CUNY Medical School to Open in 2016

By ILEANA NAJARRO  JULY 14, 2015

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The school, the CUNY School of Medicine, to be based at City College in Harlem, will begin with 70 students and have a partnership with the St. Barnabas Health System in the South Bronx, Michael Arena, a spokesman for CUNY, said.

He added that there are plans for modest growth in class sizes over the next decade.

The school, the seventh in the city to be accredited by the national Liaison Committee on Medical Education, can get full accreditation after its initial class is in its final year.

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Gov Cuomo Announces Accreditation for New Medical School at CUNY

Governor Cuomo announced the accreditation for the CUNY School of Medicine, located on the City College campus in Harlem. The new medical school will increase access to an academically intensive medical education and train physicians for underserved communities across the state.

"This action increases employment, research and learning opportunities for students and faculty members at CUNY School of Medicine in Harlem and will help our next generation of healthcare workers serve communities across New York State," Governor Cuomo said. "This new school is another step toward making medical care more accessible for all New Yorkers."

The CUNY School of Medicine will launch its inaugural class in 2016 in partnership with St. Barnabas Health System in the South Bronx.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education, a U.S. Department of Education recognized accreditor of medical education programs leading to the MD degree, has approved the new school following an extensive review of its academic program, teaching facilities and clinical partnerships.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, New York State and the nation face a critical shortage of doctors. By 2025, it is estimated that the demand for physicians will exceed supply by a range of 46,000 to 90,000. For primary care physicians, the shortfall is expected to be between 12,000 and 31,000 doctors.

According to a 2013 Kaiser Family Foundation study, New York State is meeting only 40 percent of its primary care needs, one of the lowest rates in the country.

The CUNY School of Medicine received 'Accredited - Preliminary Status' designation from LCME on June 10. Preliminary status accreditation is a major milestone for the new medical school and is the outgrowth of an intensive, voluntary, peer-review process of quality assurance that determines whether the program meets established standards. This process also fosters institutional and program improvement.

The first CUNY School of Medicine class of 70 students will begin in the fall 2016. A campaign is underway to raise $20 million in interest-free loans for those students.

The CUNY School of Medicine at City College builds on the strong record of achievement of the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education. Founded in 1972 with the generous support from college benefactors and alumni Leonard and Sophie Davis, the Sophie Davis School has placed a special focus on patient/doctor relationships so that its graduates, regardless of specialty, treat their patients with a unique patient-centered, culturally sensitive approach.

The Sophie Davis School has gained recognition as a leader in educating underrepresented minorities for medical practice. After five years of education at the Sophie Davis School, students have transferred to other, fully accredited medical schools for the last two years of clinical education. Due to increased demand for transfer slots, CUNY was faced with the decision of either closing its medical education program or developing a full program.

To continue to serve the population of students at CUNY and the communities who depend on its graduates, the choice was clear. Over the past five years, about 43 percent of the students graduating from the Sophie Davis School have been black or Latino. In comparison, blacks comprise 6 percent of the nation's medical school graduates. Latinos are 5 percent of the nation's medical school graduates, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

The transformation of the Sophie Davis School into a fully accredited CUNY School of Medicine will enable CUNY to expand its efforts to serve New York's pressing health care needs by providing a unique medical education pathway for competent, caring physicians.

In its more than 40 years of educating students for medical practice, the Sophie Davis School developed the most unique physician training program in the nation, partnering with medical schools across New York and other states.

Moreover, the majority of Sophie Davis graduates are licensed to practice medicine in New York State, many in primary care, with most serving in physician shortage areas or serving a patient base that is underserved. The CUNY School of Medicine is also expected to provide its students with earlier clinical experiences through a curriculum incorporating coursework and experiential learning alongside the medical training to become leaders in community care across the nation.
CUNY's City College Will Launch Medical School

Submitted by Scott Jaschik on July 15, 2015 - 3:00am

City College of the City University of New York announced Tuesday that it is starting a medical school, in partnership with Bronx-based St. Barnabas Hospital. City College already has a program that provides an undergraduate education and the first two years of medical school, but the new program will be a full medical program. The school will focus on training doctors to work in areas without enough medical professionals.
CUNY's first medical school slated to open in Harlem next year

Jul 15, 2015, 10:10am EDT

Staff New York Business Journal

The City University of New York will have a medical school starting in 2016 after the CUNY School of Medicine received accreditation.

That school, to be located in Harlem, will accept 70 students in its first class, the New York Daily News reported, and will partner with the St. Barnabas Health System. For about 40 years, the report noted, CUNY has run a pre-medical program at the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, and the new school will replace the Davis School.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo was quoted by the Daily News saying, "This new school is another step toward making medical care more accessible for all."

In its report, Crain’s New York emphasized that the United States faces the possibility of a doctor shortage as soon as 2025. Therefore, Jean Moore of the University of Albany’s Center for Health Workforce Studies told Crain’s, "Starting a medical school with a focus on primary care in underserved areas is a great start" toward solving that problem.
New medical school to open in Harlem

The CUNY School of Medicine, to launch in 2016, will partner with the St. Barnabas Health System in the South Bronx.

