These Are the Best Songs to Wake Up to, According to Science

By Tim Barnes November 03, 2015

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Perhaps most importantly for one’s morning, music can serve as a strong cup of coffee, helping one stir up the motivation and optimism to face the day.

Monday, music psychologist David J. Greenberg of the University of Cambridge and City University of New York in collaboration with Spotify released a 20-track playlist of some of the most effective music to help sleep-deprived adults actually wake up. All the tracks follow a specific scene profile that allows one to wake up out of bed slowly and motivate them for the day far more effectively than any alarm clock.
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The methodology: According to Greenberg, the playlist wasn't altogether easy to put together. "It's kind of a tricky situation because waking up is a pretty unique event," Greenberg told Mic. "You're starting out in a tired, grumpy, cranky state. For most of us it's a struggle, and you're trying to go from that state to a state where you're feeling alert, energetic and optimistic about the day at best."

One might assume the best way to deal with this challenge would be to pep on some uplifting, upbeat music and attempt to hit the ground running. However, the mind simply can't process music that way so early in the morning. "It's more about bringing you through multiple stages from that lassitude to being more alert and then gaining the energy from there," Greenberg said.

The songs chosen all include elements to help facilitate this process. Each track with the listener into the song, before building up to the driving beats and positive lyrics. Greenberg points to Coldplay's "Viva La Vida," with its extended string intro and highly rhythmic verse, as the wake-up ideal. Its beat places its emphasis on the second and fourth beats, which Greenberg explained has the psychological effect of "creating movement in a song."

All the songs clock in at around 100 to 130 beats per minute, which previous research has proven to be the ideal for tempo to produce a motivational effect.

Source: YouTube

Hearing Greenberg talk about music as sonic elements with distinct psychological effects, it feels more like a prescriptive medicine than an expressive art form. However, this is part of music's power, Greenberg explained. It transmogrifies a purely aesthetic experience.

"It's not just a form of entertainment," Greenberg said. "It's something that's ingrained into our psyche and our brains. The more we look into music, the more we find out how much of a role it's played in the evolutionary process in terms of communication and social bonding."

Helping individuals summon the motivation to face the work day is just the very tip of all the profound psychological effects music can have. Particularly during the roughest mornings — the Mondays, the hangover-riddled Saturdays — this may be music's most vital role.
Juvenile cowbirds sneak out at night, study finds

November 2, 2015 in Biology / Plants & Animals

An advanced tracking system revealed the secret habits of young cowbirds, like this one with a radio transmitter on its back. Credit: Mike Ward

A new study explores how a young cowbird, left as an egg in the nest of a different species, grows up to know it's a cowbird and not a warbler, thrush or sparrow.

The study, published in Animal Behaviour, reveals that cowbird juveniles leave the host parents at dusk and spend their nights in nearby fields, returning just after daybreak. This behavior likely plays a role in the cowbirds' ability to avoid imprinting on their host parents.

"If I took a chickadee and I put it in a titmouse nest, the chickadee would start learning the song of the titmouse and it would actually learn the titmouse behaviors," said Matthew Louder, who conducted the study as a Ph.D. student with Illinois Natural History Survey avian ecologist Jeff Hoover and INHS biological surveys coordinator Wendy Schelsky. "And then, when it was old enough, the chickadee would prefer to mate with the titmouse, which would be an evolutionary dead end," he said.

Louder is now a postdoctoral researcher with East Carolina University in North Carolina and Hunter College in New York.

The imprinting process is widespread among birds and other animals, but brood parasites like the cowbird appear to be resistant to imprinting. They will imprint on a different species if confined with that species for an extended period of time in a cage, but the birds don't appear to do so in the wild.

Cowbird hosts, such as the prothonotary warblers in this study, have their own habits and habitats, and seldom choose to live where the cowbirds live or eat what they eat. Prothonotary warblers, for example, live in forests and dine on insects and caterpillars. Cowbirds spend most of their adult lives in open fields and prairies, and while they do eat insects, about three-quarters of their diet consists of seeds.
"Among other things, cowbirds have got to learn to eat like cowbirds or they're not going to survive very long," Hoover said.

The team put up three radio towers, each with six antennas on it, to track the cowbird juveniles and the female cowbirds day and night. Credit: Photo by Matthew McKim Louder

The researchers wanted to test the hypothesis that cowbird moms are the ones that lead their offspring out of the forest. There was some support for this idea. A recent study from the same team found that cowbird females don't simply abandon their eggs in another species' nest. They pay attention to whether the young birds survive, sometimes wrecking the nests of birds that kick the cowbird eggs out of their nests.

The cowbird females also return to nests where young cowbirds survived to fledging age. Cowbird females are often spotted in the vicinity of cowbird nestlings, Schelsky said, and sometimes respond (with vocalizations, not food) to the nestlings' begging calls.

To track the birds in the forest and prairie, the researchers put radio telemetry transmitters on the cowbird nestlings and on adult female cowbirds in the forest where the host parents made their nests. The team took blood from the birds and conducted genetic analyses to match the juveniles (and their radio signals) to their biological mothers.

But tracking the birds, even with the radio transmitters, was next to impossible, Louder said. He tried for a year, but was unable to get meaningful data. Then study co-author Michael Ward, a professor of natural resources and environmental sciences at the University of Illinois, came up with a new approach.

"He helped construct an automated telemetry system," Louder said. "We put up three radio towers, each with six antennas on it, so you have 360-degree directional coverage. All three towers track one individual cowbird at a time and then move to the next individual."

With this system, Louder could track the location of each study bird every one-to-two minutes.

"We were able to watch the juveniles and see if they left the forest at the same time as a female and, if so, whether that female was their mom," he said.

"Strangely enough, the juveniles did not follow the females out of the forest," Louder said. Instead, they left on their own, after dark, returning only the following morning, he said.

"I started seeing this in the data and I thought it was wrong," Louder said. So he went to the forest and followed a single juvenile cowbird for one night. The bird left the forest in the evening, moving to a rosebush on the adjacent prairie. It was out there all night, alone.
"As soon as the sun came up, the juvenile flew back into the forest and to the warbler's territory," Louder said. "Without the automated radio telemetry, I would have assumed that it had stayed in the forest all night."

The discovery doesn't explain how cowbirds find their way into a cowbird flock, where they learn most of their social and survival skills and eventually find a mate. But it does offer some insight into the processes that allow young cowbirds to avoid imprinting on their hosts, the researchers said.

"Clearly, there's a lot more to these birds than people would have thought," Hoover said. "We still have more layers to peel away from this onion that is the cowbird."

Local Waterways as Classrooms and Laboratories: A Conversation with Professor Joseph Rachlin

American journalist Charles Kuralt wrote in *A Life on the Road*:

> I started out thinking of America as highways and state lines. As I got to know it better, I began to think of it as rivers. Most of what I love about the country is a gift of the rivers: birchbark canoes and cottonwood pirogues; steamboats and trading scows; Huckleberry Finn, Mike Fink and Evangeline; blue herons, bald eagles and snowy egrets; the Grand Canyon and the Hudson Palisades.

