international mathematical community’s awareness and understanding of its history and culture.

David Del Tredici (Dist. Prof., City, Music), a Pulitzer Prize–winning composer, was honored with two productions celebrating his 75th birthday. On March 15, soprano Courtenay Budd joined Del Tredici at Symphony Space in performing two of his song cycles for soprano and piano, “Miz Inez Sez,” and “Lament for the Death of the Bullfighter.” In between pieces, he discussed his life and work with composer and Symphony Space artistic director Laura Kaminsky. On March 25 and 26, in a presentation by OPERAtion Brooklyn in Dumbo’s Galapagos Art Space, Del Tredici accompanied a ten-piece orchestra and singers presenting his burlesque opera “Haddocks’ Eyes,” which was commissioned by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and premiered at Alice Tully Hall in 1986.

Jason Eckardt (Assoc. Prof., Brooklyn, Music), cofounder and executive director of Ensemble 21, was awarded his second commission for a new composition from the Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation at the Library of Congress. He is also working on a new chamber music piece featuring a piano solo with strings for the NOVA Chamber Music Series of Salt Lake City, Utah.

Abdeslem El Idrissi (Asst. Prof., Staten Island, Biology) served as chair and William L’Amoreaux (Assoc. Prof., Staten Island, Biology) as cochair of the organizing committee for the 18th International Taurine Meeting this April in Marrakech, Morocco. Both led sessions and presented plenary talks during the conference.

Raymond Erickson (Prof. Emer., Queens, Music) was appointed to the Spring 2012 faculty of Juilliard’s new historical performance program, which recently was endowed with a $20 million gift. He also will be giving the keynote speech in April at the Baldwin-Wallace College Bach Festival, one of the nation’s oldest.

Mauricio A. Font (Prof., Queens, Sociology), director of the Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies, gave an interview to Fox News on the upcoming visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Cuba. The interview was aired in late March.

K. E. Saavik Ford (Asst. Prof., BMCC, Physics) was featured in the March 2012 issue of the Clarion for her work in astronomy at CUNY and the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), where she works as a research associate. The article discusses the research she conducts with her husband Barry McKernan, also of the BMCC faculty, on supermassive black holes—of which they have analyzed 245.

Ofelia Garcia (Prof., GC, Urban Education, Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures and Languages) was elected to the Hunter College Hall of Fame.
David A. Gerstner (Prof., Staten Island, Theatre) was selected for a 2012 Choice Outstanding Academic Title for his book Queer Pollen: White Seduction, Black Male Homosexuality, and the Cinematic (University of Illinois Press, 2011). The award is granted by Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries, a source for reviews of academic books, electronic media, and internet resources to those in higher education.

David Harvey (Dist. Prof., GC, Anthropology, Earth and Environmental Sciences, History) was recently elected an Honorary Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge.

Sylvia Kahan (Prof., Staten Island, Music) served as keynote speaker at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center’s Winter Festival 2012. Her lecture, focused on the influential, avant-garde salon of Winnaretta Singer, Princesse de Polignac.

Barbara Mackenzie (Adj. Asst. Prof., GC, Music), director of the Barry S. Brook Center for Music Research and Documentation and editor-in-chief of Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale (RILM), has been elected president of NFAIS (the National Federation of Advanced Information Services). NFAIS is a member organization of which RILM, the world’s most comprehensive music bibliography, is a part. The presidency is a three-year cycle; Mackenzie’s term as president-elect is just ending, and next year she will be past president.

Douglas Mennin (Assoc. Prof., Hunter, Psychology) was interviewed by three media in March. He provided scientific perspective on the Jet Blue pilot’s breakdown on the 11 o’clock NBC News on March 29, spoke about antianxiety medication on NPR’s “The Leonard Lopate Show” on March 23, and was quoted on the same topic in “Listening to Xanax,” Lisa Miller’s New York magazine cover story on March 18.


Janet E. Poppendieck (Prof., Hunter, Sociology, Public Health) was among ten winners of a 2011 James Beard Foundation Inaugural Leadership Award, which recognizes visionaries in the business, government, and education sectors responsible for creating a healthier, safer, and more sustainable food world.


Pamela Sheingorn (Prof. Emer., Baruch, History, Theatre), a leading authority in the fields of medieval culture, medieval history, and women’s history, was honored by Elina Gertsman, Assistant Professor of Medieval Art at Case Western Reserve University, and Jill Stevenson, Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts at Marymount Manhattan College, for her past and ongoing contributions to medieval studies. Gertsman and Stevenson dedicated their book Threshold of Medieval Visual Culture: Liminal Spaces (Boydell Press, 2012) to Sheingorn.

Judith Stein (Prof., City, History), along with her class, was filmed on March 27 by C-Span for broadcast in its American history series. The subject of the class was a discussion of Stein’s book, Pivotal Decade: How the United States Traded Factories for Finance in the 1970s (Yale University Press, 2010).

Appointments to the GC’s Doctoral Faculty

The following is a list of appointments to the doctoral faculty from December 10, 2011, to March 9, 2012. Listed after each name are the faculty member’s home college or home institution and fields of specialization.

AFRICANA STUDIES, CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Charles St. Clair Green, Hunter: Race and ethnic relations, development and modernization, comparative urban studies.
ART HISTORY, PH.D. PROGRAM
Amanda Wunder, Lehman: Spanish and Baroque art.

BIOLOGY, PH.D. PROGRAM
Hyungsik Lim, Hunter: Neuroimaging, multiphoton microscopy, biomedical engineering, biophysics.
Ina Vandebroek, Adjunct, New York Botanical Garden: Ethnobiology, ethnomedicine and community health, migrant studies, conservation.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PH.D. PROGRAM
Alex R. Piquero, Adjunct, John Jay: Criminology, public policy, aggression and violent behavior.

