

JUSTICE MATTERS

JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SPRING 2017



No Bones About It:
Below Ground, On the Streets & On the Water,
Experiential Learning Is a Hit.

LOOK FOR PHOTOS AND COVERAGE IN THE FALL ISSUE!

for **EDUCATING
JUSTICE
GALA**

**JOHN
JAY** COLLEGE
OF
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017

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7:00 PM Dinner and Awards

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JUSTICE MATTERS

PRESIDENT

Jeremy Travis

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT

Jayne Rosengarten

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Rama Sudhakar

SENIOR EDITOR/WRITER

Peter Dodenhoff

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Sam Anderson

DESIGN DIRECTOR

Laura DeVries

PHOTOGRAPHY COORDINATOR

Maria Garcia

PHOTOGRAPHY

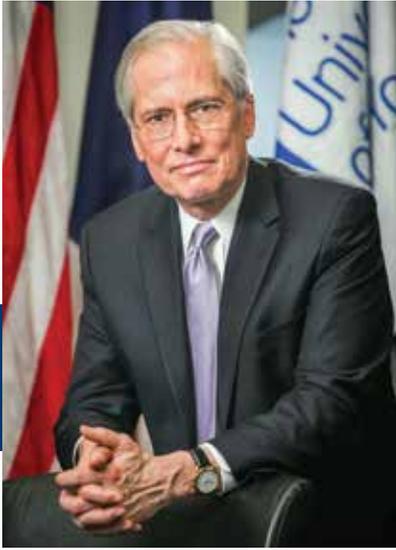
Arpi Pap

DESIGNER

Julie Kanapaux

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FROM THE PRESIDENT JEREMY TRAVIS

Dear Friends,

Well, this is it—the final time I’ll be speaking with you through the pages of Justice Matters as President of this amazing institution, the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. And while I prepare with anticipation for a new chapter in my professional life as a University Professor at the CUNY Graduate Center and Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, I also find myself reflecting on our collective journey over the past 13 years and just how far we have come as a community. More important, though, my thoughts turn time and again to the brilliant foresight of the handful of visionaries who created this College in 1964. I find myself celebrating John Jay.

I feel truly fortunate to have been given the opportunity to serve as John Jay’s fourth President. In that role, I have been the beneficiary of the wisdom, insight, energy, and effort of those who preceded me as well as those who have worked with me as we continue to fulfill our critical mission of Educating for Justice.

The core group of John Jay’s founders—Police Commissioner Michael Murphy, Correction Commissioner Anna Kross, Police Academy commander Patrick V. Murphy, and CUNY Chancellor Albert Bowker—can rightly be viewed as giants in the world of progressive higher education. Against a backdrop of simmering tension and civic strife and disorder in the 1960’s, and boldly confronting the reality that “sound police service demands a number of highly specialized skills and a sensitivity to the public,” they conceived an unprecedented four-year college that combined the broad curricular interests of a liberal arts education with the specialized skills and focus unique to criminal justice professionals.

History has borne out the clarity of our founders’ vision. They would marvel, with a mix of recognition and appreciation, at the John Jay College of 2017.

Simply put, John Jay is a public higher education success story. Our stellar faculty regularly contribute to national debates and discussions on critical issues. Funding for research has increased dramatically in the past decade. Thousands of John Jay alumni are serving with honor and distinction in the NYPD, FDNY, and other front-line agencies, and we can also boast of the many who have gone from our classrooms to positions of prominence in public-, private-, and nonprofit-sector organizations across the country and around the world. And our students—how I love our amazing students! They, too, live out the vision of our founders with their dedication and achievement. Their success is our success.

At a recent gathering in Albany, Mayor Bill de Blasio paid an unexpected compliment to the entire John Jay community when he remarked: “I love to remind people New York City is the safest big city in America. We’re all very proud of that. And one of the reasons, over this last 25 years [that] we’ve gotten safer and safer is the number of folks, both in our police force and in so many other important roles, who got educated at John Jay, who met at John Jay, who got great ideas at John Jay, that have made us the safe city that we are.”

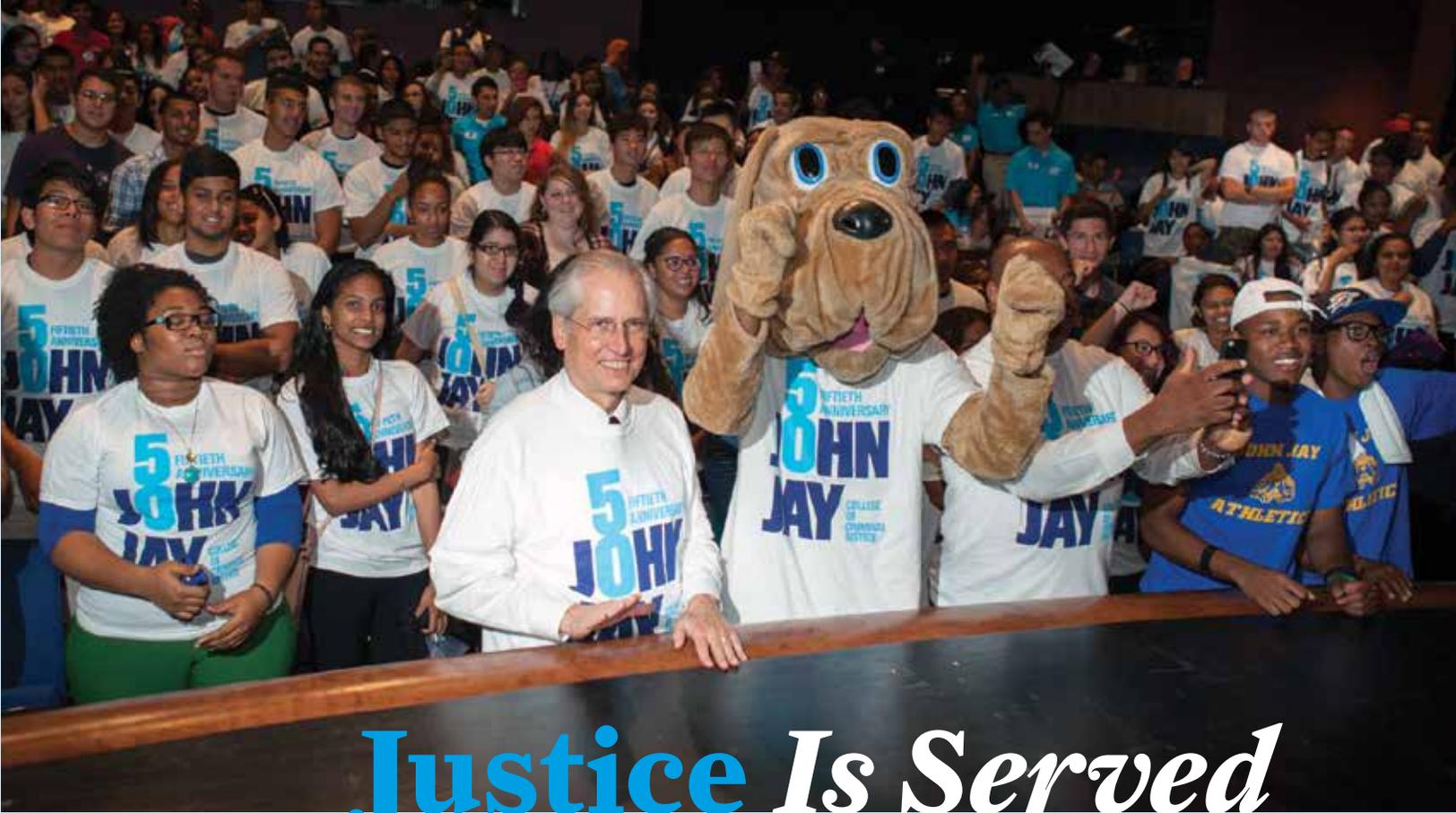
Thank you, Mr. Mayor!

Thank you, too, John Jay alumni, faculty, staff, and students. Individually and collectively, you have made these past 13 years the most remarkable and satisfying of my professional life. As I move ahead to the next chapter of that life, I do so with an unshakable confidence that in years to come, the College we have all worked to create will remain a beacon of higher education, and a singular contributor in the ongoing struggle to achieve justice.

Long may we celebrate John Jay College of Criminal Justice!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Travis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.



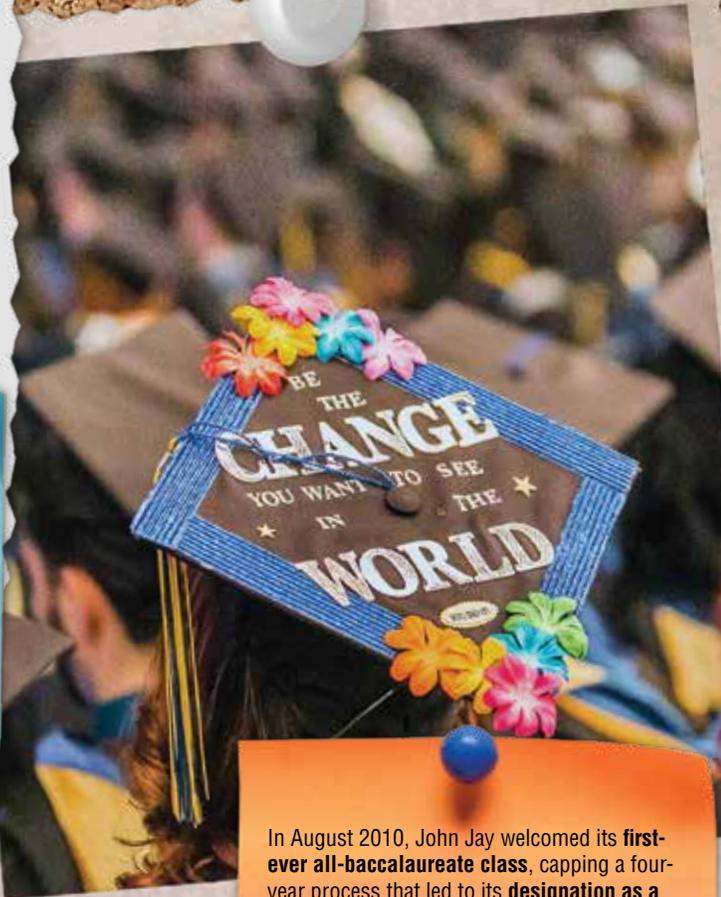
Justice *Is Served*

As President Jeremy Travis prepares to step down after 13 years as John Jay's fourth president, he leaves behind a series of milestones that have fundamentally transformed the College, and the lives of those who study, teach, and work here. From the moment students enter John Jay at Freshman Orientation (above) to their departure as new alumni at Commencement, and in all manner of moments in between, many thousands have felt the influence of President Travis. On the following pages, Justice Matters recalls some of the many high points of the Travis administration.





With John Jay's 50th anniversary looming, the challenge was to raise \$50 million to support student scholarships and other important initiatives. In 2014, one year ahead of schedule, the ambitious **Campaign for the Future of Justice** met and surpassed its goal, with a sweeping array of gifts and grants both large and small. Included in the campaign were leadership gifts from John Jay College Foundation chairman Jules Kroll (r.) and his wife, Lynn, and from alumnus and foundation trustee Dr. Andrew Shiva (c.) and his wife, Anya. A new campaign is currently under way to raise \$75 million by 2020.