He concluded the book's chapter, Down by the Riverside, with his oft cited quote, "America is a great story and there is a river on every page of it."

There are 3.5 million miles of rivers and streams in the U.S. Add to that our estuaries, bayous, bays, lakes, wetlands and the 95,471-mile coastline that defines most of our national boundary. Embodied therein is the stuff of any core curriculum: history, literature, economics, arts and the natural, formal and social sciences.

Why don't more schools use their local waterway as a living classroom and laboratory?

The cost of regularly transporting students is a familiar obstacle. Many schools operate with limited transportation budgets. But even if that funding were not an issue, the more thorny question is whether such study would meet state and federal education requirements. Almost any public school teacher who aspired to build a curriculum around an American river would have to wrestle with that conundrum.

But let us be optimistic about those challenges for a moment. Once at the water's edge, what is a teacher to do?
Granted, not every school can qualify for large outside funding. Fortunately, all across the nation, indefatigable teachers are willing to lead the way with intellect, passion, and creativity, even where resources are limited. In future posts, I will profile some of the institutions and individuals who are connecting American education to American waterways — feel free to contact me with tips.

One such educator is Professor Joseph Rachlin, director of the Laboratory for Marine and Estuarine Research at CUNY's Lehman College, who will be the recipient of the Great Work Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Environmental Consortium of Colleges and Universities.

"Get students and teachers involved in your research. They will become the next generation of stewards and advocates." — Joseph Rachlin

Dr. Rachlin is an aquatic ecologist who has been training new generations of researchers and teachers for most of his 48-year career. Raised a city kid, he has built an international reputation for his work on the urban streams of New York City, rarely straying from his birthplace of Bronx, NY.

He has worked with some of the best assets a scientist can muster, and he has had to learn to get by. When resources were limited, he strengthened his commitment to making a living classroom and laboratory of New York’s famously impaired waters:

From 1970 - 1992, the greatest extent of my research, with my students, was in the New York Bight and the Hudson Estuary. This was primarily, because I had available to me a research vessel charted through the CUNY Institute of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. When we lost our ability to continue with a ship charter, due to New York State budget constraints, I shifted my research activities to the local waters of the City: the Bronx River, Saw Mill River, and East River. These systems became teaching laboratories for my undergraduate and graduate students.

Like most of the resourceful, urban educators I have met, Dr. Rachlin sees himself in his students. He enables them to find the treasures buried in the urban landscape - a talent he developed during his young years coming up in the city:

Growing up in the West Farms section of the Bronx, we always used to trap crayfish below the falls at 181st street, and we kids always fished for carp in the Bronx River as it flowed through what was then a vacant lot behind the RKO Chester movie house. This site is now Drew Gardens. These experiences along with living within walking distance to the Bronx Zoo, which my brother and I visited every weekend with my father, cemented a strong interest in animal biology and especially the aquatic world.

His training at the fishery science program of New York University drew him to applied biology. He came of age as a scientist during the national conversation launched by Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring. As did Carson, he sees the global in the local, a quality of a first-rate teacher and researcher:

I became interested in the Saw Mill River and the question of carefully examining its freshwater reaches for species common also to the upper freshwater section of the Bronx River near its source at Davis Brook . . . These rivers are a model system since they and their freshwater populations have been separated for some 17,500 years. Is this sufficient time for these isolated populations to, through genetic drift, begin to show incipient speciation?

Even as he explores profound ecological questions in his neglected urban streams, Dr. Rachlin is compelled to meet his responsibility to the
I also used the Bronx River as a model system to train teachers of the New York City School system on how to conduct field research with their students. Towards that end, I and my colleagues, Barbara E. Warkentine and Antonios Pappantonio, developed and self-published an *Educator’s Guide to Riverine Studies with Special Reference to the Bronx River and its Fish fauna*, which we freely distributed to the teachers during our workshops.

I asked him what lesson a long career has yielded:

The most important lesson I have learned is that it is vital to get students and, where possible, teachers involved with your research. And to be as passionate as possible about what you do. If you can get them to realize the value of the aquatic systems – the Hudson River, Bronx River, Saw Mill River, and East River around New York -- they will become the next generation of stewards and advocates.

Everyone is welcome to the annual conference of the Environmental Consortium of Colleges & Universities, November 6-7, at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, NY, where Dr. Rachlin will be honored.

This post appears on *EarthDesk*, the blog of Pace University’s Dyson College Institute for Sustainability and the Environment.
A Good Idea Gets Traction

Submitted by Matt Reed on November 2, 2015 - 7:50pm
Blog: Confessions of a Community College Dean

In grad school, I remember people speaking the term “teaching college” with a sneer, and the term “community college” not at all. This was back in the 90’s, when we were still expecting the “great wave of retirements” to open up so many tenure-track jobs that graduate programs were ramping up admissions to address the looming labor shortage.

So, yeah.

The world was already changing, though we didn’t know it yet. The gap between what we thought would happen and what actually happened was catastrophic.

That’s why I was happy to see that the Mellon Foundation is funding a program through CUNY to get graduate students exposed to the realities of teaching in community colleges. The CUNY partnership isn’t the first to do something along those lines. Over the past couple of years, Paula Krebs at Bridgewater State (MA) put together the New England Cross-Sector Partnership to get graduate programs talking to teaching-intensive institutions in the name of better preparing their students for the jobs that actually exist. She has put together a series of conferences for grad students at research universities to get tips and feedback from people at teaching-intensive places on both the realities of teaching at regional publics and community colleges, and how best to market themselves to them. When I was at Holyoke, we even co-presented on the partnership at the League for Innovation, along with Vanessa Ryan, from Brown. The idea is out there. When I left New England, I couldn’t participate actively in the partnership anymore, though I understand it has had successful followup conferences at UMass-Amherst.

The CUNY proposal takes advantage of geographic proximity, and sheer scale, to formalize something similar. In CUNY’s case, grad students will shadow community college faculty for a semester, and then teach their own courses in the community college. The grad students will get exposure not only to students, but to institutional cultures.

From the perspective of someone who has been hiring community college faculty for over a decade, I can attest that candidates who know the terrain have an advantage over candidates who don’t. It’s one thing to “love to teach,” and it’s another to love to teach five classes a semester to students whose academic preparation levels range widely. Some people thrive on the challenge, while others can’t wait to escape to something more prestigious or research-focused. Neither is wrong, exactly, but the fit can be.
Where the New England Partnership tried to go, and where I hope the CUNY partnership goes, is in taking back the insights gained through teaching and changing the graduate programs accordingly. Excellent college teachers aren’t second-rate researchers; they’re first-rate teachers. But too many graduate programs still treat teaching as either a chore or an afterthought. If the CUNY graduate school treats this as little more than job placement, then it will miss a real opportunity.

I’ll use my own discipline as an example. Most community colleges in the US have a course like “Intro to American Government,” but I’ve never heard of a graduate class on “How to Teach Intro to American Government.” That’s a missed opportunity. And it’s a shame, because a class like that involves as much un-teaching of bad information as it does the teaching of good information. Most of us had to figure that out on the fly. There must be a better way.