LIBERAL STUDIES, M.A. PROGRAM
Juan Battle, GC: Sociology, public health, urban education.
Stephen Brier, GC: Urban education.
Matthew K. Gold, NYCC: Digital humanities in research and teaching: history, theory, design, and practice.
Elizabeth Macaulay Lewis, GC: Garden archaeology, ancient nursery site in the Western Delta of Alexandria.
Eugenia Paulicelli, Queens: Comparative literature.
Robert Reid-Pharr, GC: English.
Joe Rollins, Queens: Political science.
Thomas G. Weiss, GC: Political science.

MATHEMATICS, PH.D. PROGRAM
Alexey Ovchinnikov, Queens: Differential algebra, differential and difference, symbolic computation, Galois theory.
Benjamin Steinberg, City: Semigroup theory, group theory, representation theory, automatic theory.

SPEECH–LANGUAGE–HEARING SCIENCES, PH.D. PROGRAM
Lauren Calandruccio, Queens: Speech perception in nonnative listeners, spectral information and speech recognition, perception of speech by individuals with hearing impairment.

URBAN EDUCATION, PH.D. PROGRAM
Margo E. Delli Carpini, Lehman: TESOL, interdisciplinary teacher collaboration, second language literary development, content basis instruction.

GC Grants in January and February
In January and February 2012, the Graduate Center received thirty grants totaling $1,185,775.00. The name(s) of the principal investigator(s), the awarding agency, the title of the project, and the amount of each grant are listed below. This information was submitted by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Rodolfo Corchado (Anthropology), Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund, “Scholarship,” $1,000.
The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society Welcomes International Fellows

Six new senior international fellows representing foundations in five countries participated in a one-month professional development program at the Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society in March.

The fellows—who came from New Zealand, Australia, Mexico, Tanzania, and the United States—were representing the Auckland Communities Foundation, Freemantle Foundation, Fundación Merced, ASB Community Trust, the Foundation for Civil Society, and Pine Tree Foundation of New York, Inc.
Their work in March focused on the adaptation of the community foundation model to various geo-cultural environments, best practices of foundations, and partnerships as a means of advancing their work. In addition to writing position papers, the fellows participated in seminars on U.S. and international voluntary-sector activities; learned about the work of key agencies through readings and site visits; and met with leaders and scholars in the nonprofit field.

The incoming group brings to 162 the number of international fellows participating since the program’s inception in 1989. They will join an international network of researchers and practitioners from fifty-seven countries who are working in the fields of philanthropy and civil society.

The Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society is dedicated to strengthening philanthropy and civil society through education, research, and leadership training, and its alumni are working to strengthen cultures of philanthropy around the globe. For more information: www.philanthropy.org.

The James Gallery Focuses on Transitions in Urban Life

“The Shifters exhibition and the screening of Women without Men support the theme of ‘Transition’ that I chose this year for the James Gallery,” said Dr. Katherine Carl, gallery curator and deputy director of the Center for the Humanities. “They show how transitions in the city are effected in public and private spaces by new media, alterations to the usual roles of sound and architecture, and changing actors, particularly women.”

Shifters, which ran from November 16, 2011, to February 17, 2012, presented three video practices that told city stories in different styles: the videos by Egyptian artist Hala Elkoussy follow, in a slow-moving, poetic mode, women trying to find their place in a Cairo that’s constantly in flux; kuda.org, a group of activist artists, investigated in documentary style the possibility of transforming into a refuge for artists an abandoned military structure in Novi Sad, Serbia; and Angel Nevarez and Valerie Tevere made a hybrid mariachi music video to alter the unspoken rules of conduct in the Plaza of Liberation in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Women without Men (2009), adapted by the award-winning New York–based Iranian filmmaker and photographer Shirin Neshat from a novella by the widely published and translated Shahrnush Parsipur, who lives now in Berkeley, California, was screened on February 22 as part of the Center for the Humanities’ Artists and Writers series. This poetic film, which owes much to European filmmakers such as Antonioni, is filled with striking images, sometimes horrifying and often surrealistic and magical, as it follows the intertwining lives of four Iranian women from different social classes who struggle to find their place in Tehran society during Iran’s 1953 political upheavals, whether in a
private inner sphere, symbolized by changing images of nature, or in the male-dominated political and often violent public space.

After the screening, the two exiled Iranian artists joined moderator Carl on the stage of Proshansky Auditorium for a discussion of the film and their shared concern for the position of women in Iranian society.

Opening on March 14 and running until June 2 is a new exhibition in the James Gallery, *Common Assembly*, the first New York show by Decolonizing Architecture Art Residency (DAAR), an art and architecture collective and residency program based in Beit Sahour, Palestine. DAAR brings people together to investigate spaces that have been contested—an abandoned military outpost inhabited by Palestinians, an abandoned Palestinian assembly building standing on the line between Palestine and Israel—and looks to design as a fresh way of incorporating varied cultural, aesthetic, and political perspectives. For more information: http://centerforthehumanities.org/ or http://centerforthehumanities.org/james-gallery.

Science Studies Group Mounts an Exhibit of Bodily Art

Can art make a breast cancer appear beautiful? How about the reconfigured limbs of bodybuilders or a set of disembodied arms?

The answer from February 17 through mid-April was an unequivocal “yes” for those who stopped by Suite 5307 of the GC to view *Corporealities*, an exhibition of artwork dealing with body parts, body modification, beauty, disease, sexuality, and biological processes. The show is hosted by the Committee for Interdisciplinary Science Studies (CISS), whose theme this year is embodiment. “We thought an exhibition of art concerning the body would be a perfect fit for the seminar and for science studies more broadly,” said CISS director Jesse Prinz (Dist. Prof., GC, Philosophy).

Prinz explained the concept of “corporealities”: “In the humanities and social sciences, human beings were once regarded as minds or souls, and scholars neglected the role of the physical body in decision making and social interaction. In recent years, researchers across a startling range of fields have been studying how the body is used to solve problems, communicate, and define identity. We are not just mental, as Descartes and Plato claimed, but corporeal. Our different ways of being embodied (our “corporealities”)—whether male or female, black or white, sick or well—can affect our lives as much as anything inside the head.”

