EVERY YEAR, hundreds of thousands of students choose The City University of New York for a multitude of reasons that can be summed up as one: opportunity. Providing a quality, accessible education, regardless of background or means has been CUNY’s mission since 1847. The University’s unwavering commitment to that principle is a source of enormous pride. CUNY colleges offer a seemingly infinite array of academic programs taught by award-winning faculty, as well as the arts, sports, internships, scholarships and community service opportunities. The powerful combination of quality academics, remarkable affordability, financial support and the convenience of 24 modern campuses spanning the five boroughs of New York — the most exciting city in the world — makes CUNY a singular value in higher education today. The wise choice for smart students: That’s the CUNY Value.
Spensieri, whose Italian and Cuban immigrant families sparked her passion for languages, transferred to CUNY from a private university to earn a B.A. in Italian Culture and Civilization (Hunter College '14) and an M.A.T. in Childhood Education, (Queens College '15). “Private education was too expensive, and the value of a public education was greater,” says Spensieri, whose plans include teaching English in Brazil on a Fulbright grant.

2015 Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship

To learn “at least 10 languages,” teach in New York and overseas, write, and possibly conduct education-related research.
CUNY’s exceptional affordability is an incomparable value in today’s higher education marketplace, where yearly college bills can easily outpace family wages, and student-loan debt — exceeding $1.2 trillion nationwide — impedes graduates’ financial freedom, including the ability to purchase a home. CUNY costs a fraction of what students pay at private universities, and it beats most public institutions, too. These low costs make it possible for more than 66 percent of full-time undergraduates to attend college tuition-free, fully covered by financial aid and the American Opportunity Tax Credit, and for eight in 10 to graduate free from federal education debt. When our students do borrow, statistics show, they end up owing less than their peers elsewhere. CUNY’s affordable tuition is part of a successful, long-term financial partnership between the University, state and city governments, philanthropists, alumni and students. Enduring value increases lifelong opportunities for our students to pursue their educational, professional, financial and personal goals. That’s freedom.
KEVIN HILL

HIS STORY
A Reserve Officers’ Training Corps cadet, Hill (York College ’16) has worked as CUNY’s part-time Veteran/ROTC liaison while earning his B.S. in Computer Science, and as a summer 2015 intern/software developer at a federal agency. He chose CUNY for the opportunity for “a great college education” without student debt, and to connect with New York City businesses and organizations related to his interests.

GOAL
To become a software developer, and to commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserves after graduation.
CUNY COLLEGES OFFER A WEALTH of rigorous, innovative and life-changing academic opportunities, sparking an enrollment surge to 275,135 in 2014-15 and attracting so many motivated, high-achieving students that every year they garner not just a few but a raft of top national honors. For 2015, CUNY boasts 17 Fulbright Scholarships awarded to students for study and teaching abroad; other prestigious awards recently received by CUNY students include Truman, Goldwater and Rhodes scholarships and Math for America and National Science Foundation Graduate Research fellowships. Uncompromising in its mission of excellence and opportunity, CUNY provides an extensive array of challenging academic offerings, from traditional liberal arts programs to the Macaulay Honors College, from high-level scientific research with faculty mentors to initiatives to boost college readiness and keep students on track to a degree. Academic value: It’s the leading reason why CUNY is New York’s top higher-education destination.

SEAN THATCHER

Thatcher (College of Staten Island ’17) and a classmate discovered unexpected geological structures in exposed Palisades rock at a New Jersey construction site his class visited because it was wheelchair accessible – a must for Thatcher, who is paraplegic. “I don’t let the wheelchair slow me down,” says Thatcher, a biology major interested in natural development and protection of coastal areas.