Jonathan LaMania

Published: July 14, 2015 - 3:19 pm

New York City is getting a new medical school in Harlem with the goal of training more doctors to practice in underserved communities across the state.

The CUNY School of Medicine will be located on the City College campus near 138th Street and will partner with the Bronx-based St. Barnabas Health System. The school was accredited Tuesday following an effort by leaders at City College's Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education, providing a low-cost option for CUNY students to become physicians. Sophie Davis offers a seven-year degree program that includes three years of undergraduate education and two years of medical school, but students had to finish up at schools outside the CUNY system.

The first class of 70 students will start in fall 2016. A campaign to raise $20 million for interest-free student loans is underway, according to an announcement from Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

"This action increases employment, research and learning opportunities for students and faculty members at CUNY School of Medicine in Harlem and will help our next generation of health care workers serve communities across New York state," Mr. Cuomo said in a statement. "This new school is another step toward making medical care more accessible for all New Yorkers."

Nationwide, the demand for doctors is expected to exceed supply by 46,000 to 90,000 in 2025, according to a report in March by the Association of American Medical Colleges. That shortfall is projected to be between 12,500 and 31,000 in primary care, which has been losing debt-ridden medical-school graduates to higher-paying specialties.

These estimates overstate the physician shortage, as they don't fully take into account the ability of nurse practitioners and physician assistants to treat primary care patients, said Jean Moore, director of the Center for Health Workforce Studies at the University of Albany. But she cheered the news of the new school.
"We need a multipronged strategy. Starting a medical school with a focus on primary care in underserved areas is a great start," Ms. Moore said. "We need to create programs for physicians to train with nurse practitioners and physician assistants so we can begin the building blocks of team-based care and everyone feels comfortable in that model."

She said the school has great potential to produce home-grown graduates who could practice in the communities where they grew up and provide the kind of culturally competent care that neighborhoods need. To reduce the primary care shortage, additional training sites for medical residents are needed, though.

"The number of graduating physicians from medical school is growing, but the number of residency slots has been relatively stable," Ms. Moore said.
Greater New York Watch
A roundup of news from around the tri-state region

Updated July 14, 2015 9:53 p.m. ET

CUNY Will Gain a Medical School
The City University of New York is getting its first medical school.

CUNY said Tuesday that CUNY City College’s Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education will become the CUNY School of Medicine with an inaugural class beginning in 2016.

The school will partner with St. Barnabas Health System in the South Bronx.

Previously, the 40 year-old biomedical school, located in Manhattan’s Harlem neighborhood, offered some medical education but didn’t give out medical degrees.

“The new medical school is a logical and necessary expansion of the [biomedical] college’s prestigious...program that has gained recognition as a leader in educating underrepresented minorities for medical practice,” said CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken.

The school’s first class will have 70 students, a school spokesman said. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced the state accreditation for the school on Tuesday and praised the move.

CUNY is a nearly 170-year-old public education network throughout the city made up of 24 institutions. The network had no medical school until now.

Assemblyman Keith T. Wright, a Harlem Democrat, said: “With the launch of the CUNY School of Medicine, students can continue their medical education and careers right here in our backyard.
Suspect Is Sought in Rape of 82-Year-Old
Authorities are searching for a man who allegedly raped an elderly woman inside her home in Brooklyn early Monday morning, police said.

The victim, an 82-year-old woman, was at outside her home near the intersection of West 37th Street and Maple Avenue sweeping the street when the assailant sneaked inside at about 1:40 a.m., police said.

The attacker hid in the bedroom and waited for the victim, police said. As the woman entered the room the attacker demanded money at knifepoint, police said. The victim said she didn’t have any money and the attacker stayed inside until 4 a.m. when he raped her, police said.

The suspect left the home moments later and grabbed an umbrella and a bag of clothing, police said. The victim was taken to Kings County Hospital Center where she was treated for her injuries, police said.

The attacker is described as a man in his 20s or 30s, 5 feet 8 inches tall and 160 pounds with an Afro hairstyle and a gray beard, police said.

—Mark Morales

Man Dies After Being Shot in Chest and Arms
A 22-year-old man was shot and killed in East Harlem, police said on Tuesday.

The victim, Locket Creston, had just left a nearby deli when shots rang out in front of the East River Housing Project on 105th Street just after 11:30 p.m. on Monday, police said. Mr. Creston was struck in the chest and arms, police said. He was taken to Metropolitan Hospital Center where he died a short time later.

Investigators are now trying to determine the cause of the shooting.

No one has been taken into custody in connection with the shooting, police said.

—Mark Morales

City Shuts Day Care Where Baby Died
The unlicensed Manhattan day-care center where a baby was found unconscious and
later died has been shut down as authorities investigate the circumstances surrounding the death, officials said Tuesday.

Officials for the city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene served a cease-and-desist order for Soho Child Care on Greene Street on Monday, the same day Karl Towndrow was dropped off for the first time. Officials returned Tuesday to make sure the establishment compiled with the order.

“Our inspectors were out there today to ensure that the program remained closed,” said spokesman Christopher Miller. “If a parent suspects that their child-care site is not licensed or that a site is operating illegally we urge New Yorkers to call 311 so we can investigate.”