In August 2010, John Jay welcomed its **first-ever all-baccalaureate class**, capping a four-year process that led to its **designation as a senior college** of the City University. Included in that transition was the phasing out of associate-degree admissions at John Jay, and the creation of the CUNY Justice Academy, a consortium involving John Jay and six CUNY community colleges. As of this writing, the first members of that 2010 entering class have graduated and gone on to become the "fierce advocates for justice" that their John Jay education prepared them to be.



In 2008, President Travis created the **Justice Awards**, which are presented annually to individuals who have made a significant impact on the international, national, and community levels. The first such award was bestowed on New York State Chief Judge **Judith Kaye**, a staunch and long-time supporter of John Jay. The 2014 Justice Award was presented to Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace Prize laureate **Elie Wiesel** (c.), seen here with President Travis and U.S. Supreme Court Justice **Stephen Breyer**. As President Travis has noted: "The Justice Awards are given to those who, like the ancient philosophers, understand that justice is a ligament that holds society together."

Moments and Memories

In 2012, John Jay joined CUNY's prestigious and highly competitive **Macaulay Honors College**, which provides students of exceptional academic ability with unique educational experiences and unparalleled opportunities beyond the classroom. Students in the Macaulay Honors College at John Jay receive full four-year scholarships and a number of other financial and academic benefits. Joining seven other CUNY colleges in Macaulay, President Travis said, "reflects the University's judgment that John Jay has the ability to attract and challenge the very best students. That's a great tribute to us, to our mission, and to our faculty."



The John Jay campus took a long-awaited step forward, upward and outward in 2011 with the **opening of its new building**, which added more than 600,000 square feet of classrooms, offices, lecture halls, laboratories, performance spaces, and more to the College. From land acquisition to groundbreaking to grand opening, members of the John Jay community were able to watch as the campus expanded to fill the entire block between 10th and 11th Avenues, from 58th to 59th Street. One of the crown jewels of the building is the rooftop campus common that students themselves named the **Jay Walk**. And connecting the new facility to Haaren Hall ("the T building") is John Jay's 9/11 Memorial commemorating the 67 members of the College community who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Onward and Upward

John Jay College is proving itself a potent springboard for propelling upwardly mobile students into the middle class and beyond. A new report from the Equality of Opportunity Project—“Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility”—lists John Jay in the top 10 nationally in intergenerational mobility of students, noting that of the 54 percent of John Jay students who come from lower-income families, 61.1 percent later rise to the top 40 percent in higher income.

According to The New York Times, the City University of New York as a whole has “propelled almost six times as many low-income students into the middle class and beyond as all eight Ivy League campuses.”

“This report recognizes John Jay as a premier institution that enables students, many from traditionally underrepresented groups, to pursue advanced study and meaningful careers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors,” said President Jeremy Travis. “We are proud to be part of CUNY’s American Dream Machine.”

In March, a report by the Education Trust on black student success ranked John Jay College third in the nation among top-performing colleges and universities.

According to the report, “A Look at Black Student Success: Identifying Top- and Bottom-Performing Institutions,” black students completed their undergraduate degrees at a rate that was 3.1 percentage points ahead of their white peers. Nationally, the study found, white students outperformed blacks by 22 percentage points. John Jay is one of only 10 institutions in the nation that had higher graduation rates for black students than for white students.

President Travis said the report “underscores our firm commitment to student success and diversity, and the effectiveness of our collective efforts.”

Under the Gun

Gun violence in America, seemingly a daily headline in the news media, is the focus of a probing, semester-long examination at John Jay that seeks to shed light on “America’s Gun Epidemic: A Question of Public Health, Security, and Freedom.”

The series includes film screenings, art exhibits, book talks, TEDxCUNYSalon presentations, and additional panel discussions. For more information on the gun violence initiative, visit <http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edugunviolence2017>.



Good News from NYC Jails

During a 20-year period when jail admissions doubled nationwide, New York City jail admissions dropped by nearly half, according to a report by the Misdemeanor Justice Project on individuals admitted to the custody of the New York City Department of Correction. The dramatic decline in jail admissions occurred against the backdrop of a simultaneous decrease in reported crime of more than 60 percent.

The report, “Trends in Admission to New York City Department of Correction, 1995-2015,” was funded by the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, and prepared by a research team led by Professor Preeti Chauhan.



“John Jay’s invaluable insights into crime and incarceration trends in New York City are definitive proof that our criminal justice principles—lower crime through community outreach and precision policing, while not limiting civil rights or resorting to increased imprisonment—are working,” said Richard Aborn, president of the Citizens Crime Commission. “This is an example other cities and our federal government can, and should, learn from.”

The Pen Is Mightier. . .

Van Jones, the CNN commentator who was a familiar on-air presence during last year’s presidential campaign and election, was honored Feb. 16 as the 2017 Justice Trailblazer by John Jay’s Center on Media, Crime and Justice.

The award was presented as part of the 12th annual Harry Frank Guggenheim Symposium on Crime in America.

The center also presented the annual John Jay/Harry Frank Guggenheim Excellence in Criminal Justice Reporting awards, which this year went to Shane Bauer of Mother Jones magazine for his article “My Life as a Prison Guard,” and to Ryan Gabrielson and Topher Saunders of ProPublica for their series “Busted.”

In his acceptance remarks, Jones, the co-founder of the advocacy organization Dream Corps, told the journalists



Van Jones

in the audience: “I know it might seem that nothing you do matters—it matters! This criminal justice thing is one of the most important things you can do. You have to keep beating the drum, because there are lives on the line.”

Multimillion-dollar Questions

With a grant of \$4.98 million from the United States Agency for International Development, John Jay College of Criminal Justice has created the Academy for Security Analysis as part of an initiative to provide crime-prevention training for security and justice sector officials and civil society organizations in Central America—a region severely affected by high levels of criminal violence.



Javier Osorio

The project, which will focus on El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, has the support of El Salvador’s National Academy of Public Security, which will provide the venue for the Academy for Security Analysis.

The project will be led by Professor Javier Osorio of John Jay’s Department of Political Science. For more information, visit: <https://www.aas.jjay.cuny.edu/eng>.

Bowing Out

Jane Bowers, John Jay’s provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, announced March 15 that she will step down from the dual executive posts and retire, effective Aug. 1.

Bowers has been the Provost since July 2007, in that time presiding over a dramatic expansion and transformation of curricular offerings and academic support services. “Provost Bowers leaves behind an unparalleled record of achievement,” President Jeremy Travis said in a message to the College community. “No other college within CUNY has witnessed the level of academic innovation, curricular creativity, and structural reform that we have seen at John Jay under the leadership of Provost Bowers.”

The long list of accomplishments under Bowers’s tenure includes the creation of new majors, graduate programs, and

John Jay Online; new academic departments; programs to support student academic success and increase degree-completion rates; honors programs for top students; a top-to-bottom overhaul of general education requirements; the phase-out of associate degree admissions and the creation of the CUNY Justice Academy, and the development of vital programs to support the faculty as well the student body.

President Travis said he would recommend the appointment of Anne Lopes, the Associate Provost for Strategic Initiatives and Dean of Graduate Studies, as interim provost for the upcoming academic year.



Jane Bowers

On Board

Former New Jersey Attorney General Anne Milgram, now a professor and scholar-in-residence at New York University School of Law, is the newest member of the John Jay College Foundation Board of Trustees.



Anne Milgram

Milgram, who joined the board at its March 9 meeting, served as New Jersey’s chief law enforcement officer from June 2007 to January 2010, overseeing the 9,000-member Department of Law and Public Safety as well as the work of 21 county prosecutors. Previously, she served as Counsel to U.S. Senator Jon Corzine, and as a prosecutor in both the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division and the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office.

Prior to joining the NYU law faculty, Milgram was vice president of criminal justice for the Laura and John Arnold Foundation, where she spearheaded more than \$55 million in philanthropic grants, and operational projects. A champion of the use of smart data, analytics, and technology to reinvent the criminal justice system, Milgram led the development and national implementation of a new pretrial risk assessment tool to provide judges with more information for deciding whether to release or jail arrestees.

Milgram holds degrees from NYU School of Law, Rutgers College, and the University of Cambridge.

Learning by

On city streets, below ground, and on the water—these three distinct environments are linked by a common thread: Each of these locations is the setting of a John Jay class. To investigate how the College is contributing to CUNY-wide efforts to promote experiential learning opportunities, Justice Matters looked at three John Jay faculty members who are breaking down the walls of the classroom and giving students hands-on lessons in urban anthropology, forensic anthropology, and maritime security. For President Travis, co-chair of a university task force on experiential learning, these efforts are critical to bridging the gap between theory and application, providing students with an up close and personal view of how the material they learn in class translates to the real world.



No Bones about It: Graduate Students Learn Hands-on in Central Park

By Sam Anderson

At around seven in the morning on a cool fall day, Angelique Corthals headed into Central Park with a shovel and a very large bag. She approached the composting area near the 106th Street entrance and removed the contents of the bag—a human skeleton—and began digging a shallow grave.

“I’m always totally amazed by how blasé New Yorkers are. When they see someone digging with a shovel and this big bag in Central Park, they’re like ‘whatever,’” laughed Corthals, an assistant professor of forensic anthropology and biomedical sciences at John Jay.

Around an hour later, her students have arrived. After donning white full-cover protective suits, they’re ready to tackle the most important assignment of the graduate course in forensic anthropology: excavation and osteological identification. It is a chance to participate in the type of fieldwork typically reserved for career forensic anthropologists.

“I give them a scenario,” Corthals said. “A passerby was walking a dog in the park and the dog brought back what looked like a human femur. The passerby goes to the NYPD, and they call my students.”

The students have been training for this job all semester, and divide themselves into teams, each led by a principal

investigator. The teams consist of diggers, mapmakers, measurement takers, evidence collectors, photographers, and note takers.

“Everyone brings different strengths to the field,” said Carlos Teixeira, one of the participating students. “People draw from their specialties and we bring it together to complete the report.”

Using a forensic technique called the “double U,” students grid the area and begin searching for human remains. Corthals simulates the disturbance made by the dog, meaning she’s left a bone or two sticking out of the dirt. Once discovered, the remains must be properly excavated, and the students need to ensure that all evidence is bagged and tagged accordingly. During the excavation process, they discover more than just bones—a hammer, a skull with signs of blunt trauma, pieces of binoculars, and torn clothing. “I leave little clues here and there to guide them toward the potential identity of the person,” Corthals explained.

The skeletal remains correspond to just one of several cold-case scenarios devised by Corthals, and it’s the students’ task to match the case with the body. Corthals even leaves footprints around the site, the prints of the person who buried the body. For her students, every tiny detail matters, and nothing can be overlooked.

Doing...

“They have to analyze the remains and determine either an I.D. or a potential cause or manner of death,” said Corthals. “Then they have a moot court as their final exam. As a group, they present the results and their conclusions to the jury.”