Given that CISS seeks to “cross conventional disciplinary divides,” Prinz is particularly excited about this exhibition by artists “whose interests align with those of seminar participants.” Among these were Leonor Caraballo and Abou Farman, an artist duo whose three-dimensional image of a breast cancer was extracted from an MRI.
How the Real Mad Men Revolutionized Advertising

If the creators of Mad Men are to be believed, advertising executives of the late 1950s and early 1960s were little more than a bunch of white chain-smoking philanderers, as dedicated to their three-martini lunches as they were to landing new accounts. But, says Andrew Cracknell, author of The Real Mad Men: The Renegades of Madison Avenue and the Golden Age of Advertising, what AMC’s Emmy and Golden Globe Award–winning TV drama does not fully capture is the creative revolution taking place in the industry at that time.

On March 1, just weeks before the show’s fifth season premiere, Cracknell joined advertising executive Amil Gargano and advertising critic Barbara Lippert at the GC for “The Real Mad Men and the Golden Age of Advertising in NYC,” a Gotham Center forum. As part of their presentations, the speakers shared video clips, print ads, and anecdotes illustrating the humor, creativity, competitive spirit, and irreverence that so characterized the industry then.

Often invoked was Doyle Dane Bernbach (DDB), now a worldwide marketing communications network, but then a nascent agency. Many of its ad campaigns—from 1959’s memorable “Think Small” and “Lemon” print ads for the Volkswagen Beetle to the 1962 slogan “We Try Harder” for Avis, a floundering car rental company at the time, are recognized today as among the most influential in the annals of twentieth-century advertising. Moreover, DDB pioneered the concept of the creative team. Before then, Cracknell noted, “researchers, writers, and artists did not work together, but Bernbach said, ‘Let’s let them!’”

Another successful agency of the 1960s was Ally & Gargano (A&G), which panelist Gargano helped found. Among its blunt, hard-hitting and honest ad campaigns was one for Hertz Rent-a-Car. “For years, Avis has been telling you that Hertz is No. 1,” the ads read; “Now we’re going to tell you why.” Within months of its rollout, Gargano boasted, Avis’s DDB-created “We Try Harder” ads were gone.

Barbara Lippert, longtime advertising critic for AdWeek magazine, agreed with Gargano that, sexism aside, advertisements of a half-century ago “stand up a lot better than many of today’s ads.” She then pointed to Procter & Gamble’s “Mr. Clean” and Ajax laundry detergent’s “stronger than dirt” knight on a white steed as examples of stereotypical male characters who rushed in to save the day. In contrast, memorable female characters included a housewife worried about brewing better coffee and another who drank diet soda to stay slim. It is thus no wonder, said Lippert, that advertising mogul David Ogilvy felt compelled to remind colleagues in his 1963 book Confessions of an Advertising Man that “the consumer isn’t a moron; she’s your wife.”

—Jackie Glasthal
Azam Ali Touches Hearts with Songs of Loss and Exile

The strong and seductive voice of the Iranian-born, Indian-raised Azam Ali filled Elebash Recital Hall on November 22 and tugged at the heartstrings as she expressed dreamy longing, the grief of exiles, and the joy and sadness of motherhood in her interpretations of traditional and contemporary songs. Often accompanying herself on one of her several frame drums, she cut a striking and commanding figure on stage. The singer opened her heart to the audience, telling of the sadness of her exile from her childhood home of Iran, where she was born in 1970; her experience as a young student in India; the family’s move to California in 1985; and her discovery of her vocal talents.

As lead singer with Niyaz, an Iranian acoustic electronic trio, Azam Ali collaborates in creating acoustic electronic music for the twenty-first century, and has worked with, among others, the percussionist Mickey Hart and the rock bands System of a Down, Nine Inch Nails, and King Crimson. For the Live@365 concert, she was accompanied by her husband Loga Ramin Torkian on lafta, a Turkish lute, and kamaan, a bowed lute; Naser Musa on the oud, a plucked lute; Mathias Kunzli, percussionist; and Jess Stroup on electric guitar. Stroup was also in charge of programming and manipulating the acoustical sounds.

The event was the last fall concert of Live@365, a new series highlighting the ethnomusicology division of the Graduate Center’s doctoral program in music.

Casting New Light on Photography of the Civil War Era

It is photography that gives the Civil War such immediacy. And the images that make the conflict so real to us also influenced a contemporary audience. Indeed, much of it appears to have been created for just that purpose—to shape public opinion of the time.

This issue of opinion-shaping was integral to the November panel discussion “Is There Anything More to See: Civil War Photography and History,” sponsored by the American Social History Project/Center for Media and Learning (ASHP/CML) in collaboration with the Ph.D. Program in History and the Center for the Humanities. As panel moderator, Joshua Brown, ASHP/CML executive director, explained, “In the 1850s, the visual media that Americans had at their fingertips increased notably, particularly in the North,” for the glass plate negative, invented at that time, made possible the reproduction of photographic images, which previously—in daguerreotype, tintype, or ambrotype—could only be produced one at a time.

It should be remembered that all photos of the Civil War era had to be staged. Panelist Martha A. Sandweiss of Princeton University emphasized that, while battle images were widely circulated and played a crucial role in shaping social memory and public opinion of the war, actual battles were never captured on plates. The photography of 150 years ago was a cumbersome enterprise. Anthony Lee of Mount Holyoke College described the huge box cameras of the time and told how photographers had to coat their glass plates with light-sensitive solutions in darkened tents or wagons before the plates could be exposed. “In all it took a photographer between 30 and 45 minutes to make a single picture,” said Lee.

Of particular interest to historians today are the propagandist daguerreotypes, portrait photographs, and cartes de visite commissioned by antislavery activists. One striking photo, labeled “Isaac & Rosa, Slave Children from New Orleans,” shows a dark-skinned boy standing arm-in-arm with a light-skinned girl, both dressed in traditional middle-class attire. Images like this one were created, explained Mary Niall Mitchell of the University of New Orleans, to “shrink the distance between the enslaved and the free” and thus bolster support for the war and the abolitionist cause.
Deborah Willis, an expert in photography and imaging at NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, showed portrait photographs of black Civil War–era soldiers and workers meant to convey impressions of patriotism, pride, and solid middle-class standing. Among them was what appeared to be a genteel family portrait of a uniformed father with a well-dressed wife and two young girls—all black—identical in kind to similar portraits of white military families.