The director of the day-care center couldn’t be reached for comment. No charges have been filed.

The site had been investigated in November 2014 but health-department officials found no evidence that the day-care center was being illegally run, an official said.

On Monday, three-month-old Karl was one of more than a dozen children being watched at the day-care center and was being fed by one of the workers who then found the boy’s lips had turned blue, said New York Police Department Chief of Detectives Robert Boyce.

“It’s impossible to say right now until that autopsy is complete,” Chief Boyce said in reference to whether charges would be filed.

Officials for the city medical examiner said the autopsy, which was done Tuesday, is pending further studies.

—Mark Morales

Lawsuit: Limit Giving to Candidates by LLCs
A lawsuit seeks to make limited liability companies subject to strict campaign finance limits, like corporations or business partnerships in the state.

The lawsuit filed Tuesday says continuing to let LLCs give millions of dollars to state candidates, while publicly shielding names of their wealthy members, gives them far too much behind-the-scenes influence on New York government.

The Brennan law center at New York University, three state legislators and others filed
the suit. The Brennan Center for Justice wants a state judge to reverse the Board of Elections' 1996 decision that subjected the hybrid business entities to the same higher campaign finance limits as people.

Legislation to make that change passed the Democratic-controlled Assembly this year but died in the Republican-controlled state Senate.

—Associated Press

Gambling Expansion Won’t Be on Ballot
New Jersey voters won’t be asked this November to decide whether to expand casino gambling beyond Atlantic City.

Senate President Steve Sweeney confirmed that the clock on the procedural calendar ran out on Tuesday, meaning the referendum won’t be on the ballot this year.

Mr. Sweeney, a Democrat, earlier expressed skepticism about a plan introduced in the Assembly to expand gambling to Bergen, Essex and Hudson counties, saying he preferred a more deliberative process before putting the question to voters. While he has indicated support for northern New Jersey gambling, he has also called for a plan to help Atlantic City, which is struggling economically and saw four casinos close in 2014.

“I said all along there needed to be a public discussion,” Sweeney said. “What we want to make sure is if there is an expansion, Atlantic City is taken care of.”

Legislators must pass a bill by Aug. 3 for the issue to be on November’s ballot. Such a provision must sit for 20 days in each chamber after introduction. That put the deadline for introduction on Tuesday.

—Associated Press

Police Seek Suspect After Woman Attacked
Police are looking for a man who punched a woman in Manhattan, yelled anti-Muslim insults at her and spit on her.

The 19-year-old victim was assaulted late Saturday on Eldridge Street in Chinatown.

The woman was treated for a fractured jaw at Beth Israel Medical Center. Anyone with information is asked to call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-577-TIPS.
New CUNY School of Medicine accredited

City College's school of biomedical education will become a fully accredited medical school beginning in the fall of 2016.

The Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education will expand into the CUNY School of Medicine, following its preliminary accreditation by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education on June 10. Governor Andrew Cuomo's office announced the accreditation today.

The new School of Medicine will accept an inaugural class of about 70 students in the fall of 2016, according to the announcement, and will partner with the Bronx's St. Barnabas Hospital.

The Sophie Davis School previously conferred bachelors of science, plus the pre-clinical part of a medical curriculum.
Civil rights activist, Bloomberg advisor Alan Gartner dies aged 80

BY REUVEN BLAU / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 8:12 AM

Alan Gartner, a civil rights activist who served as a top advisor in the Bloomberg administration, died Tuesday morning. He was 80.

The cause of death was Parkinson's disease, a family friend said.

Known as a man who worked behind-the-scenes to fight against inequality, Gartner was once beaten by segregationists during a protest in Louisiana and held a top position a major civil
At the time, Gartner was serving as the national community relations director for the Congress of Racial Equality, a leading civil rights group in the 1960s.

He left CORE and worked in several antipoverty organizations in Suffolk County and New York. Eventually, he started to work as an education scholar at the Graduate Center at the City University of New York where he earned a doctorate in urban education.

As an academic, he wrote or edited more than 25 books, including "Inclusion and School Reform: Transforming America's Classrooms."

In the late 1970s, he served as the director for special education, a cause he long championed.

Before the 2001 mayoral election, he served as an education policy advisor to Bloomberg. After the election, he became Walcott's chief of staff.

"Like many CUNY students, I was lucky to have him as a teacher, and he became an invaluable part of our City Hall team and the education reforms that made such a big difference in the lives of millions of children," Bloomberg said.

Gartner is survived by his wife Dorothy, six children and 11 grandchildren.
City College establishes medical school with St. Barnabas Hospital

CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

In a major development in the institution's 168-year history, The City College of New York announces the establishment of the CUNY School of Medicine at City College in partnership with Bronx-based St. Barnabas Hospital (which is part of the SBH Health System).

The new Harlem-based medical school, whose first class is scheduled to begin fall 2016, will be an expansion of City College's Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education. Established in 1973 on the City College campus, the Sophie Davis School currently offers a unique seven-year BS/MD program that integrates an undergraduate education with the first two years of medical school.

The new medical school on the City College campus builds on the strong record of achievement of the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education whose mission is recruiting underrepresented minorities into medicine, increasing medical care in historically underserved communities, and boosting the number of primary care physicians.