If during the moot court proceedings something is amiss, evidence is found to be missing, or the body I.D. doesn’t match the specifics of the cold case, the students have squandered an opportunity to solve the case—a lesson most forensic anthropologists don’t learn until they experience fieldwork for the first time. In this respect, Corthals’ students are gaining a tremendous advantage.

“You cannot replace practical experience with theoretical exposition, particularly in the field of forensic anthropology,” said the professor, who likens it to teaching someone how to drive without letting them get behind the wheel.

But the lesson itself is not easy to plan. The excavation usually takes a full day to complete, not to mention the months of planning and negotiations required for Corthals to secure the necessary permits. She credits the Central Park Conservancy with making it happen. “They have been absolutely amazing. They were very helpful every step of the way, and they’re doing a superb job,” she said.

She also points out that the students are so meticulous and diligent in their evidence collection that they refuse to leave anything untouched. The result: They clean that section of the park like it’s never been cleaned before, a bonus for the Conservancy.

Her students agree that the benefits of this hands-on approach to learning are tremendous. Said participant Erica Klafehn: “Fieldwork experience is super important for graduate school. Having something like this on your résumé or to talk about in a college interview really makes you a star applicant because you do have that fieldwork experience.”

“It added a sense of realism,” added Teixeira, “and I found that I actually learn better by seeing and doing and using my hands, rather than sitting in a classroom and reading it out of a textbook.”

Teixeira graduated from John Jay in 2015 and has since continued working with Corthals on several projects, including an archaeological dig in the Valley of the Nobles in Egypt. That time, the bodies they excavated were not donated to science, but were genuine Egyptian mummies. Unfortunately, Corthals inhaled a cloud of dust from one of those mummies and came down with a rare form of pneumonia, one of the occupational hazards of a forensic anthropologist.

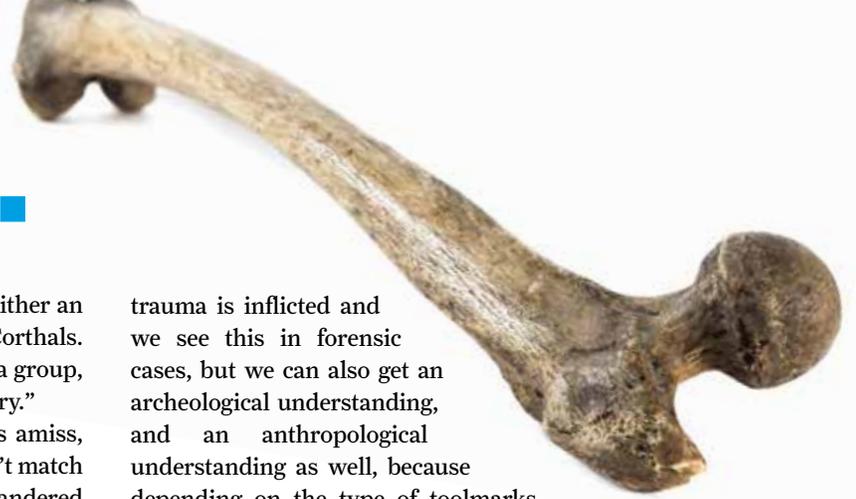
“She’s so smart, she has the answer to everything, she talks from actual experience, and she makes it fun,” said Teixeira, who currently works as an adjunct professor at John Jay and is applying to Ph.D. programs.

“She also bridges the fields of science and anthropology together, which is a connection that’s misunderstood by society,” said Klafehn. “There’s a science component because

trauma is inflicted and we see this in forensic cases, but we can also get an archeological understanding, and an anthropological understanding as well, because depending on the type of toolmarks made on the bones, we can learn what types of people were around in a specific area and time period.”

Corthals hopes to build on the success of her class and begin a graduate program in forensic anthropology. “That would be the dream,” she said, “to combine our anthropology people with our forensic people, and attract the Ph.D. students who are vital to the scientific life of the department.” If the success of the osteological identification project is any indication, John Jay students are ready for the challenge.

“Every single year I have been amazed at just how prepared they are. It’s absolutely vital that they have this experience,” said Corthals. **JM**



Professor Angelique Corthals, forensic anthropologist and classically trained Egyptologist.

The Hole Truth: Hands-on Anthropology with Professor Ric Curtis

Professor Ric Curtis

people who experience this and I want know more about them,” she said. “Why do they do it? What is the outcome? How do they feel after they use drugs? How does it impact their lives?”

For Curtis, these are the right questions to ask. While subjects like criminality and drug use are popular fields of study, he says: “No one wants to get their hands dirty. No one wants to collect the data. But I like to collect the data.”

Curtis, who has been conducting ethnographic fieldwork since the 1970’s, has a boyish grin and warm glint in his eye that suggest a man with a youthful heart. He typically speaks in street vernacular and often seems on the verge of cracking a joke.

Curtis’s methods involve conducting lengthy, in-depth interviews in which he asks about criminals’ backgrounds, their upbringing, education, family life, the types of crimes they commit and why, and other personal questions. He listens carefully to his subjects with empathy in place of judgment. He usually doesn’t offer advice because he believes in self-determination. This philosophy has rubbed off on his students.

“It was curiosity that drove me to participate,” said Karen Argueta, a junior who learned about Curtis’s field excursions through anthropology Professor Anjelica Camacho, a participant in the needle-exchange project at The Hole. “Some of the preconceptions I had were that these places are super dangerous. Then you go there and realize that these are people. When you humanize a person, you make them into all they can possibly be,” she said.

For the students, one of the biggest takeaways of engaging with local users at The Hole is the process of humanizing a demographic that is typically ignored by society.

Zenuni, who is originally from Albania, observed: “New York is such a beautiful place, with all of these skyscrapers and people moving around. But there is also a hidden part of the city that not everyone can see. It consists of the homeless population, drug users, and other people we take for granted every day. We’re too blind focusing on ourselves and our future and we avoid everything else going on around us.”

In addition to The Hole, Curtis has brought students to Atlantic City to interview sex workers, and to the Red Hook section of Brooklyn to evaluate the impact of a community court. His



By Sam Anderson

On Christmas day in 2016, anthropology Professor Ric Curtis led a group of John Jay students to a place in the Bronx he calls “The Hole.” They exited the train at Grand Concourse and walked to an abandoned, fenced-off lot near St. Ann’s Avenue, a decrepit site with a graffiti-spattered concrete ledge set into a hillside that leads down to a train tunnel. The ground was littered with trash and hypodermic needles, but the occasional tent or makeshift table suggested that this place might not be abandoned after all. It is a place where local addicts come together to inject heroin and use other drugs.

Curtis, a seasoned urban anthropologist and ethnographer, feels at home in such environs. He set up a makeshift needle exchange, installed a portable toilet on the corner, and, along with his students, began the Sisyphean task of collecting the thousands of used needles and depositing them into an orange biohazard bucket. He was eager to meet and speak with the locals who frequent the spot, and so were the students. Upon arrival, local drug users were surprised to be greeted by college students with notebooks, intent on interviewing them and recording their stories.

Irini Zenuni, a sophomore who visited The Hole last August, recalled: “In the beginning they were intimidated. But now they are used to our presence, they talk to us and they’re very friendly. They ask when are we coming back again with more needles. They say, “Thank you so much for doing this, we really appreciate it.””

Zenuni took two classes with Curtis during her first year and was struck by his direct, unabashed teaching style. During the class, Curtis displayed a video that he recorded in Bushwick many years ago, of a woman injecting heroin into her arm.

Zenuni said that several students were shocked and covered their eyes. “But to me, it was something I needed to learn because not everything in this world is pretty. There are



students have journeyed from Brownsville to Sunset Park to Greenpoint. Rather than having students observe from a distance, he arms them with background knowledge of the local community and interviewing techniques, allowing the students to conduct the interviews themselves.

“You get the sense that he finds everything very fascinating and important,” Argueta said. “There are times when you look around and you can’t find him because he’s exploring or looking around. He taught me about humanity in a way that others didn’t.”

“I think that many students who aspire to be in a field like this don’t really know if this is the field for them until they have the experience of doing it,” said Curtis. **JM**

Members of John Jay’s Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program detachment. Standing l.-r.: Solomon Ditta, Bria John, Professor Susan Pickman, Jayson Cancel Jr. Seated: Megan McGlynn.



Students use chalk to ask “What do you need?” in English and Spanish. When locals respond, Curtis and his students bring new supplies to the site.

All Hands on Deck: John Jay Students Answer the Coast Guard’s Call

By Peter Dodenhoff

New York City, with four island boroughs and one peninsula, is blessed with a first-class natural harbor that has long made it one of the country’s great port cities. Yet with that distinction, particularly in an age of heightened risk of terrorism, comes a greater-than-average need for maritime security. John Jay College’s Department of Security, Fire and Emergency Management is once again rising to meet the challenge, and in the process is providing students with a unique opportunity for experiential learning.

As of the fall semester of 2016, John Jay is an official detachment of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Auxiliary University Programs, a national initiative created in 2007 to prepare undergraduate and graduate students for future public service and provide opportunities for students to gain boating education, learn about homeland security, and gain operational and leadership experience.

“Our students are very limited in all things boat-related,” said Professor Chuck Nemeth, the SFEM chair. “Half of them don’t even know where New York harbor is. That’s why this is such a rich thing. It opens up a whole new world for them.”

The program is the brainchild of Professor Susan Pickman, who is a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla based in lower Manhattan. A longtime boater herself, she took the idea to Nemeth, who gave it his enthusiastic endorsement.

“I read a blog by a student at another college who was in the AUP and was on an icebreaker in the Arctic mapping the ocean floor and measuring pollution, and I thought, ‘I want my students to be able to do things like this.’ That started a long process of getting it through channels.”





Professor (and Coast Guard Auxiliarist)
Susan Pickman



Professor
Chuck Nemeth

The overall approval process took nine months, including unanimous support from the department’s faculty, a green light from the City University, and an enthusiastic welcome from the Coast Guard, which had the final say in the matter. “The Coast Guard is very excited about having us on board because we’re so multilingual, so multinational, so diverse,” said Pickman.

John Jay’s AUP detachment is officially affiliated with the lower Manhattan flotilla, which provides much of the program’s training. Coursework includes incident management, safe boating and boat operations, communications, marine safety, vessel examination, aviation, and public affairs, all non-credit programs taught by the flotilla at its South Street location. In addition, AUP students, who are required to join the flotilla itself, take a 36-hour, credit-bearing leadership training capstone course taught at the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., and a 95-hour hands-on internship program.

“We trying to incorporate the entire course of study into our major, so when you get a list of electives, the entire Coast Guard course of study might be worth, say, six credits,” Nemeth noted. “We’re still working with the Coast Guard to make that determination, and it’s something that will be brought up in a department faculty meeting.”

The coursework, whether on- or off-campus, is rigorous, and SFEM faculty, led by Pickman, work with the Coast Guard in reviewing students’ academic performance. The students themselves have to post course activity and progress reports on Blackboard.