Historians should beware of the stories that Civil War–era images purport to tell, warned Anthony Lee. Nineteenth-century photographers often “fashioned pictures” and gave them titles to feed nostalgia for the past. His example was a carte de visite showing two young African American boys atop a barrel. The undated photograph was identified as a unique slavery image, until it was discovered that the picture appeared as a stereoview in 1870 and 1875 with titles warmly referring to the racial order of the antebellum South.

The panel discussion, which can be viewed in its entirety at http://ashp.cuny.edu/2011/12/featured-items-civil-war-150/, was the last event in a three-part series titled “Civil War @ 150: Still Hazy After All These Years.” Thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), thirty selected college and university teachers will have an opportunity to learn more about “The Visual Culture of the Civil War” at an NEH Summer Institute at the Graduate Center from July 9 to 20, delving into this burgeoning field of study, examining the ways visual media expressed and shaped Americans’ understanding on both sides of the conflict.

Gender Equality in the EU: A Right If Not a Reality

Have gender policies in the last half century closed the wage gap in the European Union (EU)? This question and others were addressed by University of Parma economist Mariagrazia Rossilli in her talk “Gender Legislation and the EU,” sponsored by the European Union Studies Center, on February 15.

“Women have the right to equal pay for the same job,” says Article 119 of the 1957 EU’s Treaty of Rome, which along with the 1997 Amsterdam Treaty states EU positions on gender equality in wages and employment opportunities and also urges member states to address issues of discrimination and violence against women.

These EU policies “have been very influential on the rest of the world and EU member states,” said Rossilli; but while policies such as the Amsterdam Treaty combat discrimination against a man or woman’s age, ethnicity, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation, “the problem is that the bulk of EU legislation is made up of soft laws,” guidelines rather than binding statutes for member states; and while the treaties are “precise about what the member states were and are supposed to implement,” all member states do not necessarily adhere to them. Nor are some policies even adequate. For example, while some women in the labor market are eligible for social security benefits, child-care services, and parental or maternity leave, others, specifically migrant workers and noncitizens, are not.

Rossilli turned to how executive councils such as the twenty-seven-member European Commission (EC), the EU’s executive body, create gender policies based on economic factors rather than human rights. Even more disconcerting, she said, is that women are mostly left out of the decision-making process, and powerful government entities—many of them dominated by men—are determining the future of marginalized workers, both men and women, who exert little force on the gender equality debate.

Rossilli concluded by emphasizing the need for women’s lobbies and feminist groups to change the EU’s policy-making machinery. Only then, she said, will policies be implemented that can change the face of labor, economic, and social rights for all EU women.

—Rachel Ramírez
Democracy in Mexico: Progress Despite Huge Obstacles

Noted Mexican historian, essayist, and publisher Dr. Enrique Krauze presented his analysis of the Mexican election scene on February 21 to the Bildner Center for Western Hemisphere Studies. The public lecture, part of a series of seminars commemorating the Center’s thirtieth anniversary, paid special attention to the narrow victory of Felipe Calderón in Mexico’s 2006 presidential election, which led to massive demonstrations. Six years later, on July 1, with Calderón no longer eligible to run, Mexicans must elect a new candidate.

Krauze highlighted the democratic advances in Mexico in the past dozen years, pointing to improvements in areas such as freedom of speech, separation of powers, political competition, anticorruption measures, and institutional development. Mexico’s lack of major racial, religious, or regional tensions was noted as well. Nevertheless, Krauze stressed the need for sustainable development. The country needs an economic agenda that includes fiscal reform, a breakup of private and public monopolies, energy sector modernization, and labor reform, he said. Additionally, he brought up the country’s major challenge: highly publicized drug trafficking and the violence inflicted by the drug cartels.

None of the three leading presidential candidates—Enrique Peña Nieto (PRI-PVEM), Josefina Vázquez Mota (PAN), and Andrés M. López Obrador (PRD)—have yet demonstrated the vision and other qualities necessary to lead Mexico in the next critical sexenio, Krauze asserted; but, he believes, left-leaning Marcelo Ebrard, who decided not to run for president this year but could win in 2018, may be the one who could implement the needed changes and follow the institutional and economic reform model of Brazil.

Among Krauze’s books are the multivolume series Biografía del poder and its English version, Mexico: Biography of Power (Harper Perennial, 1998); as well as his most recent work, Redeemers: Ideas and Power in Latin America (Harper, 2011).

Commenting on the seminar, Mauricio Font (Prof., Queens, Sociology), director of the Bildner Center and event moderator, said “The significance of this event goes beyond the stature and quality of the speaker. It fills the need for an open forum on Mexican studies in New York City and CUNY.” The Bildner Center’s Mexico Study Group serves as an important outlet for discussing Mexican politics, history, and government. Krauze’s talk was followed by a lively Q&A period addressing such topics as indigenous rights, regional disparities in Mexico, and the possible makeup of each candidate’s cabinet.

Putting NYC’s Solar Power Potential on the Map

For those who envision a greener New York with solar roofs atop the bulk of the city’s buildings, a solar map created by GC faculty and students, working with others at CUNY, may go a long way toward making their dream come true.

According to the New York City Solar Map (http://nycsolarmap.com/), rooftops in the five boroughs could provide half the city’s power during peak periods, and 14 percent of its annual electricity consumption. In all, says Sean Ahearn (Prof., Hunter, Earth and Environmental Sciences), director of the Center for Advanced Research of Spatial Information (CARSII), which built the map in collaboration with Sustainable CUNY, the city contains about 615 million square feet of usable roof space for solar photovoltaic (PV) installations.