So, kudos to Cathy Davidson at CUNY for a characteristically forward-looking idea, to Mellon for funding it, and to Paula Krebs and Vanessa Ryan for building something similar with less money and more space. The need is there. The idea makes sense. And I think Mellon should drop Dean Krebs a line...
Jill Biden attends 'Heads Up America Open House' at LaGuardia Community College in New York

SECTION: NEWS; Awareness Days & Campaigns; Education

LENGTH: 118 words

Second Lady Dr Jill Biden attends a 'Heads Up America Open House' at LaGuardia Community College in New York - one of 80 such events being held in over 15 states this fall to 'raise awareness about college affordability, instill local pride in community college, and spark new connections between community and campus leaders, employers, students, and family to create stronger support networks' - as part of her ongoing efforts to 'underscore the importance of community colleges to the nation's future'.

While in New York, she also tapes an interview on 'Late Night with Seth Meyers', broadcast tonight

Event Start Date: 2015-11-04

Event End Date: 2015-11-04
Last week, the New York Times Editorial Board took a bold stance against the “Law School Debt Crisis” because of their ongoing commitment to report “all the news that’s fit to print... about six years after the fact.” Still, despite the interminable delay, it was nice to see the august publication join the chorus calling for significant reforms in legal education. And as expected, the parade of buthurt deans immediately took to the pages of the Gray Lady for damage control — and in the case of Florida Coastal, to spout some questionable “facts” in their defense.

The Times focused on the government’s Grad PLUS loan program for contributing to the debt crisis by yanking the ceiling off the amount a student can borrow to cover tuition and living expenses and giving law schools every incentive to jack tuition into the stratosphere. It’s been over two years since Georgetown was caught on video counseling students on methods of gaming the system so the school could collect hefty tuition payments and the students could find forgiveness down the road, leaving the taxpayers holding the bag. But don’t let that promise of forgiveness fool you, the students are still getting a raw deal when the school makes its cash grab.

As one might expect, law school deans weren’t going to take this lying down and fired off a
program was ripe for specific scorn with its $45,000 a year in tuition and floundering employment scores, and DeVito wanted to “set the record straight”:

"Your editorial referring to Florida Coastal School of Law paints a picture that is not supported by the facts.

Intriguing. Remember Dean DeVito got this job after another candidate suggested at an internal meeting that the school needed to improve its standing and was ejected from the premises and a federal judge has called out Florida Coastal for playing fast and loose with its facts. So this scolding is going to be good.

"In February 2015 we had a 75 percent first-time bar pass rate, third best out of 11 law schools in the state, and an institutional ultimate pass rate of 87 percent.

Fascinating but irrelevant. The New York Times did say that Florida Coastal’s focus on recruiting students with weak test scores and abysmal undergraduate grades (per LST, the Fall 2014 class averaged a 143 LSAT and a 2.9 undergrad GPA) rendered the student body unlikely to pass the bar exam — which is untrue. But this isn’t really the point as much as the fact that Florida Coastal grads labor under tremendous debt and are highly unlikely to net a full-time, long-term job in the law (with a 33.5 percent employment score and a 41.5 percent underemployment score).

"In such a context, it is improper to judge schools on the size of student debt rather than on how well students repay their debt. Our alumni repay their loans at a higher rate than many “elite” universities; only about 1.1 percent of alumni at Florida Coastal are in default.

How is this possibly true with 29.5 percent of last year’s graduates unemployed? There must be some fancy accounting at work here. Dean DeVito isn’t going to tackle the unemployment numbers, obviously, but he is quick to change the subject!
wrong to imply that for-profit is inherently bad. Sometimes it takes a
for-profit entity to right a wrong — in this case the lack of diversity in law schools. At
Florida Coastal 44.8 percent of the student body are members of minority groups.

You are also right that our students have a higher debt load than we would like. That
is an area we take very seriously. But if you want to diversify the profession, then you
will have to admit students who do not have the same resources as students at “elite”
law schools.

Wow. The argument is that the school deserves a pat on the back for helping minority
groups (who implied lack resources) earn a law school education before failing to
become working lawyers. One might say that a diverse law school class means very little if
the profession itself isn’t getting more diverse, but that’s not the sort of nuance we’d expect
the Florida Coastal propaganda ministry to understand.

But more serious voices also complained about the article in decidedly non-serious ways.
Like Blake Morant, Kelley Testy, and Judith Areen “respectively, president, president-elect
and executive director of the Association of American Law Schools.” Morant is the dean of
George Washington, Testy is dean of the University of Washington, and Areen is a
Georgetown professor — the very school that first demonstrated the pitfalls of the Grad
PLUS program:

“The New York Times fails to make its case on law school debt. Law
students borrow more than undergrads, but most are able to repay, and
do. The graduate student default rate is 7 percent versus 22 percent for undergrads.

Many law schools are downsizing to maintain standards. Since 2010, first-year
enrollment has dropped from 52,500 to 37,900, a level last seen in 1973 — much
smaller and the rule of law may begin to fray. Our country needs lawyers,
prosecutors, defenders and judges, not only lawyers in big cities and big law firms.

Most of them pay it back at tremendous financial cost to themselves and their families so
rising tuition isn’t a problem. Moreover, as the Times editorial makes perfectly clear, many
But another social justice issue relates to law school debt. For many students, high debt drives legal employment preferences and decisions — in exactly the wrong direction. Being deeply in debt at graduation drives young lawyers away from crucial but less highly compensated public interest practice, which leaves low-income and moderate-income communities chronically underrepresented.

To this end, the lower default rate Morant and crew cite (which is for all graduate students, not just law graduates) is not exculpatory, but proof of the ongoing crisis. The crocodile tears that the country needs “MOAR LAWYERS” is cynicism at its finest as the leadership of the Association of American Law Schools blames the students and the media — but never their members’ onerous tuition hikes — for the shortage of new lawyers and the “downsizing to maintain standards” that law schools are experiencing. Yes, we see that commitment to high standards everywhere we look...

Capping graduate federal loans as the editors suggest would fall hardest on students from modest circumstances who will not be able to attend law school or will need to resort to private loans, which are typically more expensive, and repayment is not income-contingent.

Well, it would if the school chooses to keep its tuition artificially inflated. Rolling back tuition to levels seen before the Grad PLUS extension might help those “students from modest circumstances” they care so much about when trying to defuse a PR nightmare. But that’s implicitly a non-starter in these letters. Whether law schools really need all this tuition money to provide a solid education is largely ignored (except for one comment by David Stern of Equal Justice Works who posits that “practice ready” education costs more begging the question whether “practice ready” education is worth the investment).

But that’s the cycle of the law school reform discussion — warranted criticism meets disingenuous scare-mongering about hurting low-income students.
volunteer a response to that question because getting into the nuts and bolts of bloated administrative budgets and useless classes would expose this lie right quick.

Instead, the deans will keep this discussion at the 30,000-foot level. There wasn't a single specific reform offered to address the debt load facing law students other than "don't take away our free money" which is disgraceful when the legal profession faces the crises of declining enrollment, lower standards, and a widening justice gap.