Although the AUP detachment is still quite new, it has already shown its appeal among John Jay students. Twelve students are currently in the detachment, Pickman said, and another 18 are in the process of joining. Several dozen more have expressed interest at open-house events.

Solomon Ditta, a senior majoring in Security Management, is one such student, having helped in the formation of the AUP detachment along with Pickman and 2016 John Jay graduate

Matthew Pascual, who is now in the active-duty Coast Guard. “I had no boating or maritime background,” said Ditta, who is president of the John Jay detachment. “But through this program I have learned a great deal regarding maritime, boating, and Coast Guard operations.”

Ditta and the detachment’s vice president, sophomore Bria John, completed the leadership capstone in New London last semester and came home raving about the program. “Plain and simple, it brought me to a new level and ability to think critically as a leader,” said Ditta. John, who is majoring in Fire and Emergency Service, added, “Everything I learned made me a better person.”

The program is very disciplined, she said. “It shows you that you need to work hard, and forces you to think about yourself. But it’s definitely a life-changer.”

John Jay is only the 24th college nationwide to have an AUP detachment, and faculty and students alike see the marriage between college and Coast Guard as a natural and mutually beneficial one. “If you are interested in an internship where you could get out on air patrol, boat crew, or join a Coast Guard emergency planning, there are numerous possible pathways within the AUP program, whether you wanted to make a career out of it or just have something to help your résumé stand out,” said Ditta, who is planning to pursue a master’s degree in security or emergency management. “Being part of the Coast Guard Auxiliary is something that helps me give back to New York City.”

Nemeth likes the close alignment of the missions of John Jay and the Coast Guard. “We’re like natural brothers and sisters,” he observed. “The occupational fit of these two entities, the Coast Guard and our department, could not be better blended. We’re a student-oriented department. We love student success and career linkages for our students, and you could not come up with a better mesh for what we’re trying to accomplish.”

Pickman added that if AUP students choose to enlist in the Coast Guard, as Pascual did, they have a 73 percent chance of being accepted into the highly selective Officer Candidate School.

With the ranks of Auxiliarists equaling, if not exceeding, the 32,000 or so active-duty and reserve Coast Guard personnel, they provide a vital “force multiplier” for accomplishing the Coast Guard’s diverse missions, particularly at a time when the Coast Guard is facing a sharp reduction in its budget.

“The Coast Guard is in the business of saving lives and protecting the homeland,” said Pickman. “So are we.” Added Nemeth: “It opens a world of possibilities. They’re not just doing law enforcement. They’re saving the environment, they’re saving lives, and the Auxiliary is an integral part of most Coast Guard missions.

“The Coast Guard is in the field every day engaging in justice activities and providing safety,” Nemeth observed. “It’s pure justice—serving your neighbor.” **JM**

For more information on the John Jay/Coast Guard Auxiliary University Program, contact Professor Susan Pickman at spickman@jjay.cuny.edu, or visit <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/us-coast-guard-auxiliary-university-program-john-jay>





TRUE TO THE MISSION

By Peter Dodenhoff

John Jay College has built and earned a reputation for educating students to go out into the world and become “fierce advocates for justice.” For a sizable number of alumni, that calling has meant staying right here, working, teaching, and “paying it forward” so that future generations of fierce advocates can reap the same benefits of a John Jay education.

Some alumni graduated, went elsewhere to study or work, and then returned to their alma mater. Others made a seamless transition from student to staff or faculty. In either case, fidelity to John Jay’s mission is a defining characteristic, and a powerful motivating principle, for these John Jay employees.

“Providing individualized attention to students has been gratifying to say the least,” said Berlyn Morales-Witten, a 2008 alumna who is now an academic advisor with John Jay’s ACE (Accelerate, Complete, Engage) program. “I was a student who worked three jobs while taking six classes at a time, and graduated with a 3.5 GPA in spite of it. I see the ‘old me’ in many of our students today and I like to use my experience to show them that it is possible to connect with the John Jay community and excel academically, even though finding the time to do it can be a barrier.”

John Jay alumni can be found working throughout the College: in academic departments from Sciences to Africana Studies to Security, Fire and Emergency Management, among others; in the Office of Public Safety; in Financial Aid, the Registrar’s Office, and the President’s Office; in Marketing and Development; and in the Honors and Ph.D. programs, to name just a handful. [Full disclosure: This reporter is also a proud Founding Generation alumnus, Class of ’73.]

Wherever alumni can be found on campus, the John Jay mission looms large. It’s clear from even casual conversations that, for these alumni, working at John Jay is a highly desirable and fulfilling career path. “I was never here for the money. I’ve always loved John Jay; I never wanted to go anywhere else,” said Irene O’Donnell, the Director of Campus Office Services and Records Management. “I have such an affinity for this place, I can’t even describe it. I think John Jay is the best college in CUNY.”

O’Donnell would know. The native of County Donegal, Ireland, has been a John Jay fixture since 1981, when she was appointed Assistant Director of Student Activities by then-President Gerald W. Lynch. Since that time, she has earned her bachelor’s degree in Forensic Psychology—salutatorian



“As an employee in the PRISM office, I am forever grateful for the opportunities that were given to me as a student in the Science department, and I hope to return the favor to help future science students at John Jay.”

—Derek Sokolowski (B.S. '15)

Assistant Coordinator, Program for Research Initiatives in Science and Math

of the Class of 1987—as well as a master’s in Industrial Labor Relations from Baruch College/Cornell University. O’Donnell has worked in Testing, Human Resources (an assignment that prompted her to pursue the master’s degree), the Department of Information Technology and, since 2001, in Campus Office Services.

“I didn’t do so bad for someone who worked her way up,” she said with a smile.

O’Donnell will be retiring in June, but insists that her connection to John Jay will remain strong. “I’m a dedicated

alumna; my whole life is John Jay, and I’m very proud of my alma mater,” she said. “I feel as strongly about John Jay as I do about Ireland, and everyone knows how I feel about Ireland.”

On the other end of the seniority spectrum, Markie Bledsoe-Grant is the freshly minted House Manager of the Gerald W. Lynch Theater, a position she has held since February, just eight months after earning her bachelor’s degree in Forensic Psychology. She had worked in a variety of on-campus jobs since her freshman year, and as a theater usher since March 2014. When a transition in theater staffing occurred, she was recruited for the House Manager vacancy by Rubina Shafi, the theater’s Audience Services Manager.

“I was highly recommended due to my leadership skills and work ethic,” Bledsoe-Grant said. “I saw this as a good opportunity to gain managerial experience. I’ve fallen in love with the job completely; it’s been an important part of my life. Every event is a highlight for me. It’s definitely challenging, in a good way.”

In her role with the theater, Bledsoe-Grant deals with both internal and external constituencies, each of which gives her an opportunity to pay it forward. “The theater gives students an opportunity to present their views on stage, and it feels really good

to be a part of that.” Even with outside clients—and she admits to having been “star-struck a few times” around the likes of Usher, Montel Williams, and other celebrities—she is a cool professional, confident that “it comes back home to John Jay and representing what we stand for.”

“It’s really an honor. I’m very proud to be here,” she said.

Nestled between O’Donnell and Bledsoe-Grant in seniority—although every bit their equal when it comes to John Jay loyalty and spirit—is Michael Scaduto, Associate Director of Financial Aid, who graduated in 2004 with his Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and has been working at the College ever since.

“I’m a product of Dr. Pat Sinatra,” he said, referring to the late John Jay alumna (B.S. ’75) who herself enjoyed a lengthy career in student services at the College, during which she developed the First-Year Initiative programs. “As a student I worked as a peer mentor and math tutor, and when I was getting close to graduation, I had discussions with Dr. Sinatra about staying at John Jay in more of a leadership role in the freshman peer mentor office.”

Scaduto did stay on, working on freshman orientation and advisement, and in 2008 he switched to Financial Aid. His extensive student contact puts him in an ideal position to mentor, assist, and inspire new generations of John Jay students. “Everyone I’ve worked for has been a good mentor,

“Giving back to my community is something I hold very dear, and I’m glad I get to do this with the community that helped me: John Jay.”

—Yuleisy Audain (B.A. '16)

*Marketing & Communications and Peer Advocates Assistant,
Urban Male Initiative*

and that’s been invaluable to me,” he said. “I try to do the same for others. The core mission of John Jay is public service, and that’s what we do: provide service.”

Forty-seven percent of current John Jay undergraduates are the first in their families to attend college, and Scaduto finds additional inspiration in that statistic. “I was a first-generation college student, so it’s important for me to help others in the same situation,” he said. “I know what they’re going through.”

The transition from student to employee has its challenges, said Scaduto. “You’re now a professional, not a student anymore,” he said. “You now have different expectations for yourself. But like any other career, you don’t become a professional overnight. It’s important to have good mentors and good colleagues, and that’s something I value highly. At the same time, you have to earn your keep and excel at what you do. And while you’re an ‘insider’ as a John Jay alumnus, you’re not treated differently or special. You simply chose to make John Jay your career.”

Not all alumni employees transitioned directly from student body to work force. Chelsea Binns earned her master’s in Criminal Justice from John Jay, then a doctorate from the CUNY Graduate Center. A Certified Fraud Examiner, Binns

was a senior vice president in Citigroup’s Fraud Surveillance Unit before joining John Jay’s Department of Security, Fire and Emergency Management as an assistant professor.

“I treasure the education I received from John Jay,” she said. “The professors at John Jay are true leaders in their respective fields who fully prepared me to achieve excellence, and I have enjoyed an outstanding career as a result. My positive experience inspired me to want to continue my relationship with the school as a member of the faculty.

“John Jay attracts the best students in the world,” she continued, “and it is my privilege to continue working with them to achieve academic excellence, produce outstanding scholarship, and attain exciting careers in the public and private sectors.”

Another alumnus who made a significant mark elsewhere before returning home is Daniel Matos (B.A. '97), John Jay’s Registrar since October 2015. The Senior Registrar at City College for three and a half years prior to coming back to John Jay, Matos came with a wealth of experience in enrollment management and student services, having previously served as University Vice President for Student Services at American University of Antigua and Registrar at the University of Medicine and Health Services in St. Kitts, among other positions. He was also Assistant Registrar at John Jay for six years.

Joseph V. Williams (M.S. '93) enjoyed a long career as a New York State corrections official before returning to John Jay as a member of the Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration. He felt instantly at home. “I’ve enjoyed teaching at John Jay for 20-plus years now, and particularly since President Travis has been there, given his practice, research, and scholarship in the police and correctional fields,” said Williams, who commutes 75 miles from Poughkeepsie to teach new cadres of fierce advocates.

His colleague on the LPS faculty, Arthur Storch (M.A. '77) is a retired NYPD inspector who likewise enjoys teaching and mentoring students. “My goal is to help them be successful in life beyond John Jay,” Storch said. “Several students have kept in touch via e-mail as they have pursued law enforcement careers. It’s been a pleasure to continue helping guide them through their professional lives.”

Teaching, mentoring, guiding, helping. That’s the bottom line for the scores of John Jay alumni who, whether old hands or new arrivals, have found satisfying careers as members of the staff or faculty. Said Scaduto, John Jay’s 2014 Employee of the Year, “Paying it forward is ultimately why we’re here.”