To create the most detailed three-dimensional image of the city currently available and New York City’s first solar map, Ahearn and his team of doctoral candidates and postdocs relied on data from LiDAR (short for light detection and ranging) technology collected during a series of missions by a twin-engine plane that flew over the five boroughs in the spring of 2010. The LiDAR data was used to estimate the amount of
solar energy that falls on New York City roof surfaces throughout the year, and what proportion of it would be usable for solar panels.

The city’s solar map analyzes the solar potential for each of New York City’s one million buildings, says Ahearn. Convincing even 10 or 20 percent of New Yorkers to convert to this alternative energy source could have a huge impact. For example, he argues, it could reduce New Yorkers’ reliance on the polluting backup generators needed during such peak demand times as summer heat waves.

Ahearn hopes the map, which is relatively easy to use, will go far in convincing more and more New Yorkers to make the switch to solar power. With just a few quick keystrokes, anyone can go to the site, plug in an address and find out a building’s solar potential, along with the financial and environmental benefits if the investment were made. The map also identifies existing solar PV and solar thermal installations throughout the city, and offers practical information such as steps for making the conversion.

One site taking these steps, which could be completed this summer, is a building at LaGuardia Community College. “Solar panels will be installed, and batteries will be purchased as part of a NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority) grant,” announced Ted Brown, a leader in the CUNY Sustainability Project and executive officer of the Ph.D. Program in Computer Science. “The building will then have three different options to acquire its electrical energy: from New York’s power grid, using the regular energy supplier; from solar panels when the sun is shining; or from energy pre-stored in batteries for future use.”

Since the cost associated with charging and discharging the batteries varies, as does the cost of obtaining energy from the power grid (always higher during peak periods of need), doctoral students and faculty members are developing algorithms to determine the best (least expensive) time to charge the batteries, and what the savings could be.

For those interested in learning more about efforts being made to reduce the cost of solar energy, the GC will be hosting the NYC Solar Summit 2012 on June 7. There, CUNY plans to unveil “Solar Market Analytics, Roadmapping, and Tracking NY” (SMART NY), a plan that recently won a DOE Rooftop Challenge award for showing how installation costs can be lowered in New York. To find out more about it, see http://www.cuny.edu/about/resources/sustainability/solar-summit.html.

—Jackie Glasthal

ITS Lecture Brings Home the Vastness of the Universe

Those suffering from self-importance should hear a talk by physicist Lyman Page and astronomer David Spergel, both of Princeton University, and their egos will be undone as they face the enormity of space. Such a talk, on the origins and evolution of the universe, was sponsored on February 21 by the Initiative for the Theoretical Science (ITS @ the Graduate Center).

Instilling an enduring sense of awe in at least one audience member, Page and Spergel used colorful images to share some astonishing facts. Although the sun is about 93 million miles away, light from our sun takes about eight minutes to reach Earth, in other words, the sun is about eight light-minutes away.

Most of us know that Earth is part of the Milky Way galaxy. But did most also know that the Milky Way contains 100 billion stars, and its center lies 27,000 light-years away from Earth? That’s light-years, not minutes. Can you imagine? The center of our Milky Way is 27,000 light-years away. And there’s much more to contemplate, because there are 10 billion galaxies in the observable universe.

The observable universe, ah, yes! This was even more mind-blowing. Cosmologists know, said Page, that the universe is roughly 13.7 billion years old. That’s 13,700,000,000. Therefore, we can see out to a distance of approximately 13.7 billion light-years—that is,
time past, not present! Whatever we see happening there was happening 13.7 billion years ago. And remember that our Sun is eight light-minutes distant.

“If someone were out there on the edge of the observable universe looking at Earth, they would see what was happening here 13.7 billion years ago. They would see the microwave background radiation that was once here,” said Page.

The public lecture was organized by Bill Bialek, visiting presidential professor of physics and head of ITS, whose stated goal is “to provide a home for theoretical research in the sciences that cuts across a wide range of subjects but is unified by the search for a mathematical description of the world around us.” Some programs are aimed at the scientific community and others for the general public. For more information, see https://sites.google.com/site/itsgccuny/.

—Jane House

Planning for a Healthier GC in a Healthier CUNY

Dr. Nicholas Freudenberg (Dist. Prof., Hunter, Psychology, Public Health) is on a mission. As executive officer of the CUNY Doctor of Public Health (DPH) Program—the only accredited public health program in the nation focusing specifically on urban communities—and codirector of the Healthy CUNY Initiative (HCI), he has become involved in an ambitious campaign to make CUNY the healthiest urban university in the United States by 2016.

To do this, says Freudenberg, a number of strategies are in the works. For example, tobacco use will be prohibited on the grounds of the GC and all CUNY campuses by September 4, 2012. And by next year, HCI is also hoping to reduce the availability and promotion of sugary beverages like soda and iced tea at meetings and in university vending machines and cafeterias.

At the GC, supporters of HCI include Student Affairs, the Wellness Center, faculty members, student government, and students in nursing, sociology, public health, psychology, and other fields. Recently, Freudenberg added, the Graduate Center opened a lactation room where women can breastfeed their children. “Healthy CUNY supported this important new service to promote the well-being of GC students who are new mothers and their babies,” he said.

In assessing the GC’s “health” as a campus, Freudenberg touted its many advantages. “Our Wellness Center is very active,” he observed, and food service on this campus “appears to be one of the better ones, with more healthy options, such as salads and fresh fruit.”

Of course, Freudenberg also noted areas with room for improvement. Currently the GC does not have its own physical fitness facility, for example, and use of the stairs might be encouraged more than it is. He would love to see the creation of a “Make the GC Your Gym” campaign, similar to one initiated at City College recently. There, campus-based activities were developed that enabled easier integration of exercise into the routines of all who work at and attend the college.

People at the GC are in a unique position to compound the impact of their actions, Freudenberg stressed. Since many GC students are destined to become the next generation’s researchers, leaders, and college faculty, “if we can give our graduates the skills and attitudes that enable them to promote student health, we can greatly contribute to making college an experience that makes its students healthier as well as smarter,” he said, adding “We hope to make participating in health activism in their future institutions as natural as breathing.”