Keep aiming for that iceberg law schools, this thing is unsinkable!
An exhibit of biblical depictions

At Rider University, the ‘Old Testament’ inspires new images

by Michele Alperin
NJN Contributing Writer

November 2, 2015

After a party in Princeton at the home of artist and physician Marc Malberg, Judith Brodsky realized she knew several artists who “were going back to the Bible and making images that were derived from the Bible when we are in an age that discounts religion.”

Malberg himself, when he wasn’t performing surgery was creating “huge, ambitious paintings based on Old Testament themes, but never showed them because his day job is being an orthopedic surgeon,” said Brodsky.

Event info

The Rider University Art Gallery is on the top floor of the Bart Luedeke Center on the Lawrenceville campus. An opening reception will be held Thursday, Nov. 5, 5-7 p.m.

On Thursday, Nov. 12, at the gallery, the Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks will host a wine and hors d’oeuvre reception, 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by an artists’ talk at 7.

Admission to the gallery is free; it is open Tuesday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., and Sunday, noon-4 p.m. (closed Nov. 25-27). For information, call 609-896-5168.

A professor emerita in the Department of Visual Arts at Rutgers University, Brodsky began to conceive of a show of such works.

The result is “Biblical Inspiration in a Secular Time,” an exhibit of works by Malberg, and four other artists: Siona Benjamin, also of New Jersey, and Helène Aylon, Hanan Harchol, and Archie Rand of New York. It opens Nov. 5 and runs through Dec. 6, at the Rider University Art Gallery on the Lawrenceville campus.

“Each artist is transforming what they are reading [in the Bible] and interpreting what they are reading into very contemporary forms,” Brodsky said. “The Bible becomes a living thing again.”
Aylon, raised in New York in an Orthodox family, began her artistic journey as a minimalist, influenced by her teacher, Ad Reinhardt. In the 1980s she morphed into an “ecofeminist” performance artist, creating performance pieces like a truck outfitted as an ambulance. “The idea was to go and rescue civilization,” Brodsky said.

Also in the 1980s Aylon — whose son, Nat Fisch, lives in Princeton — started to do feminist takes on the Bible. “Her thought is that God was kind of hijacked by men, that both Judaism and Christianity are very male and patriarchal,” Brodsky said.

Aylon’s “Wailing Wall” is a freestanding wall with pages from a whole Bible in Hebrew on one side and in English on the other. Harry Naar, professor of fine arts at Rider University and director of the art gallery, told NJJN that the piece represents “the power of her femininity,” because it stands by itself, “big, firm, and bold.”

Benjamin was born in Mumbai and comes from the Bene Israel, an Indian-Jewish community that goes back to the time of Alexander the Great. Benjamin, who now lives in Montclair, was attracted to Old Testament heroines because they reflected her own sense of rootlessness, said Brodsky. Her work includes images of Lilith, who according to midrash was Adam’s banished first wife, and Hagar, Abraham’s second wife, whom he sent into the desert at Sarah’s request. “She got really interested in these women who, in essence, are excommunicated, thrust outside the mainstream,” Brodsky said. In Benjamin’s paintings, these heroines of the Torah are dressed in Indian garments.

Rand, who has been showing his work in New York galleries since he was 17, was chair of the art department at Columbia University, and is now Presidential Professor of Art at Brooklyn College. Earlier in his career he was commissioned to paint huge murals at Congregation B’ni Yosef in Brooklyn, which brought him to the figurative imagery of the Old Testament. The Rider show will present 60 of his paintings of biblical images in a contemporary style, with word balloons that use contemporary language.

Harchol, a video animation artist, was Brodsky’s student at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers. He was commissioned by the Covenant Foundation — which is devoted to “Celebrating Excellence and Innovation in Jewish Education” — and the now-defunct Jewish Cultural Fund to make a series of animations based on Old Testament themes, Brodsky said. The series “Food for Jewish Thought” was created, Brodsky said, “with the idea of making something that would appeal to millennials, who are not interested in ritual and tradition, but might be inspired by ethical, moral principles.” The exhibit will include three videos of the artist in conversation with his parents.

Malberg, a member of Temple Beth El in Hillsborough, is a first-generation American. Born on a farm in Hillsborough, he had scant time to pursue his artistic interests because summers and vacations were spent working on his family’s farm. At Somerville High School, art classes came second to college prep. As an undergrad at Rutgers, he indulged his love of art by going to galleries and museums on campus and in New York; the painter he most admired was Rembrandt, but a Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibit of Salvador Dalí’s work pushed him toward surrealism.

Malberg, who is associate clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, had no formal education in art when he took up painting in earnest. Two of his paintings were inspired by his family’s experience in the Holocaust: His grandfather worked his way to America from Josefow, Poland, and sent for his three youngest sons, one of whom was Malberg’s father, in the 1930s. An older brother escaped to Palestine, but the older sister, married and unable to leave, was one of 3,000
Jews shot in the head, one by one, in Josefow. After discovering this fact in a New York Times book review, Malberg used the only extant picture of his aunt to create a painting that depicts her standing in front of a grove of trees, looking toward the viewer. Behind her is a uniformed figure and the round barrel of a shotgun.

After completing one more painting with a Holocaust theme, Malberg shifted to interpreting familiar biblical stories: “I tried to do a take on them that wasn’t exactly what I was taught,” he said.
Dr. S. H. Sohmer, Botanist and BRIT’s Director Emeritus, to Receive Organization’s 2015 International Award of Excellence in Conservation

Dr. Sohmer honored for his life-long botanical accomplishments and 21 years of service as executive director

Fort Worth, Texas (PRWEB) November 03, 2015

The Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT®) will present its International Award of Excellence in Conservation to Dr. S. H. Sohmer, the Institute's first executive director and its current director emeritus, for his contributions in the field of botany over the whole of his career and in particular his 21 years of service as head of BRIT. The award will be given on Wednesday, December 9, 2015, during a dinner at The Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Sohmer is the 21st recipient of the award.

Dr. Sohmer joined BRIT in 1993 as its first executive director. Under his leadership the organization grew from a staff of three—housed in a 12,000-square foot warehouse in downtown Fort Worth with about 400,000 dried plant specimens and a botanical and horticultural library of some 50,000 titles—to an organization with a staff of 30, housed in an energy efficient and sustainable building adjacent to the Fort Worth Botanical Garden. BRIT is currently the eleventh largest herbarium in the United States, possessing over 1.1 million specimens and with over 150,000 titles in its library. It is home to major education and research programs that are global in their reach and vision.

"Sy has distinguished himself in his scientific field of botany, like few others," said Harry Bartel, BRIT’s chairman of the board of directors. "He has explored places like Papua, New Guinea, named new plant species, taught university students, and closer to home, created relationships with individuals, families, and business that have helped provide the funding for a leading botanical institute."