AWARDS
2015 Goldwater Scholarship, 2015 CUNY Pipeline Fellowship

GOAL
To develop expertise in protecting and enhancing coastal ecosystems, which face damage from human activity, climate change and storms.
ILANA GELB

HER STORY

Gelb (CUNY B.A. and Baruch College ‘16) connects her self-created major in violence, conflict and development to her grandmother, a Holocaust survivor who, accompanied by Gelb and her mother, toured for six years speaking about the horrors of ethnic cleansing and genocide. Passionate about human rights, sustainable development and violence prevention, Gelb planned to spend Fall 2015 in India studying Hindi, working with a nonprofit fighting sexual exploitation of women and girls, and researching human trafficking and prostitution.

AWARD

2015 U.S. State Department Critical Language Scholarship

GOAL

To continue her work to prevent genocide and gender-based violence.
MENTORS

TIMOTHY ELLMORE
PH.D.

HIS STORY
The neuroscience of memory intrigues Ellmore, an associate professor of psychology at City College and member of the Graduate Center's doctoral faculty in behavioral and cognitive neuroscience. He studies brain activity to uncover how people remember—research relevant to understanding memory-robbing conditions such as Alzheimer's disease or hemorrhagic stroke. At CCNY, Ellmore teaches cognitive psychology, heads the psychology honors program and has honors undergraduates working in his lab; CUNY students are “fantastic to interact with,” he says, noting that with their “different walks of life, so many different cultures … different questions get asked.”

AWARD
A $469,250 grant from the National Institutes of Health for a three-year study of how memories become permanent, using “continuous” MRI scanning of brain activity.

GOAL
To “understand how memories are made. That’s really what motivates me every day.”
CUNY’s outstanding faculty

inspire, challenge and mentor students in the full spectrum of academic fields from the sciences to the humanities to fine arts. Pursuing scholarship in the nation’s intellectual capital, our faculty bring high credentials and achievement, real-world perspectives and hundreds of millions of dollars in research grants to our campuses, engaging students in classrooms, labs and studios and enhancing the quality and value of a CUNY education. The University’s roster of prominent Distinguished Professors teach students, mentor faculty and initiate cultural programs and University-wide campaigns to improve life and learning. CUNY faculty members make their mark beyond the campus as well: 14 won Fulbright Scholarships in 2014 to research, study, teach and consult abroad, and include Guggenheim fellows, winners of Pulitzer and Man Booker prizes and National Book Awards, and two U.S. Poet Laureates.

AVA CHIN
PH.D.

HER STORY
Where most New Yorkers view park and sidewalk-crack greenery as mere weeds, Ava Chin sees edible, super-nutritious food such as dandelion greens and “chicken of the woods” mushrooms, as well as medicinal plants. Chin, associate professor of creative nonfiction and journalism at the College of Staten Island, recently published a prizewinning memoir, “Eating Wildly: Foraging for Life, Love and the Perfect Meal,” which chronicles her discoveries as an “urban forager” spotting, gathering and cooking useful plants that grow wild in the city. A third-generation CUNY graduate following her mother and grandmother, Chin says it’s “a special thrill” to teach at CSI and “to connect and mentor the next generation of writers.”

AWARDS
First Prize, MFK Fisher Book Awards 2015; Library Journal’s “Best Books of 2014”

GOAL
To complete “the next couple of books,” including one about uncovering her family’s legacy in New York’s Chinatown from the 1880s onward.

AVA CHIN
PH.D.

HER STORY
Where most New Yorkers view park and sidewalk-crack greenery as mere weeds, Ava Chin sees edible, super-nutritious food such as dandelion greens and “chicken of the woods” mushrooms, as well as medicinal plants. Chin, associate professor of creative nonfiction and journalism at the College of Staten Island, recently published a prizewinning memoir, “Eating Wildly: Foraging for Life, Love and the Perfect Meal,” which chronicles her discoveries as an “urban forager” spotting, gathering and cooking useful plants that grow wild in the city. A third-generation CUNY graduate following her mother and grandmother, Chin says it’s “a special thrill” to teach at CSI and “to connect and mentor the next generation of writers.”