[For an expanded list of alumni who work at the College, visit:

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/alumni-employees>] JM



Michael Scaduto

Happy 10th Anniversary

The 2016–17 academic year brought milestones for three important undergraduate programs, with the Pre-Law Institute, the John Jay-Vera Fellows program, and the Program for Research Initiatives in Science and Math (PRISM) all celebrating 10 years of serving the College community. Each in its way has helped pave the way for students' personal, academic, and professional success.



**JOHN
JAY** COLLEGE
OF
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE
PRE-LAW INSTITUTE

The Pre-Law Institute helps students pursue and realize their goals of attending law school. To support this mission, PLI offers a comprehensive array of programs and activities: pre-law boot camps; an LSAT prep program; a law school prep program; judicial internships; and the centerpiece, the annual Law Day at John Jay. In one recent cohort, participants in PLI programs were admitted to more than 84 law schools nationwide and received more than \$13 million in scholarship aid. On Oct. 19, 2016, John Jay students, alumni, staff, trustees, and numerous dignitaries gathered at the Yale Club in Manhattan to celebrate the PLI anniversary. For more information, visit: www.jjay.cuny.edu/pre-law-institute



PRISM

at JOHN JAY COLLEGE

The Program for Research Initiatives in Science and Math represents a quantum leap for John Jay's historical commitment to the sciences as part of its Educating for Justice mission. Pairing aspiring science and math students with faculty research mentors, PRISM provides a comprehensive array of programs designed to foster academic excellence and increased opportunities for success in graduate school and careers. PRISM allows undergraduate researchers to benefit from mentored research partnerships, academic and professional advisement, financially supported opportunities to participate in professional conferences, group and one-on-one study support, and more. In 2011, PRISM was recognized by President Barack Obama as a national model of excellence, with a 2011 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Math, and Engineering Mentoring. For more information, visit: <http://prismatjjay.org>

VERA

INSTITUTE OF JUSTICE

The John Jay-Vera Fellows program is a dynamic collaboration between the College, the Vera Institute of Justice, and Vera's spinoff agencies, providing internships and academic experience for up to 10 exceptional undergraduates each year.

Through Vera and its partners, Fellows intern 10 hours per week for two semesters, working with the homeless, with ex-offenders reentering society, with victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, and with the disabled, immigrants, at-risk juveniles, and the mentally ill. In return, they earn six academic credits and a \$3,000 annual stipend. To date, more than 100 students have benefited from this unique partnership. For more information, visit: www.jjay.cuny.edu/vera-fellows-program



DREAMS AND

By Sam Anderson

DIFFICULTIES: BEING UNDOCUMENTED AT JOHN JAY



OF the roughly 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, nearly 10 percent live in New York State. Many of these immigrants live, work, and go to school in New York City. At John Jay College, 220 students self-report that they are undocumented, and another 280 have missing or unclear citizenship status, according to CUNYfirst, the database of student management. Calculating the exact number of undocumented students at John Jay is intrinsically difficult, and, according to Professor Isabel Martinez, the difficulty is compounded by the fact that most undocumented immigrants underreport, and that many live in mixed-status families. Still, a realistic estimate of the number of undocumented students at John Jay puts it between 500 and 1,000, or roughly 3 to 6 percent of the student body.

Some of these aspiring lawyers, criminologists, forensic scientists, cybersecurity specialists, police officers, and fierce advocates for justice refer to themselves as “Dreamers.” Many came to the United States as children or infants. Some have never seen their country of origin. To the Dreamers, the U.S. is the place they call home.

Some of these students have their legal status protected under DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy put in place under President Obama. Yet even for them,



college life is fraught with difficulty. Most are ineligible for state or federal financial aid. They often work full-time jobs to pay for tuition, and it is not uncommon for students to drop out for a semester, save money, and return. Still, they persevere, motivated by the thought of achieving their degrees and moving ahead to jobs, graduate schools, or other opportunities. For them as well as for their families, this is the American dream.

In general, students and families without criminal records have not been among those targeted for deportation by the federal government. That changed when President Trump announced an executive order that significantly broadened the power of Customs and Border Protection to deport undocumented immigrants. For the most vulnerable student population at John Jay, things just got a lot more uncertain.

"We all know someone who's undocumented, whether we know it or not," said Sofia (not her real name), a junior Sociology major at John Jay. "DACA gives me a privilege, and I need to remember that even though I'm less likely to be deported, it does not mean that the fight for the undocumented community is over." Sofia's sister is also DACA-protected, which means that for now, they are not at risk of deportation. But the same can't be said for their parents, who moved here in 2004 when their home country of Peru underwent a sharp

economic downturn. Now, Sofia worries about her father leaving the house to get groceries.

Such fear is common among undocumented students. The challenge of paying college tuition, previously their greatest source of anxiety, pales in comparison to the thought of losing a family member to deportation.

"As a professor, my main goal is to teach my students," said Martinez, an assistant professor of sociology. "That means helping them develop research skills, writing skills, reading skills, and a body of knowledge. I can't do that if my students are terrified and can't concentrate."

Martinez also serves as Director of U-LAMP, the Unaccompanied Latin American Minor Project, which provides support to young immigrants in removal proceedings. She is one of the John Jay faculty members who sprang into action after Election Day, reaching out to students she knew were undocumented to offer support. Martinez has been coordinating with John Jay's DREAMers Club to organize "Know Your Rights" workshops, where students learn practical skills that can help them and their families avoid deportation.

Some of the tips that have been shared with students include teaching them how to spot the difference between a judge's warrant and a warrant from the Department of Homeland



Professor Isabel Martinez (l.), Associate Director for Student Success Initiatives Nancy Yang, and DREAMers Club president Olivia Ramirez.

adds: “It didn’t impact me until I graduated from high school. Filling out college applications, I realized that I was not eligible for financial aid, and that I needed to work in order to continue my education.”

She’s no stranger to work, having had off-the-books jobs since she was 15. One experience stuck with her: “My first job was cleaning a high school on Long Island. The supervisor saw how tired I was after working from eight in the morning to seven at night. He said to me, ‘Why are you tired? This is going to be your future.’ I still remember that today, because this is how society looks at undocumented people and Latinos in general.”

That supervisor might be surprised to learn that Sofia will soon complete her bachelor’s degree and plans to go to law school.

“There’s an assumption in America that everyone here has an equal opportunity,” said Robbi (not her real name), an undocumented John Jay student from Pakistan. “Everyone assumes you’re on the same page, that you qualify for the same things, but it’s not true. We have to go through so many different hoops to finance our education.”

The freshman Economics major said she feels an additional level of anxiety as a Muslim. She was 3 or 4 when her family emigrated from Pakistan, and now she feels unable to leave. “I would like to see where I was born and visit my family, but now I don’t plan to leave whatsoever,” she said.

Sofia, too, experienced being unable to leave the United States when she had to turn down a study-abroad trip to Mexico. She had been accepted into a program to study indigenous Mayan communities, but because the group was

set to return on Jan. 22, two days after Trump took office, she was advised to decline the opportunity. Sofia said that she will likely avoid all plane travel in the foreseeable future to avoid being detained at the airport.

Far from being isolated cases, these incidents are representative of the experiences of other undocumented students in the CUNY system and at colleges and universities nationwide. Many undocumented students who were brought to the U.S. as children and have lived their entire lives as Americans are now realizing the limitations of their status in applying for jobs, financial aid, and other programs. And, since the presidential election, they have the added worry of being separated from their families, and the possibility of being sent back to a country they do not remember.

At John Jay, organizations like the DREAMers Club provide

Security, which doesn’t hold up in court. “They have the right to not open the door if ICE agents come to their homes without a warrant from a judge,” Martinez said, referring to Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Martinez has also been distributing cards that contain the person’s name and the words “I invoke my right to remain silent.” She explained: “Trouble happens when conversations with Customs officers give people the opportunity to say something that might have bad consequences. With this notecard, you can invoke your rights without saying anything.”

Immigrants without documentation are also gearing up for an increase in expedited removals. To protect themselves, Martinez recommends that all immigrants carry proof that they’ve been in the country for more than two years.

Sofia says she always knew she was undocumented, but

a safe space to talk about these issues and raise questions about what to do next. Olivia Ramirez, the president of the DREAMers Club, is a child of immigrants, a native-born citizen, and recently she has become acutely aware of just how much privilege her legal status confers.

“I’ve worked with students who aren’t DREAMers and who don’t have DACA, they are just undocumented students without support,” she said. “Having no financial aid and working 40-plus hours per week seriously affects their academics. There’s not enough time to do homework, and many of them are also supporting their families. They have to decide, do they eat and sleep, or work on homework. These are hard decisions to make.”

Ramirez says she was reluctant to run for president of the DREAMers Club because she hadn’t experienced firsthand what it is to be undocumented. But she decided to run in order to leverage her connections with other organizations on and off campus, like Legal Aid, Single Stop, CUNY Citizenship Now!, Make the Road, and U-LAMP. In addition to coordinating events, panels, and workshops, a big part of the DREAMers Club is simply providing a space to talk, connect, and share a common experience.

“The Dreamers are in a sense trying to become more empowered to tell people they’re here and unapologetically undocumented,” Ramirez said. “There are some who want to stay in the shadows, and others who want to raise their voices and say ‘we’re here and we’re going to fight to stay here.’”

The diversity of opinion on whether or not undocumented students should be outspoken about their status is reflective of the political climate—people simply do not know how severe the risk of deportation will become, or what the future holds for DACA. “We’re in a whole new ball game,” Martinez said.

For now, Martinez and her colleague Nancy Yang, the Associate Director for Student Success Initiatives, are focused on raising student awareness and taking actions to protect students. Said Martinez, “One of the things we’re trying to develop is a rapid response team at John Jay in case one of our kids is picked up.” Yang also helped develop a John Jay resource web page for undocumented students and organized a CUNY-wide “resource day” on March 3, hosting 22 citywide entities that support and offer various services to immigrants.

The College is instituting measures to prevent ICE agents and others seeking immigration-related information from entering campus and accessing records unless they have a subpoena, warrant, or court order. These measures, to be implemented by Public Safety with the help of the Office of Legal Counsel, are consistent with CUNY’s commitment to take no action to assist in the enforcement of immigration laws, except as required by law. **JM**



GET HELP!