Prior to becoming BRIT’s executive director, from 1990 to 1993 he was the Senior Biodiversity Advisor for the Agency for International Development. He managed the Conservation of Biological Diversity Project through which he supported a number of initiatives, such as the Biodiversity Support Program (a consortium of the World Wildlife Fund, the Nature Conservancy and the World Resources Institute), and interagency programs, such as the A.I.D./NSF (National Science Foundation) collaborative program in biodiversity, as well as the A.I.D./NSF/NIH program called the International Biodiversity Conservation Group Initiative.

Dr. Sohmer was Assistant Director for Research and Chairman of the Botany Department of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum in Honolulu from 1980 to 1990. He catalyzed a number of major programs, including the Flora of the Philippines Project, research efforts and initiatives in Papua New Guinea (where had served as a Forest Officer earlier for the PNG government). He initiated and led the National Geographic Society–supported Hunstein River Expedition in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea in 1989 (which was covered in an article in National Geographic), organized the New Caledonia Terrestrial Biodiversity Task Force of the Pacific Science Association in 1990, and conceptualized and organized the Marquesas Expedition funded by Hermes Inc. during 1988 and 1989. The Flora of Hawaii Project, that Sohmer catalyzed and for which he acquired the requisite funding, culminated in the publication of the Manual of the Flowering Plants of Hawai‘i in 1990, which was recognized as the world’s best botanical publication of its kind in the 20th Century. Sohmer and his coauthors received the Engler Medal in Silver for this work at the 1993 International Botanical Congress; he was one of only 7 botanists at the time ever to have received this honor.

Dr. Sohmer was with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Department of Biology from 1987 to 1990. During this time he created the University’s Herbarium, which became third largest herbarium in the state of Wisconsin, and served, while on academic leaves of absence from that institution, with the Smithsonian Institution’s Flora of Ceylon Project (1973) while he was a Postdoctoral Research Fellow. He also served as a Staff Associate in charge of the Tropical Biology Initiative at the National Science Foundation (1977-78), and as Forest Botanist with the then Office of Forests, Department of Primary Industry, Papua New Guinea, where he was charged with training Papua New Guineans in botanical research and collected widely in that country (1979).

He was the Chairman of the Botany Committee of the Pacific Science Association for 13 years, played a leading role in organizing the science programs of three Pacific Science Congresses, and serves as an officer or advisor for a number of other organizations, such as Treasurer for the Society for Economic Botany. He was given the Freedom of the City of London in 2006 and was admitted into the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners in 2007, and is a Fellow of the Linnean
Society of London. He has published or edited some 80 articles and books, organized over 20 major symposia and workshops, and given numerous papers and talks.

Dr. Sohmer is currently Research Associate at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, and Special Advisor to the Principal of Capel Manor College, London.

His educational background includes a Bachelor of Science degree from the City College of New York, a Master of Science degree from the University of Tennessee, and a doctorate from the University of Hawaii.

About the international Award of Excellence in Conservation

Created in 1995, the International Award of Excellence in Conservation is presented to honor individuals and organizations that exemplify the ideals expressed in BRIT's mission. Recent honorees include: tropical biologist and environmentalist Dr. Thomas Lovejoy; the originator of U.S. Green Building Council's LEED sustainability standards, Rob Watson; CNN founder, entrepreneur, and environmentalist, Ted Turner; Brazilian rancher and conservationist John Cain Carter; biologist Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D.; botanist and author Peter H. Raven, Ph.D.; renowned chimpanzee researcher Jane Goodall; and wildflower advocate Mrs. Lyndon Baines (Lady Bird) Johnson.
NYC City University Faculty: Stop Letting NYPD Spy On Muslim Students

Muslim women participate in the 2nd annual New Horizons gathering on June 5, 2011 in the Brooklyn borough of New York City. Photo: Spencer Platt/Getty Images

by Sameer Rao (/writers/sameer-rao)
Mon, Nov 2, 2015 11:57 AM EST

Over 100 faculty members of the City of New York (CUNY) university system addressed a petition to CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken in protest of the NYPD's surveillance of Muslim students.

The petition came this weekend, on the heels of a Gothamist (http://gothamist.com/2015/10/29/nypd_undercover_brooklyn.php) report detailing one undercover officer's false conversion to Islam as part of her surveillance efforts. According to the report, an officer (who worked under the moniker "Melike Ser," or "Mel") infiltrated the school's Islamic Society group for over three years after professing a sincerity for conversion and insinuated herself with the group's female members, even going so far as to attend at least two members' bridal showers. Mel, however, asked provocative questions that made some members (quoted by Gothamist under pseudonyms) think that she was trying to entrap them into terror plots:
Shereen, then 25, and a close friend, Faizah, were responsible for introducing new converts like Mel to the basic tenets of Islam. One day in early April 2011, Mel asked Faizah to meet her on campus. "Faizah told me afterward that Mel asked her some strange questions, like, 'What is all this about jihad?'" Shereen recalled. "And asking about people who do suicide bombing."

For Shereen and Faizah, Mel's questions were a red flag. They suspected she was digging for information on the political beliefs of [Islamic Society] members, possibly even pressing them to make incriminating statements.

The piece states that the case against Noelle Velentzas and Asia Siddiqui, two Queens residents arrested in April for allegedly planning to build a bomb, confirmed some Islamic Society's members to believe that their suspicions on Mel were correct.

The CUNY faculty petition, which was linked to in a Huffington Post (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/cuny-nypd-muslim-surveillance_5633bc89e4b0631799124f48) report (although the link was broken at press time), stated that the controversial surveillance efforts that the NYPD engaged with have lead to a chilling on thought around campus:

Such surveillance chills the atmosphere of free speech and open dialogue that educational institutions require, and it violates constitutional protections that require specific search warrants.

The officer's actions suggest that the NYPD has also been circumventing a 1992 Memorandum of Understanding (http://www.qc.cuny.edu/about/security/Documents/NYPD.MOU.pdf) that says they cannot enter CUNY campuses in non-emergency contexts without the the permission of CUNY officials; at present, it is not apparent whether or not CUNY leaders knew about Mel.

Overall, the information reported by Gothamist suggests that informant practices enacted after 9/11 (http://www.colorlines.com/articles/no-chill-911) to chill dissent and advocacy among Muslims are alive and well.
PSC-CUNY plans non-violent ‘disruptive’ action that will ‘risk arrest’

By Jeff Waggoner on November 2, 2015 at 5:10 PM

The Professional Staff Congress of CUNY announced plans for “a mass disruptive action” beginning after 4 p.m. Wednesday at CUNY Central in New York City.

“Scores of PSC members have been training this fall to participate in non-violent disruptive protest, ready to act if needed,” wrote PSC/CUNY President Barbara Bowen in a message to the union membership. “Those members are prepared to participate on Nov. 4 in a planned, non-violent action that will risk arrest.”

“Scores of faculty and staff will engage in a non-violent act of civil disobedience at the central office of the City University of New York if CUNY management does not put a fair economic offer on the table at a the bargaining session that afternoon,” she wrote. “Hundreds more will bear witness to the action and will rally to demand resolution of the PSC-CUNY contract.”