AWARDS
First Prize, MFK Fisher Book Awards 2015; Library Journal’s “Best Books of 2014”

GOAL
To complete “the next couple of books,” including one about uncovering her family’s legacy in New York’s Chinatown from the 1880s onward.
Enrollment 2010-2015

- 2010: 262,321
- 2015: 274,000

CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK-1847
HUNTER COLLEGE-1870
BROOKLYN COLLEGE-1930
QUEENS COLLEGE-1937
NYC COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY-1946
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
COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND-1976
CUNY SCHOOL OF LAW-1983
MACAULAY HONORS COLLEGE AT CUNY-2001
CUNY SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES-2003
CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM-2006
CUNY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH POLICY-2011
GUTTMAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE-2011
CUNY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE-FALL 2016
With 24 colleges and graduate schools

anchoring neighborhoods across the City of New York, CUNY offers an opportunity-rich mega-campus like no other public urban university’s, providing quality academic programs in modernized facilities that include iconic landmarks and new, green 21st-century classrooms. Responding to record enrollments and continued high demand, billions of dollars have been invested to rebuild, enhance and expand the University’s facilities, including the recently established CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy, Macaulay Honors College and Guttman Community College. Our campuses are conveniently located throughout the five boroughs, are accessible by public transportation, and provide CUNY Value to students and to New York’s economy.

Fulfilling a long-standing University mission, students embrace a multitude of public service opportunities. In fact, service has been embedded in CUNY’s DNA since its founding in 1847, and a commitment to giving back to the city in return for a high-quality, affordable college education is part of CUNY Value today. City College graduates recite an oath “to transmit this city … greater, better, and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.” Queens College’s motto is “Discimus ut Serviamus: We learn so that we may serve.” Through the CUNY Service Corps and other opportunities at every college, students are offered valuable service options with nonprofits and government agencies. Since 2013, the CUNY Service Corps has placed 2,400 college students in transformative paid internships with organizations and agencies such as the Federal Reserve Bank, Brooklyn District Attorney’s office, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, City Harvest and CUNY Citizenship Now! Students also volunteer for voter registration and disaster relief drives, among many other causes important to New York, its neighborhoods and its residents.
A passion for public service drives New Hampshire native Jake Levin (Macaulay Honors College at Brooklyn College ’16), and New York City and CUNY have given the political science and philosophy major ample opportunities to serve. He focused on veterans’ affairs during a yearlong internship with New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, interned with the Mayor’s Office of Veterans’ Affairs and volunteered with the city’s Department of Emergency Management. Levin also created TEDxCUNY, which debuted at Macaulay Honors College in 2014 as the official CUNY campus licensee of the engaging TED Conferences.

A 2015 Harry S. Truman Scholarship, which awards up to $30,000 to college juniors and seniors for graduate study leading to public service careers.

Attend graduate school for law or public policy, and work in politics, government and social advocacy to make a difference for groups like veterans and the homeless.
KIRSSY MARTINEZ
HER STORY
Sent from the Dominican Republic at 14 to live with an aunt in New York, Martinez (Bronx Community College '15, City College '19) didn’t see her parents and siblings for 13 years and feared deportation due to her undocumented status. But Martinez graduated from high school, worked to save for college, married and had a child. She entered BCC after President Obama’s Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) permitted her a Social Security number and eligibility for in-state tuition. Martinez could afford BCC, from which she graduated as valedictorian, and CCNY, because of a scholarship from TheDream.US, which partners with CUNY to connect undocumented “DREAMers” with a college education.

AWARD
TheDream.US scholarship, for DREAMers who are high school graduates/first-time college students or community college graduates working toward bachelor’s degrees.

GOAL
To earn her B.A. in political science, help New York’s “marginalized communities” and start a community center providing youth outreach.

Food vouchers.
Emergency rent aid.
Scholarships for undocumented students.