John Jay College and the City University stand firmly committed to protecting and supporting students, regardless of immigration status. In several recent public statements, President Jeremy Travis and Chancellor James B. Milliken underscored this commitment and outlined steps that have been or will be taken to protect immigrant students and their personal records. These steps, along with resources available to CUNY students, include:

- A statement in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, signed in November by President Travis along with hundreds of college and university presidents nationwide, including Chancellor Milliken and six CUNY campus presidents. The statement and list of signers is available online at <https://www.pomona.edu/news/2016/11/21-college-university-presidents-call-us-uphold-and-continue-daca>
- The CUNY Immigrant Education Initiative, one of the priorities of which is to increase the number of available CUNY seats so that all 16,000 potentially DACA-eligible New Yorkers can enroll in an appropriate educational program.
- A comprehensive page on the CUNY website that provides a wealth of information for CUNY students, faculty, and staff about recent changes in federal immigration policies. Visit <http://www2.cuny.edu/academics/international-education/iss/policy-changes>
- CUNY Citizenship Now! offers a full array of information and legal services on immigration, citizenship, and related subjects. E-mail: citizenshipnowinfo@cuny.edu, or call 212-650-6620.
- Inquiries about personal immigration-related matters can also be addressed to a Legal Aid attorney through the John Jay Wellness Center. For more information, visit www.jjay.cuny.edu/wellness-center
- The CUNY Law School clinic CUNY CLEAR (Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility) aims to address the unmet legal needs, Muslim, Arab, African, Asian and other communities in New York City, including questions about travel, national security, and counterterrorism policies. Visit <http://www.law.cuny.edu/academics/clinics/immigration/clear.html>
- A thorough battery of useful resources for immigrant students, undocumented or otherwise, is available online at www.jjay.cuny.edu/undocumentedstudents

FACULTY STEP UP to Help Rising Stars

by Sam Anderson



Alisse Waterston, Presidential Scholar and Professor of Anthropology, one of the creators of the Rising Star Fellowship.

For many faculty members, the dedication to their students is part of their social justice commitment, worth achieving by contributing in any way they can.

When President Jeremy Travis in 2013 raised the issue of getting faculty to participate in a campaign to raise much-needed funds for a new fellowship, anthropology Professor Alisse Waterston admits that she was puzzled. To say the least, asking her colleagues to donate money in addition to the time and effort they already put in—“blood, sweat, and tears,” in her words—would be a challenge. Yet Waterston also knew that they truly believed in John Jay’s students and CUNY’s pivotal role in public higher education.

“For me personally, part of that larger social justice mission is to understand the sources and consequences of inequality as it affects our students, and doing whatever it takes to address them,” said Waterston. “We teach them, we mentor and nurture them, and sometimes, if we are able, we contribute financially.”

In this context, inequality means that many John Jay students are unable to take on unpaid internships, research opportunities, or study-abroad experiences due to lack of funds and the need to prioritize paid employment. For John Jay students, the choice between work and educational experiences is often not a choice at all.

“A large portion of our undergraduates are students of color, new immigrants, and from working-class backgrounds,” Waterston said, “and John Jay has really flourished over the past 10 years in terms of building different opportunities for students, but they can’t always take advantage of these opportunities. Why? Because they have to work.”

Andrene Wright transferred to John Jay from Michigan State University because her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and lost her job. Working 40 hours per week and still unable to pay the out-of-state tuition, Wright headed home to Long Island. “I was taking one day at a time because life came at me fast,” she said. “But I always believed in the power of momentum.”

At John Jay, Wright was able to continue her education but the idea of studying abroad seemed just out of reach. Professor Waterston, whom Wright had met through the John Jay-Vera Fellows program, thought otherwise.



Rabia Javed



Andrene Wright

“Why not create a funding opportunity, the Rising Star Fellowship, where students can accept opportunities that can make big differences in their lives and their future in terms of personal development, social development, and professional development?” Waterston pondered.

She and her faculty colleagues began the fundraising process, setting the goal at \$100,000. While they haven’t quite met that goal, they got close enough to start awarding the fellowships. Now in its second year, the Rising Star Fellowship has been awarded to six students, each of whom received \$3,000 to help them pursue and accept opportunities that otherwise might have remained elusive. Waterston has big dreams for the future of the Fellowship program, hoping that more faculty will be inspired to give and that an outside patron will be inspired to match the faculty fund.

For Wright, the Rising Star Fellowship has meant an all-expenses-paid trip to study and work in Senegal. “The biggest takeaway was breaking away from the assumptions of what I thought was going to happen,” she said.

“I study Africana Studies, but I had no idea how rich in resources and culture Senegal was, and how their value system differs from ours. It’s more than just infrastructure that makes them rich.”

Wright stayed with a host family in Dakar and traveled to a rural community to help build an eco-village, a community in which “human activities are harmlessly integrated into the natural world in a way that is supportive of healthy human development, and can be successfully continued into the indefinite future.”

“There was no bathroom, we showered with buckets, we made our own food, and we ate with our hands,” Wright said. “I didn’t think of myself as poor because people were so happy and we lived in such harmony. To run away from the idea that the world revolves around money was so different... I wasn’t used to thinking that way.”

Wright says she never would have had this experience

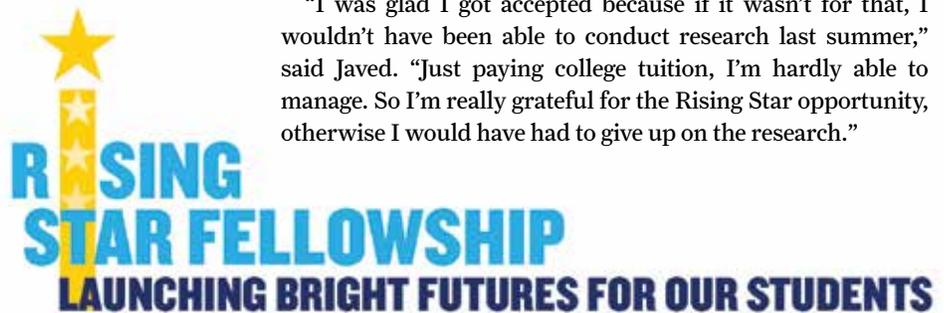
without Rising Star, adding that, unlike other scholarships for which she had to navigate endless red tape to secure the funds, Rising Star funding was there exactly when and where she needed it.

“Professor Waterston has been my savior for a whole year,” Wright said. “She went up to bat for me and she does that for all of her Fellows. She’s an amazing human and I can’t begin to express how thankful I am for her.”

Rabia Javed, an international student from Pakistan in the Honors Program, also used her Rising Star Fellowship to travel abroad. A Forensic Science major, she conducted ethnobotanical research in Morocco, where she studied the therapeutic properties of medicinal plants. “Eucalyptus, lemon verbena, and rosemary have certain properties,” she said, “and what we did was analyze the pharmacological potential of these essential oils by conducting experiments on mice and locusts.”

Javed found that when injected with rosemary oil, locusts died instantly, opening the door for a potentially innovative approach to making insecticides that would not be harmful to people. Javed is also looking into whether essential oils have therapeutic value to humans, and if they can potentially slow the effects of neurodegenerative diseases like Parkinson’s.

“I was glad I got accepted because if it wasn’t for that, I wouldn’t have been able to conduct research last summer,” said Javed. “Just paying college tuition, I’m hardly able to manage. So I’m really grateful for the Rising Star opportunity, otherwise I would have had to give up on the research.”



Javed has continued to move forward with her research and is currently analyzing the therapeutic properties of black cumin with her faculty mentor, Dr. Shu Yuan Cheng. She noted that Rising Star was particularly important to her because as an international student, she is not eligible for a lot of scholarship and fellowship opportunities.

“I’ve been working at least two jobs throughout my undergraduate career and I always have to make a choice: Do I work or do I study? That’s an extremely hard decision to make,” Javed said, “but with Rising Star, as long as you’re a student they will help you.”

Said Waterston, “If there’s any testament to the value of what we’re doing with this project, it’s hearing from the young people about their experiences and what they got out of it. The Rising Star Fellowship is fulfilling the role we imagined it would fulfill. It’s really happening, and it’s having a transformative effect.” **JM**



OUR BEST FOOT FORWARD:

John Jay's Media Visibility Is Bigger than Ever

By Peter Dodenhoff

In print. On the air. In cyberspace and social media. Lately, wherever one goes in the world, John Jay College is there, thanks to a dramatic upturn in the College's media visibility and a variety of factors that are feeding that growth.

"I've been here over 15 years, and in that time I've seen President Travis seek out more visibility for the College and support things to help faculty, staff, and administrators become more comfortable with media, as well as more comfortable with sharing their research with the world," said Gloria Browne-Marshall, an associate professor of constitutional law and a regular presence in a variety of media. "I won't say the visibility wasn't there before, but as the College has expanded there are more requests for information, and it's given faculty and staff more opportunity to let the world know what it is that we do."

Hard data on the media uptick are somewhat elusive, due in large part to the numerous institutional and individual forms it takes. Still, persuasive anecdotal evidence abounds across the media spectrum. Print is the longest-running and, perhaps not surprisingly, still the favored platform for the College as well as for individual faculty members. Each month, the John Jay Office of Marketing and Communications produces a report, "John Jay in the Media," that tracks news coverage of and appearances by faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Scores of individual articles are recorded, citing bylined articles, citations of faculty experts, and newsworthy professional accomplishments. When the mass-market reach of news agencies and syndicates is factored in, the monthly total of articles or mentions soars into the thousands.

"We are very responsive to media requests as a team, and don't let such opportunities pass us by," said Rama Sudhakar, John Jay's Chief Communications Officer.

Many faculty members appear regularly in print through their own initiative, with op-eds, news analyses, and other commentaries. Former police officer and prosecutor Eugene O'Donnell, a lecturer in the Department of Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration, can often be seen in the pages of the New York Daily News, offering insights on topical criminal justice issues. Browne-Marshall has a column on legal issues that is syndicated nationwide by the Milwaukee Courier. She also holds the distinction of having been the first black female accredited to cover the U.S. Supreme Court.



John Jay's presence in the media, whether in print or otherwise, is in large part event-driven, and whenever headline-generating news occurs, it's a safe bet that a John Jay faculty member will be called on for comment or analysis. Whether it's terrorism, gun violence, juvenile justice, DNA analysis, racial justice, or any one of a wide variety of other topics, John Jay's resident experts are ready, willing, and able to contribute to the conversation.

"If the media comes here looking for someone to comment on a police shooting," Browne-Marshall observed, "they can find someone who thinks the police were wrong and someone who thinks the police were right. And we could end up on TV at the same time on different networks."

It's the diverse array of viewpoints that Browne-Marshall believes gives John Jay its unique and powerful appeal. "There are very few colleges that can boast of that," she noted. "The diversity of viewpoints should be a bragging right of ours."