The union has worked five years without a contract or a raise, said PSC-CUNY spokesman Fran Clark in a press release.

The Professional Staff Congress represents more than 25,000 faculty and staff at the City University of New York and the CUNY Research Foundation.
Circuit Upholds Dismissal of Bias Claims Against CUNY

Mark Hamblett, New York Law Journal

November 3, 2015

The City University of New York has defeated claims that it discriminated against a woman when it refused to reappoint her as interim head of its Asian Studies program and then declined to reappoint her as a professor.

In a case that turned in part on the handling of a troublesome student, a divided U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit said summary judgment was properly granted against Ya-Chen Chen, who alleged discrimination based on race, gender and national origin under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the New York City Human Rights Law.

Judges Debra Ann Livingston and Ralph Winter affirmed Southern District Judge Ronnie Abrams, who ruled for CUNY on the grounds that no reasonable jury could find that the actions of four university employees were motivated "even in part" by a desire to discriminate or retaliate against Chen.

Judge Denny Chin agreed summary judgment should have been granted on the Title VII discrimination claims but dissented on the others, saying Chen should be able to get to a jury both on her retaliation claim and on her claim that, under the city's Human Rights Law, she was treated less well because of her race or gender and because of her discrimination complaints.

Chen, a Taiwanese native, was an assistant professor of Asian Studies at City College of New York, a school in the CUNY system, and was named interim director of the Asian Studies program for the 2008-09 academic year.

But she was not reappointed interim director in October 2009 after administrators said had handled a problem with a student inapropriately.

Chen said the student, a 54-year-old man, persistently demanded her attention after class and during office hours. While Chen said she did not feel physically or sexually threatened, she said she felt apprehensive and voiced her concerns to administrators, one of whom reassigned the student to another class.
When Chen learned the student intended to take her fall 2009 class, Chen met with Beth Lesen, CCNY's director for students with disabilities, who suggested she "set up boundaries" if the student took her class.

Chen set up a meeting with the student and another professor who served as a witness, at which she asked the student to sign a "confirmation of understanding"—a series of rules for his participation in her class.

The rules included "Do not rush the instructor before class starts," "Do not block the doorways of classrooms or offices" and "Keep an appropriate distance from professors and classmates." Chen also insisted: "Maximum use of my office hours: 5 to 10 minutes every week."

The rules were viewed as overzealous by administrators, including Richard Calichman, the chairman of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Calichman said it was inappropriate to make a student sign a contract as a precondition to enrolling in a class and "to recruit other professors to help in such an intervention," which he called a "smear" on the student.

The encounter, plus the fact that the administration had received complaints from Chen's colleagues citing her "over-aggressiveness and lack of tact," caused her to lose the interim director's position.

Chen filed a complaint with CCNY's Office of Affirmative Action alleging that Lesen, who had faulted Chen for her "unwillingness to claim responsibility for her inappropriate conduct" had treated her "as if I was only a child" and committed "racial/linguistic discrimination" by asking Chen "to read the word, 'stop' after her for six to eight times in a racially and linguistically discriminatory tone."

After filing the complaint, Chen was informed she would not be permitted to teach at CCNY during the 2010-2011 academic year.

In the circuit's opinion, Livingston said it was "undisputed that members of Foreign Languages and Literatures took issue with Chen's collegiality long before she filed her affirmative action complaint."

Calichman, she said, was initially sympathetic to Chen and transferred the student out of her class. Lesen and another administrator, Geraldine Murphy, also tried to help by providing strategies to Chen to deal with the student. "Once they learned about the way that Chen confronted the student, however, their attitude changed," she said.

"Even if Calichman, Murphy and Lesen reacted ill-advisedly to Chen's conduct, somehow faulting her for doing what Lesen had counseled, they arrived at their opinions that Chen had
behaved improperly long before Chen filed her Affirmative Action Complaint," Livingston said.

CUNY, the majority found, had offered a non-retaliatory explanation for its reappointment decision, and Chen had not offered sufficient evidence to the contrary.

On the discrimination charge, Livingston said "we cannot conclude that a reasonable jury could find that Chen's colleagues were insincere in their own belief that, even if the student's behavior was off or improper, Chen's handling of the situation demonstrated exceedingly poor judgment."

Chin, in his dissent on the retaliation claim, said "a reasonable jury could find these adverse actions were retaliatory," and the lower court had erred in "drawing factual conclusions at the summary judgment stage."

Matthew Porges represented Chen in Chen v. The City University of New York, 14-1469. Assistant Solicitor General David Lawrence argued for New York.
Anti-porn advocates recast growing acceptance of pornography as public health problem

Despite growing cultural acceptance of pornography, experts say seeing it as a public health problem allows for a better discussion and stronger opposition than arguing from religious or moral standpoints.

When Robert Jensen talks to his college classes about pornography, his female students say they're not bothered by it — mostly because they don't see any way to avoid it.

"The vast majority of men they may date are using porn, so to resist that is to essentially put yourself in opposition to the entire culture that you are a part of," says Jensen, a professor in the school of journalism at the University of Texas at Austin. "That's hard for people to do, (so they say) 'Porn is not that big of a deal.'"

Public opposition against pornography has declined in the past 40 years. In 1975, 53 percent of women and 34 percent of men believed there should be laws against the distribution of pornography, according to a recent study (https://www.terpconnect.umd.edu/~pnc/SC2015.pdf). By 2012 it had fallen to 43 percent of women and 23 percent of men.

However, after accounting for differences between men and women in things like education, religion and political views, researchers at the University of Maryland found that men's opposition fell 13 percent (from 37 to 24), and women's fell just 8 percent (from 50 to 42) — over the last 40 years.

"What's interesting about that, with porn becoming so ubiquitous, is you might think (that because) men and women are exposed to the same culture that they would be increasingly similar in the way they see things," said study co-author Philip N. Cohen, a sociology professor at the University of Maryland. "That fact that the lines are spreading apart ... is a clue that all is not well in acceptance-of-pornography land."

Cohen and lead author Lucia Lykke, a Ph.D. candidate in sociology, argue that this gender gap exists because men are increasingly "groomed" into becoming pornography consumers, while women struggle to reconcile their feelings about the ever-present, but increasingly offensive, form of entertainment. Women's feelings are also often complicated by competing feminist ideologies that both support and oppose pornography.

To address the increasing acceptance of pornography and its impact on women, a growing number of scholars and activists are framing their opposition as a public health concern, noting that talking about porn's impacts on relationships, families and communities is a more effective approach than opposing it on religious or moral grounds.

"The reason (women) are conflicted is they don't have a competing narrative available to them that allows them to develop a healthy sexuality" without pornography, says Jennifer A. Johnson, an associate professor of sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University who studies gender, sexuality and networks. "We've just left them vulnerable to the predatory practices of the pornography industry."

**A changing culture**

Public opinion of pornography has evolved over the past four decades amid an increase in permissive attitudes surrounding sexuality, gender and free speech; a huge increase in free, online pornography; and increasingly violent and phallocentric-themed pornography, according to the study.