City College President Lisa S. Coico said the newly established school would nurture young students to embrace a career focused on caring for their fellow citizens with passion, empathy and respect.

"The need for more physicians in many communities in our city, particularly in the communities surrounding City College, remains dire," she said. "By establishing this resource, City College is both helping to address this critical need and fulfilling a vital community service."

City College Provost Maurizio Trevisan said the Sophie Davis School, of which he is also dean, is the perfect foundation for the new medical school.

"The new medical school will continue the unique mission by providing young students from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to pursue a medical career that focuses on providing health care to the underserved communities of New York State," Trevisan added.

"In doing so, the school remains true to the mission of City College founder Townsend Harris, who stated, '... Let the children of the rich and the poor take their seat together and know of no distinction....'"

Scott Cooper, MD, president and CEO of SBH Health System, hailed the partnership with City College.
"Like City College, we have a congruent mission to provide quality care to underserved communities," he said. "With our combined resources and commitment, those facing health disparities will have more than good reason to hope."

Operating on the City College campus in Harlem with its clinical campus at St. Barnabas Hospital, the new school is the only medical school in the CUNY system.

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About The City College of New York

Since 1847, The City College of New York has provided low-cost, high-quality education for New Yorkers in a wide variety of disciplines. More than 15,000 students pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees in the College of Liberal Arts and Science; the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture; the School of Education; the Grove School of Engineering; the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education; and the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership. U.S. News & World Report, Princeton Review and Forbes all rank City College among the best colleges and universities in the United States.

About SBH Health System

St. Barnabas Hospital and its sister facilities in the Bronx are now known as SBH Health System. In addition to its flagship hospital, which features the hospital's state-of-the-art Ambulatory Care and Hemodialysis centers, SBH Health System encompasses Fordham-Tremont Mental Health Center, the St. Barnabas Rehabilitation & Continuing Care Center, and the Southern Medical Group.

St. Barnabas Hospital is a 461-bed not-for-profit acute care community hospital with a Level 1 Trauma Center. The Ambulatory Care Center at St. Barnabas Hospital recently received Level 3, the highest level of certification for a patient-centered medical home, a model of care that emphasizes care coordination and communication to transform primary care into "what patients want it to be" (as defined by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, the certifying body).

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Gov. Cuomo announced on Tuesday that the City University of New York will open a medical school.

The City University of New York is opening its first-ever medical school in...
Harlem in 2016, Gov. Cuomo said Tuesday.

The CUNY School of Medicine will be located at City College and will launch its inaugural class in partnership with St. Barnabas Health System in the South Bronx.

There will be 70 students in the CUNY School of Medicine’s inaugural class. The school has already been accredited, Cuomo’s office said.

Cuomo said the first medical school in CUNY’s 170-year history will benefit all New Yorkers.

“This action increases employment, research and learning opportunities for students and faculty,” Cuomo said. “This new school is another step toward making medical care more accessible for all.”

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education, a U.S. Department of Education accreditor, approved CUNY’s new medical school in June after an extensive review.

CUNY’s first-ever medical school will have an inaugural class of 70 students at the Harlem campus in 2016.

CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken said the new school will increase access to medical education and train physicians for underserved communities across the state.

“The new medical school is a logical and necessary expansion of the college's prestigious 40-year old biomedical program,” Milliken said.
CUNY has operated a pre-medical program at the Sophie Davis School since 1973. The new CUNY School of Medicine will replace the Sophie Davis School.

CUNY officials said the CUNY School of Medicine has undertaken a campaign to raise $20 million in interest-free student loans for the school’s first class.
This Day in Jewish History / The scientist who invented the term 'God particle' is born

A boyhood friend convinced Leon Lederman of the 'splendors of physics' and he went on to win the Nobel Prize.

By David B. Green | Jul. 15, 2015 13:09 AM

Leon Lederman, in 2007. A great explainer of science, and he has been very active in promoting science education.

Photo by Wikimedia Commons

July 15 is the birthday of Leon Lederman, the physicist and educator who shared the 1988 Nobel Prize for Physics for his part in the discovery of a subatomic particle called the mu meson neutrino. Among the general public, Lederman is also known as the person who dubbed the long-elusive Higgs boson the "God particle," because of the keystone-like role it played in the so-called standard model of particle physics — used to explain the basic order of the universe — during the many decades when the very
Leon Max Lederman was born July 15, 1922, in New York, and grew up in the Bronx. His parents were both Jewish immigrants from pre-revolutionary Russia: Morris Lederman, who ran a laundry, and the former Minna Rosenberg.

After graduating from James Monroe High School in the South Bronx, in 1939, Lederman, like so many other first-generation New Yorkers in those decades, attended the City College of New York, where he studied chemistry. Later, it was his boyhood friend Martin J. Klein who, "during a long evening over many beers," according to Lederman, convinced him of "the splendors of physics" — the field he pursued in graduate school, at Columbia University. (Klein went on to become a historian of physics of some renown.)

Between college and graduate school, Lederman spent three years in the U.S. Army Signal Corps, being discharged with the rank of second lieutenant.