In the 21st century, CUNY’s historic mission to educate the “whole people” includes helping our most vulnerable students when hardship strikes. Many CUNY students are low-income, single parents, recent immigrants, first in their families to attend college. Among society’s most at-risk, they may be one eviction away from homelessness, one job loss from feeding their children, one illness from dropping out of school. More than 68,000 CUNY students and families have received nearly $163 million in benefits and services — from emergency cash assistance and food stamps to free tax preparation and public health insurance — through Single Stop. Single Stop serves students at all seven CUNY community colleges and launches at John Jay College this fall. The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation Emergency Grant Fund has provided more than $9.8 million in emergency funds to over 5,000 CUNY students in need, and at least 2,000 additional students have received MetroCards from the foundation as emergency grants.
For students who choose a CUNY education, the benefits extend far beyond the University’s remarkable academics, affordability and financial aid. CUNY is also a fount of scholarships, thanks to philanthropic, private and public support. Since 2000, the University’s Invest in CUNY campaign has raised $2.93 billion in private donations. Approximately $960 million of that goes to scholarships, grants and other student support offered throughout the University and its 24 colleges and schools – based on merit, need, specialized interests and other factors. The CUNY Merit-Based Scholarship program, recently reinstated by the New York City Council, is expected to provide $16 million in $800 city-funded scholarships this year to some 16,000 CUNY freshmen and sophomores maintaining B or higher averages.
**STEPHANIE HO**

**HER STORY**

Ho (Queensborough Community College '15) already had a B.A. when she entered Queensborough to switch to nursing, which she finds “very rewarding.” She also brought along her volleyball skills, rising to co-captain the Lady Tigers women’s volleyball team in 2014 and, as the team’s libero, help lead the team to a very successful season – all while maintaining a 3.9 GPA.

**AWARD**

2015 CUNY Athletic Conference Scholar-Athlete of the Year

**GOAL**

To continue her education in the nursing field.
Fencing at Hunter. Rowing at BMCC. Greek Life at CCNY. Jewish a cappella at Queens.

If these college activities conjure images of ivy-covered, out-of-town campuses far from the A, the E, the 2 and the 3, think again. CUNY campuses are vibrant communities — rich with opportunities for academic engagement, public service, culture, personal growth and just plain fun. Consider deejaying at the campus radio station, bonding with fellow accounting majors and getting elected to student government. Join Baruch’s Handball Maniacs, Hostos’ Robotics Club, play soccer at CSI, break out your inner Hemingway at one of Brooklyn College’s dynamic student-run publications or tap into hundreds of volunteer service opportunities. Our students make new friends to keep for a lifetime. And, equipped with high-tech auditoriums, modern athletic facilities, welcoming gathering places and an increasing number of traditional dormitory rooms, our campuses offer students the full college experience from the esoteric to the traditional — all part of the CUNY Value.
SEAN DESVIGNES

HIS STORY
Influenced by jazz and the black experience yet citing Shakespeare, Chaucer and the Romantic poets as favorites, Sean DesVignes (Brooklyn College ’16) started writing poetry at 13. Now a nationally honored published poet and spoken-word performer, DesVignes coached Brooklyn College’s team to national prominence at the 2013 and 2014 College Union’s Poetry Slam Invitational, winning best new poet in the 2013 competition, and is currently working on a manuscript chronicling the free jazz and calypso movements of the 1960s.

AWARD
2015 Beinecke Scholarship for graduate study, recognizing “exceptional promise.”

GOAL
Likely to attend graduate school after earning his B.A. in creative writing.
The New York City experience

is part of the CUNY Value. No university is as deeply woven into its city’s fabric as CUNY is with New York, the country’s intellectual, financial and creative center.

Opportunities for students and graduates are, like the city itself, challenging, exciting, seemingly infinite. From off-Broadway to the Federal Reserve, to national nonprofits and Wall Street, year-round choices abound to intern, volunteer, serve and work, creating lifelong professional relationships — an edge in a city that never sleeps. CUNY’s enduring mission, dating to 1847, is to educate for a better city and state. Our updated college campuses, mixing the historic and the modern in diverse neighborhoods across the city, are uniquely prepared to educate for the 21st century. As one of New York’s longest-running economic engines, CUNY turns out job-ready graduates who overwhelmingly choose to stay in the state to work, pay taxes and raise families. Why not? It’s New York.