This combination has created the appearance of cultural "pornographication," which makes it seem like everyone is OK with pornography, says Lykke. But data show there are still a quarter of men and more than a third of women who think porn should always be illegal.

"Just because the Internet says (porn) is normal or desirable doesn't mean that individual people do or should feel that way," Lykke said.

But the ease of access to the magnitude of pornography available online makes it difficult to avoid, especially for men, to whom it is
And when men view salacious images paired with sexual pleasure those images become difficult to want to question, says Jensen.

"People won't question (porn) until the use of that material is so evidently intervening in (their) ability to have meaningful relationships ... that even (they) have to recognize that the continued use of it is self-destructive," he says.

As pornography becomes a larger part of men's sexual experiences — one study (http://jar.sagepub.com/content/23/1/6.abstract) found that 87 percent of college-aged men reported using pornography — the conflict for women only increases, much of it based on concerns about the violence in today's mainstream porn, according to the study.

Research (http://media.virbedn.com/files/79/filetem-275118-AgressionandSexualBehavior2010.pdf) has found that physical or verbal violence is present in a large majority of popular pornographic movies. And nearly all violence is directed at women, thus "providing a cultural context for grooming of viewers into believing that the women of pornography enjoy sexual degradation and violence," according to the study.

"We need a movement that demands space free from pornography and recognizes the pornography industry as propaganda for violence against women," said Meagan Tyler, vice chancellor's research fellow at the Centre for Sustainable Organisations and Work at RMIT University in Melbourne, Australia, who researches social construction of gender and sexuality. "We need a consumers' revolt."

But the porn industry contends that its content is actually more woman-centered than ever before, both in consumption and production, because of the increasing number of female producers, and the ability for women to become famous by uploading their own videos, or webcamming, rather than relying on a production studio, said Diane Duke, CEO of the Free Speech Coalition, the trade association for the adult entertainment industry.

"Women are the fastest growing market in our industry," Duke said. "'Fifty Shades of Grey' made (porn) a very public conversation. Women always have been interested, and now it's easier for women to access sexual content ... and find what they want."

A feminist critique

Yet for women who are not interested, speaking out against pornography can be difficult, because they run the risk of "appearing hostile to men," or being "branded as feminists," according to the study, which in today's postfeminist age is often a label many try to avoid.

While feminism has never been defined by a single ideal, the last several decades have seen a dramatic shift in how feminists think about sexuality and pornography.

Roughly broken down into three historical "waves," the first feminists focused on citizenship and getting the vote, while the second wave focused on legal equality. The third (and sometimes fourth) wave or post-feminism movement has been an intrafeminist critique where issues of gender, sexuality and identity are more fluid concepts, not rigid roles, explained Jennifer Baumerger, an author, activist and executive director and publisher of The Feminist Press at CUNY.

That means many of today's feminists (who may or may not use that label) see pornography as a positive development — a chance for women to be liberated from the sexual repression and male-dominated society of the past.

"Porn becomes an outlet for exploration," Baumgardner says. "I don't think it's in any way uniformly positive or fun, but at least it's an outlet, it's an expression. I think we need to be having more conversations about sexuality as an affirmative thing, and less about pornography and how we need to control sexuality."

While struggles surrounding sexual identity and roles are real, particularly for college-aged women, trying to understand one's sexuality through the lens of pornography is skewed, contends Johnson, because it erroneously leads women to believe that pornography equals sexuality.

"Pornography is commerce," Johnson emphasizes, "Sexuality is behavior."

Given this rise of a pro-porn feminist movement, it's more important than ever to clearly define the feminist critique of pornography, says Jensen.

"The feminist critique is that porn is not just sex on film," he says. "It's sex in the context of male domination and female subordination. Porn sexualizes male power and eroticizes male domination. I think that was clearly true when Andrea (Dworkin) in the '70s, '80s made that critique and it's even more true today. And I think (critiquing) that in the public health framework can be productive."

Reframing the discussion

For the past two decades, Gail Dines has dedicated herself to researching the harms (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YpHNImNxs8) of pornography. But not until she began framing the issue as a public health problem did the interest in her findings begin to skyrocket. In the past two years, she's visited with government officials in Iceland, the U.K., Canada and Sweden, spoken with the U.S. Departments of Justice and Defense, and next month she's heading to a conference on pornography and public health in Norway.

"Everyone is overwhelmed," says Dines (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_YpHNImNxs8), a professor of sociology and women's studies at Wheelock College in Boston and a leading anti-porn activist. "In the vacuum of a discussion about healthy sexuality, pornographers have come in and become the sex educators of the Western world."
behavior (http://www.unc.edu/depts/jome/teenmedia/pdf/xrated.pdf) and exhibit sexually aggressive behavior (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21046607), while men are less likely to intervene when witnessing college sexual assault (http://works.bepress.com/john_foubert/7/), more likely to accept violence against women (http://www.dediocease.org/home/files/doc_view/2164-pornography-online-research), and often struggle in relationships. (http://www.rebootnation.org/)

To counter that, Dines and a handful of specialists from across the academic, professional and medical spectrum will soon officially launch their international nonprofit, "Culture Reframed (http://www.cultureframed.org/)," to provide education and "address pornography as the public health crisis of the digital age."

Such education should be open, honest and respectful discussions of women and their bodies, as well as the understanding that pornography is not a natural expression of boy's and men's sexuality either, Johnson said.

"I'd also encourage schools to start thinking about including pornography in their sexual health and family health discussions," Johnson said. "Because it is a matter of public health — it negatively impacts (http://www.dediocease.org/home/files/doc_view/2164-pornography-online-research) families and communities."

Parents should be leading out in these discussions, which is why a large part of Culture Reframed focuses on teaching moms and dads individually how to talk to kids about pornography. A professionals' program will offer insight for those who work with children, with the goal to "build resilience in kids," Dines says.

Duke, with the Free Speech Coalition, agrees that parents need to be talking to their children about sex, to break through the country's puritanical silence on the topic, and she credits pornography with helping to bring that discussion to the forefront. In her mind, opposing porn from a public health perspective is missing the point.

"Everyone likes to blame (porn) for the world's ills," she said. "If you have a relationship where porn is getting in the way, then I think it's a little deeper. Porn is just a tool and there (must be) something lacking in the relationship. It's important to take that aside and look at what the real issue is. There are people who compulsively shop, do you want to close down all the malls? No. (You look at) why that person is compulsively shopping."

While Lykke and Cohen's study doesn't offer any sweeping solutions to the diverging opinions on pornography, the study itself may serve as an ice breaker for an uncomfortable topic.

"Because (porn) is so out in the open now ... it can be a conversation," said Cohen. "Even if you don't think it's a good thing, you should be able to talk about it without (that conversation) being a bad thing."
Former Hillary Clinton aide rated N.Y. sites for possible ‘Clinton School’

Anne-Marie Slaughter (Pop Tech)

By CONOR SKELDING  5:35 a.m. | Nov. 3, 2015

In a memo describing how Hillary Clinton might establish a public policy school or institute at a major New York university, former State Department director of policy planning Anne-Marie Slaughter offered frank and revealing assessments of several powerful educational institutions, including New York University, Columbia University, and the City University of New York.