Working with Columbia's synchro-cyclotron, at the time the world's most powerful nuclear accelerator, Lederman began moving in the direction of particle physics. Under the direction of I.I. Rabi, who himself won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1944, he received his doctorate in 1951, and immediately began teaching at Columbia.

Particle physics aims to understand the basic building blocks of matter, as well as the forces that hold those building blocks together. This knowledge can be used not only to explain the world as it is today, but also to theorize about the origins of the universe, as well as its inevitable future.

The "standard model," as it was ultimately conceived during the 20th century, identified the basic components of the atom — the electron, proton and neutron — and the 12 different quarks and leptons that comprise those components. It also identified the four forces — gravity, electromagnetism, strong and weak — that direct the particles' behavior.

Lederman shared the Nobel Prize with Melvin Schwartz and Jack Steinberger for the work they did together in 1962, discovering the muon, or mu, a type of neutrino (a charge-less particle with no detectable mass), and thus helping to prove the existence of the so-called weak force at work in atomic nuclei.

'Goddamn Particle'

Proving the existence of the Higgs boson, which happened only in 2012, was another step — if not the final one — in confirming the accuracy of the standard model, and it wasn't even attempted before the creation of the ultra-powerful Large Hadron Collider at CERN laboratories in Switzerland.

Lederman dubbed it the "God particle" in a 1993 book of that name. In part, he wrote, because "the publisher wouldn't let us call it the Goddamn Particle, though that might be a more appropriate title, given its villainous nature and the expense it is causing.

As hinted above, Lederman is a great explainer of science, and he has been very active in promoting science education in the United States, teaching at the undergraduate level, helping to found a high school in Chicago for children gifted in science and math, and heading an organization to educate
Reservoir Task Force Holds First Meeting, Calls for Bridge Access

July 14, 2015 at 4:12 PM

A LOOK AT the inaccessible bridge that dissects Jerome Park Reservoir.

By NORWOOD NEWS

The Jerome Park Reservoir Access Task Force held its first meeting at the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center, reviewing plans and objectives for the scheduled August 6 meeting with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Agency over pilot access program. Committee members agreed that one step in a more permanent access program would be to open up the reservoir’s dividing wall to the general public.

Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, whose district covers the Reservoir, said that given the good condition of the walkway, it needed very little upgrade to make it a usable space for the public. When asked about the cost of necessary new fencing, he said, “I don’t think it would be that expensive and if necessary I’m sure elected officials could work that out.” The reservoir’s dividing wall, which was built in the mid 1980’s, would create a direct pedestrian link between Sedgwick and Goulden Avenues.

Gary Axelbank, the community’s representative on the Task Force, pointed out that as far as security goes, opening up the ‘bridge’ would actually make the community more secure since it would provide more direct access for a large swath of the Bronx to the borough’s emergency evacuation site at Lehman College.

The five task force members in attendance were Dinowitz, Axelbank, Fr. Gorman, CB8 Chair Dan Padernacht, and Dan Donovan, who represented the Borough President’s office. Nine community members also attended. They agreed to meet one more time prior to the meeting with the DEP.
Emeritus Professor of German Studies Donald Crosby Dies

July 15, 2015  By: Combined Reports  Category: News & Life

On May 16, while returning from a Danube river cruise, Donald H. Crosby, emeritus professor of German studies and comparative literature, collapsed and died on board the plane. He was 88.

Crosby was on the University of Connecticut faculty from 1970 until his retirement in 1990. His specialty was Romanticism, as evidenced by courses he taught such as "German Lyric Poetry," "Literature of the Goethezeit," "The Romantic Era," and "Poetry of the 19th Century." Branching out from his own dissertation on the German dramatist Kleist, he developed a course on "Contemporary German Theater" and initiated acquisition of the University's collection of classic and modern German drama on videotape. He drew on his personal passion for classical music to enrich standard courses and to create others, such as "Literature and Music." Another original course was "World War II from the Perspective of German Historians and Novelists," which enjoyed interdisciplinary popularity.

Following World War II service in the Philippines, Crosby earned his Ph.D. from Princeton and was in the first class of Fulbright Scholars sent to Germany after the war. He taught at Indiana University, the University of Kansas, Dartmouth College, and City University of New York. But prior to his academic career, he detoured into the National Security Agency, where his remarkable memory for passages of German literature brought success in breaking codes used by East Germany during the Cold War.

After retirement, Crosby moved to the Washington, D.C., area and lectured for the Smithsonian, the German Embassy, Johns Hopkins University, the Kennedy Center, and the Goethe Society. He was a charter member of the Wagner Society of Washington, D.C., later receiving the Wagner Award for lectures on Wagner's music and his place in German culture.