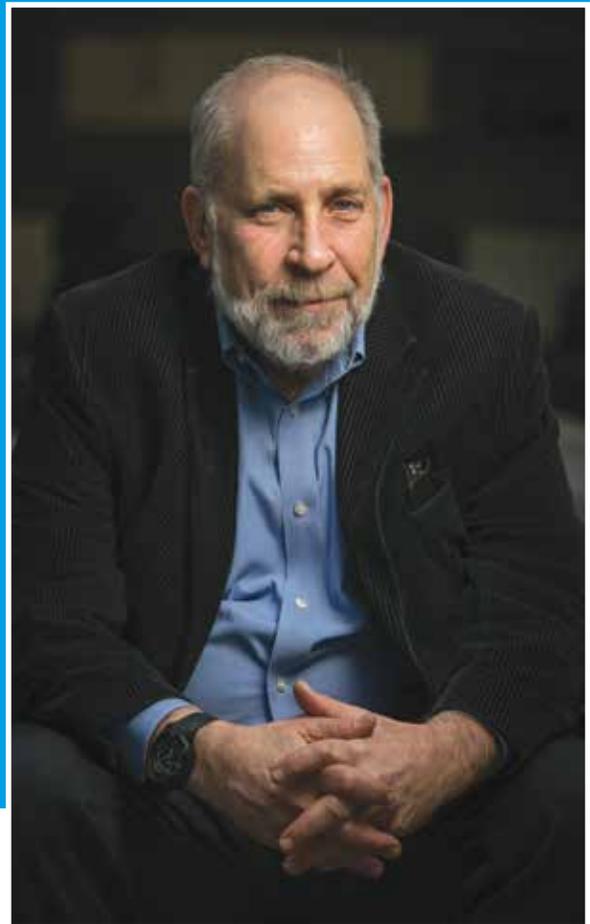
On the Air



If print is the granddaddy of the College's media outreach, television is not far behind, most notably in the form of "Criminal Justice Matters," John Jay's own monthly cable TV program that is now in its 35th season. Currently hosted by Steve Handelman, over time the program has featured a galaxy of A-list guests and John Jay faculty members: New York Mayors Edward Koch, David Dinkins, and Rudolph Giuliani; Police Commissioners Benjamin Ward, Patrick V. Murphy, and William Bratton; Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau; Professors Jane Katz and Baz Dreisinger, and President Jeremy Travis, to name just a few.

"It's meant as a forum on current topics in criminal justice," Handelman said. "It's a local show, but we produce news-related discussions for the entire country." (The programs can be accessed on John Jay's YouTube channel.)

Handelman cited a number of favorite episodes from the six years he has hosted the program. "After Sandy Hook, we brought in cops and ex-FBI personnel to talk about how teachers can deal with gun violence," he recalled. "For another show, we went up to Otisville Correctional Facility and did a show with inmates taking John Jay classes there as part of the Prison-to-College Pipeline



Steve Handelman, host of "Criminal Justice Matters."

program. With then-Commissioner Bratton, we had folks arguing back and forth on stop, question, and frisk practices."

Handelman's other role as Director of John Jay's Center on Media, Crime and Justice puts him in a key role when it comes to promoting John Jay, its faculty and staff, and insights into justice-related issues. The CMCJ is home to the online publication *The Crime Report*, a roundup of criminal justice news and opinions, which Handelman described as "the only national news source of its kind." The center also awards fellowships to working journalists to help hone their criminal justice reporting skills.

"In the last 10 or 11 years, we've brought in around 850 journalists from every kind of media platform, from the *Wall Street Journal* to small mid-market outlets, online news outlets, citizen journalists, and the ethnic press," said Handelman. "Some of them have gone on to become prize winners in their field. We work with a lot of young people who want to do their best, and we want to help them by providing resources."

Experts Are Made, Not Born

The knowledge and expertise provided by John Jay faculty has been carefully distilled into a 20-page document, "The Faculty Expertise Reference List," by the Office of Marketing & Communications, which includes and describes several



Professor Gloria Browne-Marshall

dozen faculty members, arranged by area of expertise. The list is just a small fraction of John Jay’s total faculty complement, although that number can be expected to increase, thanks in large part to a series of media training workshops that have been offered to the faculty in recent months.

Facilitated by outside experts, including John Jay College Foundation trustee Katherine Oliver, former head of the New York City Mayor’s Office of Media and Entertainment, these forums have offered faculty members tips and best practices for effectively engaging with the media, presenting research, positioning oneself as a subject-matter expert, and more.

Professor Browne-Marshall, a veteran of many media platforms, was a participant in one forum’s panel discussion in which she, along with faculty colleagues Jennifer Dysart and Saul Kassin, discussed her experiences in dealing with the media. “You want as many people to know about your research as possible,” Browne-Marshall said. “You can use the social media platforms, you can use the more traditional platforms like print, but in order for the media to seek you out, they first have to know you exist. And you have to realize that whatever your area of research is, at some point it’s going to come up in the news.”

The Ubiquitous Hashtag

In a world in which the hashtag has become ubiquitous, social media and other online platforms have become an outlet with seemingly limitless potential for the John Jay community. Many

faculty members are long-time bloggers and Twitter users—President Travis himself has an active Twitter account—and the College is a familiar presence on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and SnapChat, among other sites.

Given the computer-driven underpinning of social media platforms, usage data are easily obtained, and the numbers are eye-opening. During the 2015–16 academic year, for example, Twitter posts have jumped more than sixfold compared to 2014–15, and Instagram posts are up more than fourfold. Engagements on these platforms—likes, shares, and comments—have similarly grown by several hundred percent. Facebook postings by the College, its subsidiary units, and members of the College community are also growing all the time, and the College’s visibility is enhanced by those students and alumni whose pages proudly show John Jay as their alma mater.

Today’s 24/7 news cycle has created a fertile landscape for media outreach. As Browne-Marshall notes, media engagement is also part of her central role as an educator. “My feeling is this: I have the opportunity to teach via CNN or MSNBC or CBS or the print media or my radio show on WBAI, and it all fits into my need to help people better understand constitutional rights, the law, the Supreme Court, and how all these things affect our lives on a daily basis. This is another way of teaching.” **JM**



Jeremy Travis
@JohnJayPresJT

Following

John Jay ranked tenth in the country in facilitating upward mobility of its students! Proud to be a part of CUNY!! nyti.ms/2jylaGI

Colleges with the highest mobility rate, from the bottom 40 percent to the top 40 percent

COLLEGE	PCT FROM BOTTOM 40%	SUCCESS RATE	MOBILITY
1. Vaughn College of Aeronautics and Technology	66.0%	66.4%	43.0%
2. City College of New York	60.5	62.9	38.1
3. Texas A&M International University	60.7	62.4	37.9
4. Lehman College	64.6	57.0	36.8
5. Bernard M. Baruch College	52.3	69.2	36.2
6. California State University, Los Angeles	59.6	60.0	35.7
7. Crimson Technical College	55.4	64.1	35.5
8. University of Texas-Pan American	64.0	53.5	34.2
9. New York City College of Technology	66.2	50.9	33.7
10. John Jay College of Criminal Justice	54.4	61.1	33.2

Success rate measures the percent of lower-income students who ended up in the top 40 percent.

From the presidential Twitter feed: President Travis on upward mobility.

FACULTY PROFILE

On the Road with Greg Donaldson

At a truck stop just off of the New Jersey Turnpike, **Greg Donaldson**, an associate professor in the Communications and Theater Arts department at John Jay, stood with his backpack, trying to hitch a ride. He had been there for about five hours when a state trooper approached him and asked what he was doing. Donaldson first offered a story about trying to get back home after being dropped off by his fiancée. Then, he decided to tell the truth. “I’m hitchhiking to California,” he said.

The coast-to-coast trip last summer was a result of Donaldson’s fear that a lifetime’s worth of curious energy and passion for new experiences was waning with age, a claim that anyone who has met the 70-years-young professor will refute. “Are you shuffling off to oblivion, or are you the guy you imagined yourself to be?” he said to himself. “Let’s get out there and find out.”

And so, over the next few weeks, he hitched rides on the Interstates with a hipster, a police officer, two men from Yemen, and a female trucker named Thea who took him all the way to Portland, Ore., in her eighteen-wheeler hauling ketchup.

“I decided to get out on the road and see if I could make it to California,” he said, “and if I don’t make it, who cares? And if I disappear in the desert, that’s a good enough ending for me.”

This “go out and see” attitude is typical of Donaldson, who has spent his career feeding two main passions, teaching and writing.

His first foray into teaching came as a young Brown University graduate teaching elementary school in Bedford-Stuyvesant. A product of “astoundingly un-diverse” Levittown, Long Island, he was immediately taken by the new environment, where he was put in charge of a group of students who struggled academically. “It was a rogues’ gallery of the toughest kids in school, and I became the leader of this group of kids. It was a life-altering experience,” he said.

Donaldson brought a mixture of toughness, personal attention and devotion, rigorous high standards, and his own brand of unflinching energy to the class, and saw profoundly positive results. “That’s when I knew I was born to teach,” he said.

He went on to teach at the Brooklyn House of Detention and later at the New York City College of Technology. “When I see students with something particular they’re good at, I notice it, I identify their strengths and let them know, because a lot of them haven’t been given that kind of confidence or reinforcement,” he remarked.

As a reporter for New York Newsday in the early 90’s, Donaldson was covering gangs of muggers on the subway when, on the 3 train, he came across a group doing just that, and tailed them back to Brownsville. “I followed them and then we both got off the train. That’s when I realized I was a little in over my head,” he recalled. So he stepped into a local Housing Police headquarters and told the officers what he was up to. “You want to see what’s going on here, ride along with us,” said



one of the officers. Donaldson did that for a year and a half, and the experience gave rise to his first book, *The Ville*, published in 1993 to widespread acclaim.

Since coming to John Jay in 2002, Donaldson has taught criminal justice in the theater and in the media while contributing to national magazines. He has also been a familiar presence in theatrical productions, commanding the stage as Lieutenant Schrank in “West Side Story” and Colonel Jessup in “A Few Good Men,” along with roles in “The Crucible,” “Sweeney Todd,” and other memorable productions. His most recent book, *Zebratown*, followed the story of a black ex-inmate from Brooklyn who settled down in the upstate town where he had been imprisoned, a town known for its interracial citizenry. In 2014 he was recognized with the College’s Excellence in Teaching award.

His latest project is the Brownsville Think Tank, a series of public speaking classes. “We combine the high school kids who are ambitious but underserved, and mix them in with kids from the criminal justice system,” he explained. “In the end, we get the kids who were mumbling slang terms into suits and ties, and they give speeches to the community for our Night of the Stars event. It’s beautiful.” Recently, Donaldson has involved John Jay students from the CUNY Service Corps as tutors.

“I respect the students here immensely,” he said. “They come from all over the world, they’re resourceful, they’re ambitious, their energy and optimism is great, and there’s much to learn from them.”

FACULTY PROFILE



The Gold Standard: Professor Betsy Hegeman

Time flies when you're having fun. Just ask **Professor Betsy Hegeman**, who says of her time at John Jay, "It's been a great 50 years. It hardly seems that long when you still love what you do."

Hegeman, a clinical psychologist who is a member of the Department of Anthropology, is now the senior member of the active faculty, having started at John Jay in 1967, when the College was just three years old, the student body was overwhelmingly male and in-service police, and she was still a doctoral student at New York University. In fact, Hegeman was a product of what might be seen as an informal NYU "pipeline" to John Jay, having been recruited to the College by now-retired Professor and NYU classmate Tom Litwack, who in turn had been recruited by another NYU alumnus (and future John Jay president), Gerald W. Lynch. The pipeline would later produce other members of John Jay's psychology faculty, including Sondra Leftoff and Daniel Yalisove.

"Tom was already here," Hegeman recalled. "He reached out to me, saying he'd heard that John Jay was looking for an

anthropology professor." Hegeman found herself teaching at a college that was located one floor above the Police Academy's indoor pistol range, where there were no restrooms for women until the handful of female students staged a sit-in, with protest signs and chants proclaiming "Hell no, we can't go!"