The State Department released the memo, dated May 13, 2012, on Friday, along with a trove of emails from Clinton’s tenure as secretary of state, as part of a monthly release of documents pursuant to a Freedom of Information Law suit. No other emails in the dump appeared to pertain to a Clinton school of public policy.

“In this memo I outline what a model school might look like,” wrote Slaughter, who also was dean of Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs and a professor at Harvard Law.

Slaughter wrote that Clinton could either “found your own school,” which would be slow and expensive; “rename and endow an existing school,” which would involve “fierce” administrative battles; or create a joint venture between institutions through a “Clinton Institute” or “Clinton Consortium.”

MORE ON POLITICO
- City Hall Pro: PBA slams ‘draft’ contract; mayor approval rating

In the memo, addressed to Clinton while she still was secretary of state and to Clinton’s chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, Slaughter described the pros and cons of various possible locations for a
Clinton-sponsored school or institute.

NYU, Slaughter wrote, "has terrific law, business, and medical schools and a public policy school that is primarily focused on domestic issues. This would be tricky but doable to work out bureaucratically."

"One concern I would have, however, is the political liability of connecting your name and legacy to a university that is a joint venture partner with the Abu Dhabi and Chinese governments. As much as I appreciate [NYU president] John Sexton's vision, I predict that these connections could quickly become political liabilities," she wrote.

Two years after Slaughter wrote the memo, The New York Times found that migrant workers who were building NYU's campus in Abu Dhabi were housed in appalling conditions and were poorly paid.

Mills, during her first four months at State, earned hundreds of thousands of dollars negotiating with Abu Dhabi officials for NYU over the planned campus.

Slaughter also mentioned the "CCNY system," most likely meaning the broader City University of New York and not City College. The system, she wrote, had "political advantages," but it would not easily attract top-flight students. Slaughter noted "the appeal of getting an ethnically and economically diverse mix of students, but is likely to take a long time and be a very hard slog in terms of getting the quality of students you want."

Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs, she said, would be the best option if Clinton "wanted to take over" a school, but such a move would lead to "political/bureaucratic challenges ... of historic proportions."

She said Clinton would need "ironclad guarantees" from president Lee Bollinger "and a very tough dean committed to the job for a decade."

"I interviewed to be dean there in 1996 with the idea that they should get a big endowment and name the School as the place to educate the diplomats of the 21st century; they preferred to keep it as a cash cow supporting their other programs," she wrote.

Slaughter also thought that Cornell University's new Roosevelt Island campus might offer a potential site.

"Another out of the box option would be to approach Cornell and see if they would be interested in creating a Clinton School on Roosevelt Island — it would bring upstate NY and the city together; Cornell also has growing global reach."

In the end, though, Slaughter's preference was a school that is not in New York: Yale University, where Hillary and Bill Clinton met as law students.

"The best place to found a school, frankly, would be Yale, which does not have a public policy school. ... Obviously it's not in New York, but it would have the greatest impact in
terms of getting the best students and attracting the most attention to the model."

Asked about the memo, Slaughter wrote in an email, "To the best of my recollection I wrote the memo unprompted: I had no interest in being Dean [of a new Clinton school] and never did anything other than write and send the memo."

"I have great respect for all these institutions," she said in a subsequent phone call.

Representatives for all of the schools declined to comment. A representative for Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign did not respond to requests for comment.

Read the memo here: http://t.usa.gov/1Md5ZdR
A Son’s Illness and a Mother’s Aspirations

NOV. 2, 2015

The Neediest Cases

By BRYAN MURRAY

Five pills in the morning. Five pills at night. And 15 pills in the afternoon.

That is the daily routine for Shiniqua Scott, 27, in caring for her oldest son, who is severely ill. Ms. Scott is a single mother of two boys, Jolae Smith-Daye, 5, and David Smith-Daye, 8, and lives with her four siblings and her mother in an apartment in the Bronx. Jolae has developmental delays and David has tuberous sclerosis, a rare genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow in the brain.

Ms. Scott said David undergoes chemotherapy, which weakens his immune system. “So any sickness he gets is not your average child’s cold or flu; he gets hospitalized,” she said. “It stops my daily activities because I have to stay home with him, making sure he has his medicine all day.”

Many of Ms. Scott’s days are spent taking her son to medical appointments, often unexpectedly. At one point, she had a 2003 Acura but the mounting costs of monthly payments, insurance, maintenance and the occasional parking ticket prompted her to sell it. She now relies on public transportation.
Ms. Scott closely monitors David, sheltering him from the myriad hazards that most parents would consider minute but that have the potential to capsize her family’s life.

“Of course, he wants to go outside and play, and do things that he can’t do, like playing rough with other children,” she said. “Because he has tumors in his head, and had brain surgery, certain things I’m not comfortable with him doing. Not to say I’m holding him back, but it’s for safety reasons, for his life.”

The regular demands of transporting and supervising her children have made it nearly impossible for Ms. Scott to work regular hours. She worked morning and evening shifts as a matron for an ambulette company, at times dividing her hours so she could tend to her children and then return to work.

“Every time I get work, my son has a doctor’s appointment, and I have to leave,” she said. “I know I need the money, but my son comes first.”

The Scott family does not receive public assistance. Ms. Scott’s mother, Rififi, who earns roughly $1,400 a month working as a security guard, pays most of the $645 rent. Ms. Scott’s only income is through Social Security insurance, which pays $733 for David and $488 for Jolae. Ms. Scott contributes $100 to the rent, while also paying for the utilities and groceries for the household and various medical expenses.

However, none of these emotional and financial hardships have derailed her aspirations to work in education. After researching training opportunities, she learned of the Teacher Assistant Certificate Program at Hostos Community College.

Through the guidance of her caseworker, Jackie Sylvain of New Alternatives for Children, Ms. Scott was able to find financial assistance.

The Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, one of the agencies supported by The New York Times Neediest Cases Fund, used $924 from the fund to pay for Ms. Scott’s tuition.

With the help of the fund and the generosity of school counselors who donated the course’s textbooks, Ms. Scott completed the intensive three-month program in August. This certification will allow her to help teachers in their classrooms and
instruct students in group workshops.

The credential is a steppingstone toward her goal of working as a teacher or student counselor.

"I would want to work with disabled children," Ms. Scott said. "Dealing with that at home opened my eyes to a lot of things, as far as kids needing help, and how they should be treated."

Her voice is commanding, not through volume, but from the habit of needing to be heard, yet she exudes the equanimity of someone who has had an easier path.

"I want to pursue my career, I really do," she said. "I can't keep using my kids to say, 'I can't.'"

Amid the daily concerns, Ms. Scott finds relief in her daily journal and her family, with her mother as the cornerstone.

"It's complicated dealing with this every day," she said. "But I make it work. As a mother, I should."

A version of this article appears in print on November 3, 2015, on page A26 of the New York edition with the headline: A Child's Rare Illness, a Mother's Aspirations.