To find out more about the Healthy CUNY Initiative and how you can get involved, go to http://www.cuny.edu/healthycuny.

—Jackie Glasthal
GC Opens a Lactation Room for Nursing Mothers

Through the support of President William P. Kelly and the efforts of the Office of Student Affairs and students in the Doctoral Program in Public Health, a dedicated space has been established at the Graduate Center for mothers to express breast milk for a nursing child. Room 7408, also called the Mothers’ Room, is available to all nursing women students and employees who present a current Graduate Center ID and complete a key request form in the Office of Student Affairs, Room 7301.

New York law has for several years required employers to allow breastfeeding mothers reasonable, unpaid break times to express milk and to make a reasonable attempt to provide a private location in which to do so. The Graduate Center has for several years designated spaces for this purpose, and continues to offer these spaces. These include the eighth floor pantry (near the Dining Commons) and, until 5 p.m., the Child Care Center and the Wellness Center. Also, under New York law, a mother is permitted to breastfeed her child in any public or private location. More information about laws pertaining to breastfeeding and also about research findings on the positive health benefits of breastfeeding for children and mothers is available at the website of the National Conference of State Legislators: http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/health/breastfeeding-state-laws.aspx.

Student News

Sari Altschuler (English), won the Barra Dissertation Fellowship at the 2011–12 University of Pennsylvania’s McNeil Center for Early American Studies.

Steven Beck, Kelli Kathman, Danya Katok, and Mary Robb (Music) were featured in a student degree recital at the GC’s Baisley Powell Elebash Recital Hall on March 14.

David Bridges, Whitney E. George, Jonathan Howard, Jessica Rudman, and Haralabos Stafylakis (Music) established the Composers’ Alliance—an organization dedicated to supporting the work of doctoral candidates in music—which had its first concert on March 12 at the GC’s Baisley Powell Elebash Recital Hall. The group’s goal is to collaborate with performers and ensembles within and outside of CUNY, while highlighting the musical activities of GC composers.

Ananda Cohen (Art History) will be starting a position at Cornell University in Fall 2012 as assistant professor of colonial Latin American visual culture in the history of art department.

Hope Hunter, Lauren Orleman, Sara Paltmier, Chance Sang, Patricia Tufaro, and Sam Yohannan (Physical Therapy) received the 2011 American Burn Association Clinical Research Award for their manuscript titled The Efficacy of Nintendo Wii during Post-Burn Rehabilitation: A Pilot Study. The primary clinicians are affiliated with the Rehabilitation Medicine Department at New York–Presbyterian Hospital and the Weill Cornell Medical Center.

Kendra Gentry and Leonid Lantsman (Criminal Justice) are winners of travel awards from John Jay College of Criminal Justice to attend the International Symposium on Environmental Criminology and Crime Analysis to be held in Stavern, Norway, in June.


Eathan Janney (Biology) received the Centro Stefano Franscini (CSF) award at the Monte Verita Workshop on Music in Neuroscience in March, for the best presentation by a young scientist. A pianist and composer, as well as a piano technician and entrepreneur, Janney incorporates his musical background into his research on birdsong in the lab of doctoral faculty member Ofer Tchernichovski (Prof., Hunter, Biology, Psychology, Speech-Language–Hearing Sciences). Janney also has a New Media Lab project, “locateflow.org,” which explores the nature of creativity.
Michelle Johnson (Linguistics) presented “Moody Negation: Interactions of Aspect, Modality and Negation in Lusoga” at the 43rd Annual Conference on African Linguistics, held March 15–17 at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Prerna Kaur (Biochemistry) coauthored “Genetically Modified Collagen-like Triple Helix Peptide,” which is included as a chapter in Hybrid Nanomaterials: Synthesis, Characterization, and Applications (John Wiley & Sons, 2011).

Rachel Liebert (Psychology) was awarded the Sigmund Koch Award for the best student paper presented at the 2011 International Society for Theoretical Psychology conference. Her paper was titled “Psy Technologies, Risk, and Freedom: Doing Madness under Securitization.”

Puleng Sagalo (Psychology) received the 2011–12 Koonja Mitchell Memorial Prize for $1000 from the GC’s Center for the Study of Women and Society. The prize is awarded to a GC student working on a dissertation concerned with issues of social justice, with consideration to militarism and trauma.

Cho Tan (Biochemistry), who is studying with Peter N. Lipke (Prof., Brooklyn, Biochemistry, Biology), coauthored two scientific articles titled “Yeast Cell Adhesion Molecules Have Functional Amyloid-Forming Sequences” and “Structure and Function of Glycosylated Tandem Repeats from Candida Albicans Als Adhesins” (Eukaryotic Cell, March 2010). She also had a photo published on the cover of Trends in Microbiology (February 2012). The image shows baker’s yeast, also known as saccharomyces cerevisiae, aggregated with a biofilm-forming adhesion—Flo 11p/Muclp—and illustrates the important role of protein amyloids in cell adhesion.

Christopher Silsby (Theatre) moderated a panel on Russian Futurism on March 19 in Bushwick, Brooklyn, held in conjunction with Target Margin Theater’s “The Last Futurist Lab” at the Bushwick Starr, a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing a continuum of performance artists to the Brooklyn community.

Haralabos Stafylakis (Music) won a $15,000 Charles Ives Fellowship for 2012 from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. The award will be presented at the academy’s annual ceremonal in May. Stafylakis, a Montréal-born composer, is currently working on his Ph.D. with doctoral faculty members David Del Tredici (Dist. Prof., City, Music) and Jason Eckardt (Assoc. Prof., Brooklyn, Music).

Clearing the Path to College for Underprivileged Youth

“College Access: Research and Action (CARA) came about organically,” said Lori Chajet (Urban Education, 2006) CARA cofounder with her colleagues Janice Bloom (Urban Education, 2006) and Lisa Cowan. Formed in 2008 as Homebase and, since 2009, under the aegis of the Center for Human Environments, this unique organization aims to create pathways to college for high school students from low-income backgrounds.