Crosby's legacy comes from his personal mission to promote understanding that the 12 years of Nazi horrors should not erase from the world's cultural memory centuries of achievements in the German literature, philosophy, poetry, and music that he loved.
Died peacefully at home surrounded by his loving family on July 14, 2015 in New York City. Alan is survived by his loving wife, Dorothy Lipsky, his children, Jonathan, Rachel and Daniel, her children, Robin, Nina and Daniel, and their 11 grandchildren. He survived his ex-wife Audrey. Alan Gartner was involved in social justice issues since college at Antioch and Harvard. His career spanned civil and poverty rights, as leader of Boston CORE and Suffolk County OEO; education, as Newton high school teacher and head of Special Education in New York City public schools; academia, as professor at Queens College and director at the Graduate Center at CUNY; publisher of Social Policy magazine and author of more than 25 books, of which those on school inclusion and reform were written with his wife; and politics and government, as director of the City Redistricting Commission and in executive roles throughout the Bloomberg administration. Alan will be greatly missed.
Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman surprised a host on Bloomberg Business on Monday when he said that he believes Puerto Rico’s $7.25 minimum wage is too high.

Krugman, who is also a New York Times columnist and a professor at the City University of New York, was discussing debt issues facing both Puerto Rico and Greece. Bloomberg host Joe Weisenthal asked Krugman about claims made by conservatives that part of the U.S. territory’s woes stem from it having the same minimum wage as the U.S.

Though not a conservative, Krugman agreed with that theory.

"The minimum wage is too high...their productivity is about a third of the U.S. average," he said. "I'm in favor of a higher U.S. minimum, but not tripling it. So the Puerto Rican minimum wage probably is too high. I wouldn't recommend that level relative to productivity in the U.S."

Joseph Weisenthal
@TheStalwart
Biggest surprise of the episode was Krugman saying Puerto Rico's minimum wage is too high.
4:38 PM - 13 Jul 2015

Though Krugman did not make a direct connection between Puerto Rico's minimum wage and the island's slacking economy, he did acknowledge it has a historically high unemployment rate.

"They always have high unemployment, but it's higher now," Krugman said.

Puerto Rico's unemployment rate is currently 12.2 percent, more than double the national rate. West Virginia and Washington D.C. have the next highest unemployment rates in the nation, at 7.2 percent and 7.3 percent respectively.

As Washington Post columnist Charles Lane wrote last week, Puerto Rico's above-market wage is responsible in part for its high unemployment rate and its struggles to pay its $72 billion debt. The high wage creates a need for black-market labor, which goes untaxed and cuts into Puerto Rico's tax revenue.

Puerto Rico's minimum wage was held at a lower rate than the rest of the U.S. until 1974, when Congress passed a law which brought its minimum wage up to the federal level by 1983.

Lane said that a $15 minimum wage, which some U.S. activists are calling for, would further hamper the Puerto Rican economy.
Clearing a Path for a Better Future

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An exclusive interview with Audrey Pheffer – Queens County Clerk

As I walked up the stairs to the Queens County Courthouse in Jamaica on a Friday afternoon in the summer, I did not know precisely what to expect as I had a scheduled interview with Queens County Clerk, Audrey Pheffer. But after meeting this most affable official for the very first time, I can say with certainty that it was surely an upbeat culmination to an otherwise arduous week for a journalist.

Ms. Pheffer, just returning from a previous appointment in an otherwise busy day, greeted us with a palpable warmth and plenty of lively banter.

At 73, Ms. Pheffer radiates a remarkable youthful exuberance when she speaks about her personal life, her role as Queens County Clerk and her luminous career in public service.

Having been appointed as Queens County Clerk in 2011, Ms. Pheffer has spent the last few years working assiduously to significantly expand court posts, bringing the electronic filing system up to date, and easing the bureaucratic burdens of the residents in the County of Queens.

Arriving at this station in her life was no easy assignment, but Ms. Pheffer’s achievement is clearly predicated on her own merits and sheer determination.

Not one to just sit around and watch the world go by around her, Ms. Pheffer recalls her youth a time of vibrant and active participation. “In high school, I was a majorette and was president of my sorority, so getting involved with people, and working to make things better came as second nature to me,” she said with a reflective tone in her voice.

As a young mother of two living in Far Rockaway in the early 1970s, Ms. Pheffer began working the field of special education. Asked why she decided to pursue this avenue of providing assistance to those less fortunate, Ms. Pheffer waxed philosophical. “Sometimes in life, a path is there for you and you don’t know why you are really on it, but you also know it’s the place you want to be.”

Becoming aware of families with special needs kids inspired Ms. Pheffer to take a more active role in her community. “My kids were young at the time, and my husband could look after them in the evenings, so I took this opportunity to really roll up my sleeves and get involved.”

In those days, she recalls, children afflicted with a multitude of neurological disorders were labeled “retarded” before the debate ensued that attempted to correct negative stereotypes of the disabled.

“I joined the local chapter of the Association for the Help of Retarded Children, and spent my time raising funds for them,” she recalled.

A hint of a career in public service became evident to Ms. Pheffer when she worked for the Board of Education sponsored Occupational Training Center that had just opened in her neighborhood. As she and other colleagues trekked to City Hall to lobby for improved services for special needs children including adequate bussing to their schools, it was there that her talents were noticed.

“Political insiders in my community told me that I’d be in a position to accomplish much more if I were to take a role in local politics,” remembered Ms. Pheffer. “That was the watershed moment in the road leading me to being elected to the New York State Assembly,” she adds.

Soon thereafter Ms. Pheffer joined the Harry S. Truman Democratic Club in Rockaway and worked with influential
people in both local and state politics.

"A judge named Herb Patzer told me there was a position open for a state committee woman, and suggested that I take it," she recalls.

Adding to her increasingly hectic schedule of juggling the responsibilities of motherhood and her nascent public service career, Ms. Pfefher made the decision to pursue her undergraduate degree.

After 10 years of attending evening courses at Queens College, in 1982, Ms. Pfefher graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree. With an abundant smile that radiated pride and a sense of accomplishment, Ms. Pfefher said that "those years were absolutely wonderful."

Breaking new open ground in terms of protecting the inalienable rights of all New Yorkers, Ms. Pfefher then assumed the position of acting director of the newly established City Commission on Human Rights.

"I worked there for three years and while I felt that we were making tremendous progress, it was then that I met former State Senator Jeremy Weinstien. He told me that I could really open doors to enacting legislation that would make a powerful difference in the lives of the people I was serving if I worked for a senator, so I began working for him," she recalls.

Never forgetting her heartfelt commitment to improving the lives of disabled children, in 1965, Ms. Pfefher worked as both public advocate and ombudsman for then City Council President Andrew Stein. "I was his Queens liaison and Ms. Stein gained a growing awareness of community issues and of the lack of services for special needs children," she said.

Soon thereafter, Ms. Pfefher learned that Gertie Lipschutz, then serving as New York State Assemblywoman for the Rockaways had resigned from her position and decided to throw her hat in the ring and seek election to the post.

"At that time, the assembly district included all of Rockaway, a piece of Rosedale and a piece of Howard Beach," she recalls.

Wearing a resounding victory, Ms. Pfefher began her 24-year tenure as the Rockaway's representative in Albany.

"My many years as a representative in the New York State Assembly afforded me an extraordinary amount of opportunities to improve the lives of my constituents. I learned so much about the operations of state government and the most effective ways of ensuring the passage of important legislation," she recalls.

From 1995-2011, Ms. Pfefher served as Chairwoman of the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection and had previously chaired the Assembly's Election Law Committee as well as the Subcommittee on Outreach and Oversight of Senior Citizen Programs. She also served as President of the National Order of Women Legislators from 1995 to 1996.

In 2011, Ms. Pfefher was first named as a consideration for the position of Queens County Clerk subsequent to the passing of her predecessor Gloria D'Amico.

"It was a bittersweet moment for me, as I was up to the many responsibilities of being the Queens County clerk, but it was also hard to depart from something that meant so much to me for 24 years," she recalled.

For the last four years, Ms. Pfefher has utilized her seemingly infinite reservoir of energy, enthusiasm and resources to making significant improvements in the Queens jury system.

"My job as commissioner of jurors is to make sure that there are jury members for the Criminal, Civil and Supreme Court cases. An essential aspect of my job is to ensure that the ethnic, religious and racial diversity of the borough eventually becomes endemic to our legal system," she intoned.

"It's important that everyone understand that it's the jury system that makes this country work. It facilitates justice," she added.

Having addressed both NAACP and immigrant rights groups throughout the borough, Ms. Pfefher says that she has discovered that one of the major reasons that there is such a low percentage of minorities sitting on juries is because many people are not filling out their juror questionnaires correctly. "We are rectifying this problem with the help of groups that advocate for greater juror participation," she said.

Speaking about the modernization of juror facilities, Ms. Pfefher says, "now jurors can enjoy wi-fi and air conditioning while they serve on a jury and everything is being done to make their experience more comfortable."

Ms. Pfefher brims with excitement as she discusses the future at the Queens County clerk's office. "Thus far we've made a lot of progress in the area of electronic filing and we know that will be highly beneficial to the public we serve," she says.

She says that in two months all mandated medical malpractice cases will be available electronically as will mandated commercial suits.

"We are a very forward-looking office and in my capacity as a public servant, I want to ease the bureaucratic burden of the people of Queens and make this borough an example of efficiency for the City of New York," she says.
Hunter College Art Galleries to Open 'Daniel Barroca: Refusal of the Image', 7/24
by
BWW News Desk
July 14

Hunter College Art Galleries is pleased to announce the opening of Daniel Barroca: Refusal of the Image, a solo exhibition centered on the work of Portuguese artist Daniel Barroca, curated by Hunter College MA candidate Tatiana Mouarbes.

The show will be on view July 24 - August 22, 2015, with an opening reception slated for July 23 from 6 to 8 p.m.. Gallery hours are Thursday-Saturday, 1-6 p.m. at 250 Hudson Street Gallery, Second floor, New York, NY 10013 (entrance on Canal between Hudson and Greenwich).

In Barroca's multimedia and interdisciplinary practice, the artist investigates the perceptual and performative qualities of images and their reconstitution over temporal, spatial, and cultural boundaries. Marking the first solo show of Barroca's work in the United States, the exhibition will examine the artist's experiments with the instability of images in a series of video, photography, and drawing works from the past fifteen years, including The Sequences of Memory, Silence, and War; ...a hazy and confused landscape; Maps of Complicities; Stuck in a Loop: Thoughts and notes on the end of the world; The Destruction of the Destruction; and War Drawing.
Much of Barroca's work with video, photography, drawing, and installation derives from an engagement with the mutable properties of images, their multiple lives and their perceptual transformations over time. Barroca collects and archives images, both found and personal, assembling a repository of historical images to work from and within, in order to locate varying synchronicities inscribed in these diverse selections. Barroca draws from a wide-range of historical and documentary material - photographs, videos, and sound recordings - produced at the time of major epochal events. Dislodging these from their contextual origin through abstraction and collage in his video and drawing works, the artist configures a new, unspecified space for his images. By blurring distinctions between an image's form and content, a process of structural reworking through multiple mediums, Barroca exposes the shadows of images - those traces of memory, form, and gesture belonging to a timeless realm of collective experience.