Inspiried by Michelle Fine (Dist. Prof., GC, Psychology, Urban Education), the three colleagues began by first working with the Urban Youth Collaborative, a community-based organization, to develop conduits for educational support called Student Success Centers (SSCs) at the Bushwick and Franklin K. Lane High Schools in Brooklyn and the William H. Taft High School in the Bronx. CARA trains motivated high school students to be “youth leaders” who can walk their fellow classmates through the tricky process of completing applications for college, including financial aid and scholarships, and fulfilling other requirements, such as testing and immunization.

“The practice of youth leadership for college access has been very powerful,” said Chajet. “These leaders speak the same language as their peers, they make sense to them, and they break things down about college in ways adults can’t.”

Schools that have integrated youth leadership into their college access programs have seen their college application and acceptance rates increase, in addition to overall engagement among students in the college process.
For the three colleagues, the drive to make college available to all continues and CARA has expanded to include a variety of other programs. Moreover, despite the recession, CARA has received $100,000 from the NYC Department of Education and continues to be supported by the Helmsley Charitable Trust; the Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation; the Brooklyn Community Foundation; and the New York Community Trust.

For more information or to support CARA and SSCs, visit http://caranyc.org/

—Rachel Ramírez

Staff News

Michael Adams, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Mina Rees Library, was recently commended by American coeditor James R. Kelly of the Modern Humanities Research Association for his “remarkable and significant contribution” to the 2010 Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature.

Amy Ballmer, M.A., M.L.S., an assistant professor in the Mina Rees Library, presented “Read All About It! Artist Newspapers and Their Audience” at the 2012 College Book Art Association Annual Conference in January. She will also present “Alternative Indexes for Art and Artists Journals” at the Art Libraries of North American Annual Conference this April.

Jane House’s translations of two one-act plays by Nobel Prize-winner Luigi Pirandello (1867–1936), Why? and The Other Son, were presented in March at the Players, a club for actors on Gramercy Park South once home to the American Shakespearean actor Edwin Booth. House is director of publications in the Office of Public Affairs and Publications and an alumna of the Graduate Center (Theatre, 1988).

Artwork by Adrienne Klein, director of budgets and special projects of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and codirector of the Science & the Arts series at the GC, was featured in an exhibition titled “Seeing Ourselves” at MUSE/Center of Photography and the Moving Image (CPMI) from March 6 to April 14. Making use of cutting-edge technology in recording brain and body images, the exhibition juxtaposes actual MRI, PET, and CAT scans with artwork they have inspired.

Michele Smith, a staff member at RILM, is an accomplished flutist who plays a wide range of styles in a variety of venues. Her March appearances included music therapy-related performances at Mount Sinai Hospital and The Bridge; flute and piano duos by Gabriel Pierné (US premiere), Gabriel Fauré, and Mikhail Glinka for the Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture; and choro music in a Brazilian “roda” in Williamsburg.

Writers’ Institute Panel Surveys Long-Form Journalism

“The Art of Long-Form Journalism” was the topic of a panel discussion organized by the Graduate Center’s Writers’ Institute (WI), which is headed by Distinguished Professor André Aciman, executive officer of the doctoral program in comparative literature.

The February 7 discussion was moderated by Christopher Cox, senior editor at Harper’s magazine and former fiction editor at the Paris Review. Distinguished panelists included Joan Acocella, Rivka Galchen, Alex Ross, and David Samuels. Acocella is a staff writer at the New Yorker, where she reviews dance and books. Her most recent book is Twenty-eight Artists and Two Saints. Rivka Galchen is the author of the novel Atmospheric Disturbances, which won the William J. Saroyan International Prize for Fiction. Her essays and short stories have appeared in Harper’s, the New Yorker, Bookforum, and the New York Times. Alex Ross, a 2008 MacArthur Fellow, has been the music critic of the New Yorker since 1996. He is the author of The Rest Is Noise, which won a National Book Critics Circle Award, and the essay collection Listen to This. David Samuels, best
known for long-form journalism and essays, is a contributing editor at Harper's and a frequent contributor to the Atlantic and the New Yorker.

For the young aspiring writers and editors in the audience the discussion offered something eye-opening and inspirational. The professional journalists spoke about their education and training and career paths, the majority revealing that they had had no plan to become a writer or journalist, and when they did begin it was usually at a low level, where they were paid nothing or very little. They also shared how they found their topics, how they decided or negotiated what to write about, how they played to their writing strengths, and how their interests had changed.

“This is the best attended event in the history of the Writers’ Institute,” said Aciman, “and I hope it inspires the next generation of writers.” Now in its fifth year, WI is designed with both creative ambitions and real-world practicalities. Its mission is to enable thirty talented, highly motivated, and exceptionally qualified writers to hone their craft under the auspices of some of today’s most accomplished magazine, newspaper, and book editors. For more information, see: http://writersinstitute.gc.cuny.edu/.

In Memoriam

Jonathan E. Adler, who taught philosophy at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, died on March 26 after a long struggle with leukemia. He had served since 1974 on the faculty at Brooklyn College, where he held the Leonard and Clare Tow Professorship from 2008 to 2010, and was appointed to the doctoral faculty in February 1993. He was a brilliant philosopher and dedicated teacher, who gave years of devoted service to the doctoral program in philosophy. He lived for philosophical argument, right up to the last, and was always a straight arrow. His wide-ranging interests included epistemology, ethics, philosophy of psychology, informal logic, and philosophy of education. Among his representative publications are Belief’s Own Ethics
(MIT Press, 2002) and with Lance Rips, *Reasoning: Studies of Human Inference and Its Foundations* (Cambridge University Press, 2008). He also authored articles in such journals as *Journal of Philosophy, Analysis, Educational Theory, American Philosophical Quarterly, Veritas,* and *Canadian Journal of Philosophy.* A memorial service will be organized over the next few months, and the philosophy program will host its own remembrance next year.