DANIEL BARROCA - Daniel Barroca was born in Lisbon in 1976. He studied painting and visual arts at Centro de Arte e Comunicação Visual (ArCo), Lisbon and earned a degree in visual arts from Escola Superior de Arte e Design (ESAD), Caldas da Rainha in 2001. He was a resident artist at the Künstlerhaus Bethanien in 2008 and at the Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten in 2010 and 2011. Since his first solo show in 2001, the artist's work has been extensively exhibited by international institutions such as Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; Museum Abteiberg, Monchengladbach, Germany; Museu Colecção Berardo, Lisbon; Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, Porto; National Center for Contemporary Art, Moscow; Rijksakademie, Amsterdam; Spanish Academy, Rome; Qbox Gallery, Athens; and Queens Museum, New York. Barroca is currently a resident artist in The Drawing Center's Open Sessions Program (2014-2015) and is the recipient of a research grant from the Marcelino Botin Foundation for his project A land that is more slippery than stable.

ABOUT THE HUNTER COLLEGE ART GALLERIES - The Hunter College Art Galleries, under the auspices of the Department of Art and Art History, have been a vital aspect of the New York cultural landscape since their inception over a quarter-century ago. This exhibition builds on a long tradition of creative interchange between art history and studio art at Hunter. Widely regarded as one of the leading art programs in the country, Hunter College's Department of Art serves both undergraduate and graduate populations, offering a full undergraduate major in Art, a BFA and an MFA in Studio Art, and an MA in Art History. In its 2012 rankings of "America's Best Graduate Schools," U.S. News & World Report ranked Hunter's Master of Fine Arts program 13th in the nation, and within this, the painting and drawing program 7th.
On Campus: UND library director finalists visit campus

By Anna Burleson Today at 6:00 a.m.

Finalists for the Dean of Libraries and Information Resources at UND will be on campus this month, according to a post on the school's online newsletter.

Librarians Sally Dockter and Shelby Harken will serve as interim leaders beginning Aug. 1 while the search continues to replace retired longtime Chester Fritz Library Director Wilbur Stolt.
David Tyckoson from California State University will be at UND through Wednesday. The associate dean of the Henry Madden Library spoke at an open forum Tuesday and will visit with faculty Wednesday in Carnegie Hall from 11:45 a.m to 12:30 p.m.

Stephanie Walker, chief librarian and executive director of Academic Information Technology at City University of New York's Brooklyn College, will speak at an open forum Thursday, and Karl Bridges, dean of the Eli M. Oboler Library at Idaho State University, will speak July 28. Both will speak at 3 p.m. in room 100 of Leonard Hall.

The events will be streamed live and available for later viewing for those with UND credentials at bit.ly/1CBMbil.

Other news

• Mark Hagerott, the new chancellor of the North Dakota University System, will hold listening sessions with lawmakers and community members throughout the state this month. He will be in Minot Thursday, Williston, N.D., Friday, Grand Forks Monday and Fargo and Jamestown, N.D., Tuesday. Sessions will also be held in Dickinson July 22 and Bismarck July 23.

• Karla Mongeon-Stewart has been hired as UND's associate vice president for finance. She replaced Peggy Lucky, who retired in May after 43 years at the school. Mongeon-Stewart began working June 30 and comes to UND from Montana. She earned degrees from institutions in the state and has also previously held positions in North Dakota and Texas.

• A website has been created for people to upload pictures and statements in memory of longtime UND Communication Program faculty member Stephen Rendahl, who died last week. It’s accessible at goo.gl/Ywly6u and information collected will be used in a tribute this fall.

• An After Hours women’s social will be held for Mayville State University at 5 p.m. on Tuesday at the home of Sheryl Vinje in Portland, N.D. Donations of $10
are requested at the door and there will be a drawing for a purse with prizes. RSVP at (701) 788-2134 or at lindabaier830@gmail.com.

- The Communication and Information Technology Management Programs offered online by the University of Minnesota-Crookston has received a 2015-16 Students Before Profits Award from Nonprofit Colleges Online.

- Guillermo Guardia of Grand Forks and Ryan Stander of Minot received $2,500 artist fellowships from the North Dakota Council on the Arts. The fellowship is designed to give practicing artists a way to improve their craft.

- UND received the Employer of the Year Award from Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota for working with refugees and new Americans.

- The makeup of two UND faculty senate committees has been announced. The six-person groups will work to establish the guidelines that need to be in place for the establishment of a Faculty Senate, as the school currently has one all-encompassing University Senate. Committee members are listed online at bit.ly/1HiRkl1.