**Edmund L. Epstein,** professor of English at Queens College since 1975 and a member of the doctoral faculty since 1981, died on April 1. His research interests encompassed great writers of modern literature, especially James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, Gerard Manley Hopkins, and T. S. Eliot. One of the world’s foremost Joyce scholars, he taught doctoral seminars on *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake* for many years, delighting and amazing students with his wit, deep knowledge, and unforgettable insight into the language and spirit of these difficult texts. He gave readers an accessible approach to Joyce in *A Guide through Finnegans Wake* (2010), provided the introduction and edited the New World Library edition of Joseph Campbell and Henry Morton Robinson’s *A Skeleton Key to Finnegans Wake* (2005), and edited *Mythic Worlds, Modern Words: the Writings of Joseph Campbell on James Joyce* (1993). Also among his publications are *New Accents: Language and Style* (2003) and, with Robert Kole, *The Language of African Literature* (1998). For more than thirty years he served as editor of *Language and Style: An International Journal.*

**Daniel C. Gerould,** the Lucille Lortel Distinguished Professor of Theatre and Comparative Literature, died unexpectedly on February 13. He began teaching in the doctoral program in theatre in 1970, serving as chair, and on February 1, 1987, was appointed Distinguished Professor. He was also a highly visible presence and driving force at the Martin E. Segal Theatre Center, serving as executive director from 2004 to 2008, and thereafter as director of academic affairs and publications. A scholar, playwright, teacher, and translator from French, Russian, and Polish, he brought the attention of the English-speaking world to the great achievements in central and eastern European drama and theatre of the twentieth century. He is best known for his translations of the plays of Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, the prolific Polish avant-garde playwright whose wildly humorous dramas of the 1920s and 1930s often depicted a decadent contemporary society hurtling towards totalitarian extinction. A scholar of vast erudition that spanned the field of modern European drama and literature, Professor Gerould was also the editor of the twelve-volume Routledge/Harwood Polish and Eastern European Theatre Archive, and the founder and editor of the journal *Slavic and East European Performance* for the past thirty years. He was the author or editor of twenty-two books, the last two being *Quick Change,* a collection of his essays and translations across several decades, and *A Maeterlinck Reader,* coedited with David Willinger. A beloved mentor to many, his insightful mind and gentle creative spirit will be sorely missed. A memorial service at the Graduate Center is planned for September 6.

**Lydia C. J. Jackson,** development database specialist in the Office of Institutional Advancement, died on March 2 after a long battle with breast cancer. An exceptional and beloved colleague since she came to the Graduate Center in April 2007, she approached her projects with vivacious enthusiasm. She succeeded in implementing Blackbaud Raiser’s Edge and Netcommunity applications to help her office raise funds and engage with the Graduate Center’s alumni, faculty, and staff; broaden the audiences for the GC’s Public Programs; and expand the GC Membership Program. She also provided training for new system users, explaining technical concepts with clarity. Her warm laugh and ever-cheerful presence despite her struggles will be long remembered and missed.
Rosette C. Lamont, who taught French and comparative literature at Queens College and the Graduate Center and was also on the doctoral faculty in theatre and on the M.A.L.S. faculty until her retirement in 1996, died on January 5 after a long illness. She was distinguished as a critic, author, and teacher, and in 1991 was named to the Hall of Fame of Hunter College. A Guggenheim Fellow and a Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellow, she served as envoy for the State Department's Scholar Exchange Program to the U.S.S.R. in 1974 and was a visiting professor at the Sorbonne in Paris (1985–86). In France, Lamont was an Officier des Palmes Académiques and an Officier des Arts et des Lettres. After her retirement from CUNY, she joined the theatre faculty at Sarah Lawrence College. Her many books include *The Two Faces of Ionesco* and *Ionesco's Imperatives: The Politics of Culture*. Her seminal *Women on the Verge* highlighted the work of women playwrights whose voices were not being heard. Lamont was a mentor to two generations of students and leaves behind an enormous legacy as both a teacher and a scholar.

Andrew C. Leon (Educational Psychology, 1987), professor of biostatistics in psychiatry and professor of public health at Weill Cornell Medical College, died suddenly on February 18 at the age of 60. An author or coauthor of more than 180 peer-reviewed papers in his twenty-five years of postdoc experience, Dr. Leon was a leading biostatistician in psychiatry who was highly sought after for his expertise in testing and evaluating methods of treatment. His work had a great influence on the discovery and acceptance of new drugs and treatments for mental illness, and psychiatry benefited greatly from his clarity and plain speech in an all-too-often impenetrable yet vital area of psychiatry and medicine. He provided invaluable guidance to the FDA Psychopharmacology Advisory Committee in controversial subjects such as suicidality and antidepressants and refocused emotionally charged debates by his emphasis on empirical results. An internationally acclaimed expert, he served as visiting professor in Japan, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and elsewhere in Europe. In addition to his professional accomplishments he was universally liked for his kindness and affability. Contributions in his name may be made to Doctors Without Borders.

Joshua Wallman, professor of biology at City College, who was appointed to the doctoral faculty in biology in 1973 and in psychology (cognitive neuroscience) in 2007, passed away on March 3 after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He will be sorely missed. An accomplished scientist, mentor, and teacher, he was held in high regard both nationally and internationally. His City College biology lab was staffed by postdoctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate students, and a technician. His research interests lay in control of eye growth and the plasticity of saccadic eye movements—fast movements used in looking around the world—and their relation to attention. His coauthored articles on these topics appeared in the *Journal of Neurophysiology, Vision Research, Experimental Eye Research, Neuron*, and *Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science*, among others. Details regarding a memorial will be forthcoming. Meanwhile, a blog has been created for people to express their memories of him at joshua-wallman.blogspot.com.
The 48th Annual Doctoral Commencement of
The Graduate Center
The City University of New York

5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 24, 2012

Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center
10 Lincoln Center Plaza
(Columbus Avenue and 65th Street)
New York City

Honorary Degree Candidates
Philip Levine, Doctor of Humane Letters
Marian Goodman, Doctor of Humane Letters

President’s Distinguished Alumni Medal
Dr. Binnaz Toprak

Doctoral Candidate Speaker
Adele Kudish, Comparative Literature

Commencement Address
Professor Janet Gornick