The overwhelmingly police-officer classes provided another initial shock for Hegeman, one that went beyond the prevalence of ankle and shoulder holsters for the students' off-duty weapons. "They tended to call me 'Sister,' which I came to learn was a holdover from their Catholic school education and being taught by nuns," she said.

Although Hegeman was a student in clinical psychology, anthropology was not an awkward fit, since the focus of much of her scholarship was on the cross-cultural aspects of psychology. One of her earliest scholarly publications was the 1974 book *Anthropology and Community Action*, which she co-edited and which focuses on psychological factors in community integration. Cultural considerations have continued to be prominent aspects of her teaching, her research, and her private psychotherapy practice, which she described as focusing on dissociation, multiple personalities, and "people with very serious trauma."

Hegeman taught anthropology for her first two years at John Jay, then joined the Counseling Department after the advent of Open Enrollment in 1970. "It was a less advantageous job since it involved a 35-hour week," she recalled. She transferred back to anthropology in the late 1970's, and also taught in the Thematic Studies Program (now Interdisciplinary Studies) in the 90's. In 1973, she taught the College's first gender studies course, and noted that "a lot of men in the class felt personally attacked, like they were being accused of subjugating women."

Now, as then, Hegeman feels a natural, logical linkage between her field of scholarship and John Jay's Educating for Justice mission. "A lot of injustice in society is culturally created," she pointed out. She was a key figure in the successful effort to change the stance of the American Psychological Association regarding government-sanctioned torture as an interrogation technique, personally mailing 3,000 letters in the run-up to an APA referendum. Currently, she is teaching a graduate class on clinical training, with a focus on false confessions.

The classroom still energizes her. "I just love teaching," she said. "I still feel anxious, in a good way, before every class."

ALUMNI PROFILES

Avery Eli Okin, '79
Antony Lamberti, '78
Armena Gayle, '88

By Sam Anderson

A Triple Play in Brooklyn

The Brooklyn Bar Association is among the oldest organizations of its kind, established in 1872, 26 years before Brooklyn became part of New York City. Since then, it has been a home to some of Brooklyn's—and the city's—most prominent attorneys, and it continues to provide a variety of essential services to the profession, such as Continuing Legal Education, networking opportunities, and an indispensable lawyer referral service.

Serendipitously, three of the association's executive officers are John Jay alumni. **Avery Eli Okin**, '79, has been the executive director for more than 30 years. **Anthony Lamberti**, '78, is secretary and chair of the Elder Law Committee. The treasurer is **Armena Gayle**, '88, a former prosecutor for the Brooklyn District Attorney's office.

Speaking to these successful alumni paints a portrait of John Jay in its early years, and shows just how much has changed both on campus and in their own lives.

When Okin and Lamberti first entered John Jay, the campus consisted of North Hall on 57th Street and South Hall on 56th. Haaren Hall and the New Building were no more than a dream. The College, barely 10 years old at the time, was experiencing growing pains—and facing a serious threat to its very existence.

"In '76, the school was on the verge of being closed because of budget cuts," said Lamberti, who majored in Criminal Justice and is a member of the John Jay Athletics Hall of Fame for his exploits as a four-year member of the baseball team. "I remember participating in marches and demonstrations where students and faculty got together and marched on CUNY headquarters."

"What was amazing about that was the protesters were police officers," added Okin. "They were uniformed officers and pre-service students. I remember one spontaneous demonstration without permits, when officers blocked off traffic crosstown and uptown, and walked to the Board of Higher Education to hand the CUNY Chancellor a petition to keep our school open."

These were tough times for New York City. Crime was spiking, public safety agencies were laying off personnel, and federal funding to bail out the fiscally troubled city was not forthcoming. But students, staff, and faculty prevailed, and the College stayed open.

Okin, who commuted from Flatbush to pursue a B.A./M.A. in Government and Public Administration, was one of the



From left: Avery Eli Okin, Armena Gayle, and Anthony Lamberti at the Brooklyn Bar Association headquarters.

most active students on campus at that time. As a freshman, he ran for a seat on the Student Council, and even campaigned at the women's detention center on Riker's Island, where inmates were taking classes. After winning election, he soon became the student government parliamentarian due to his encyclopedic knowledge of rules and procedures. He covered the U.S. Supreme Court for the John Jay publication *Law Enforcement News*, became a representative on the University Student Senate, and was CUNY's first student representative on the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation, where he helped administer \$2 billion in student loans and financial aid. He was just 22 at the time.

"I remember visiting John Jay one afternoon, and seeing the police officers who came to class with ties and jackets after a full day's work. I wanted to go here because of that respect for education," he said.

As a student athlete, Lamberti, a Gravesend native, had a different experience. But he shared the same respect for the officers who took morning and night classes while also working on the job. "A lot of the professors I had were attorneys, and some had been in law enforcement. The idea of becoming a lawyer always piqued my interest, but I never looked at it as a path I would go down. I wanted to become the next great Yankee centerfielder," he laughed. As fate would have it, Lamberti became a court officer, and then a clerk in the New York State court system. He spent a number of years

working in Brooklyn courts and hanging out with lawyers and judges, which eventually inspired him to attend Brooklyn Law School, graduating in 1990. He now has a successful and respected private practice specializing in elder law.

By the time Armena Gayle transferred from Brooklyn College in 1985, John Jay was a much different place. Gayle, who majored in Government and Public Administration, was raised in Crown Heights and Miami by working-class parents. She, too, was struck by the level of professionalism she witnessed at John Jay. “Students who were firemen and police officers were attending classes specific to their work,” she said. “We looked up to them. Their professionalism gave us drive.”

That drive eventually brought Gayle to southern Texas, where she studied at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. Returning to New York after graduation, Gayle had few legal connections in the city. That changed when she became involved in the BBA. Gayle worked with the association’s Volunteer Lawyers Project, where she offered pro bono services in exchange for Continuing Legal Education classes. She then got a job with the Brooklyn D.A.’s office, but eventually returned to the Volunteer Lawyers Project

and developed a family law practice, where she believed her services could have a greater impact.

“I’m very blessed to be an attorney,” said Gayle. “Not many people where I come from get this far, and some don’t feel like they can do it because of the color of their skin, their financial situation, they think they’re not smart enough, so I want to pay it forward.”

Lamberti and Okin agreed that “paying it forward” is a big part of why they do what they do, and they also stressed the importance of ethnic, gender, and religious diversity in the organization. BBA appointed its first female president in 1986, and 10 years later a woman of color held that position. “You’re always getting a mixture of ideas, values, ethnicities, and backgrounds, and it adds to the experience of being a member,” said Lamberti, “and that makes sense in a place like Brooklyn, where you encounter myriad people from diverse backgrounds”—very much like John Jay.

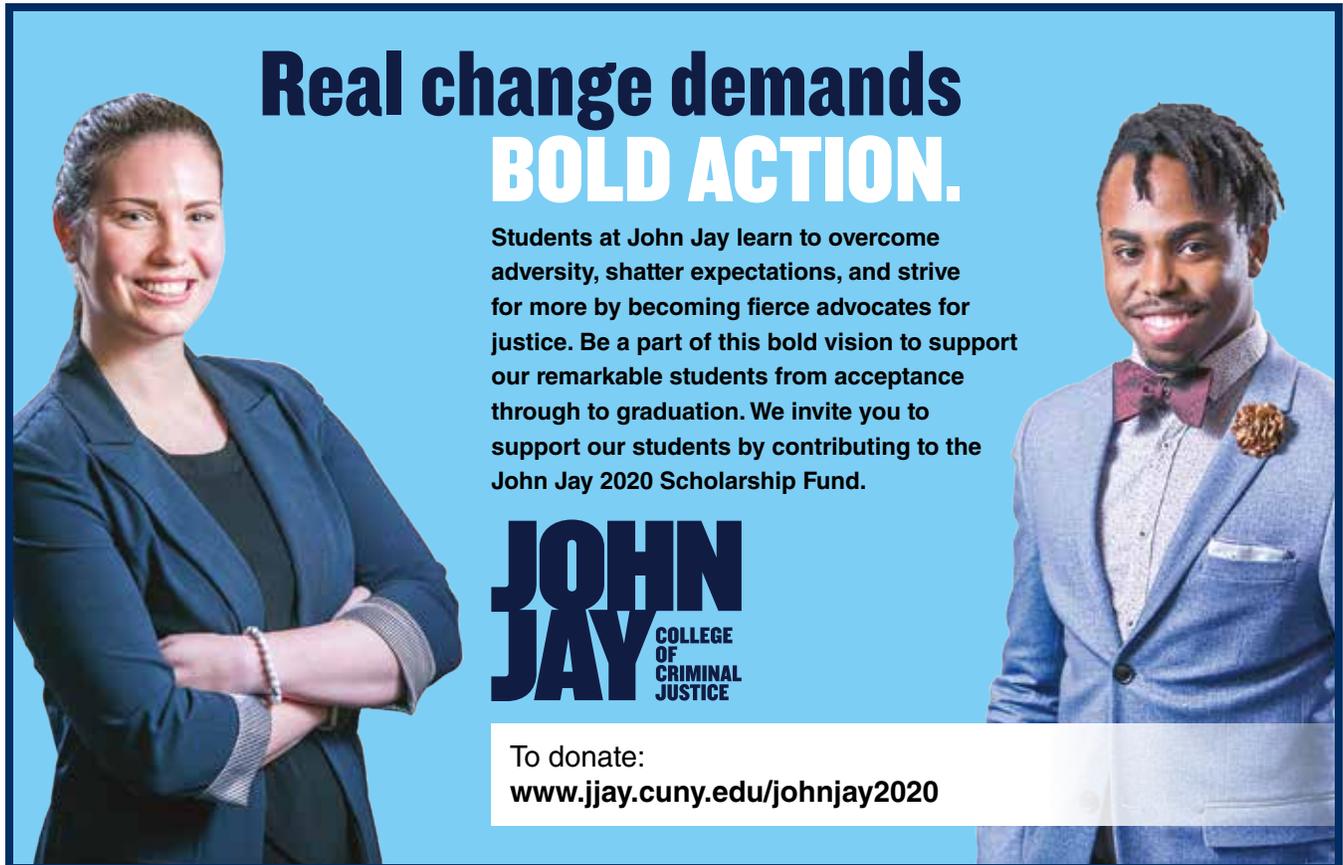
“To have the executive director, secretary, and treasurer all graduate from the same school—that’s serendipity,” said Okin. “We each found our way of coming to a good place and continuing to do the public good.”

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1960s

John Grimes (B.S. '67, M.P.A. '70) has been selected as a "Super Lawyer" by Westchester magazine for the fifth consecutive year. The publication also named him as one of the Top 25 lawyers in the Westchester area.

1970s

Edward F. O'Dowd (M.A. '77) recently retired as a Michigan State circuit court probation agent. He taught college-level courses inside the world's largest walled prison in Jackson, Mich., and also taught at Kalamazoo Valley Community College. "My education at John Jay provided an outstanding experience," he said.

Avery Eli Okin (B.A./M.A. '79) was recognized in May 2016 by the leadership of the Brooklyn Bar Association and its Foundation on the occasion of his 30th anniversary as the organization's Executive Director.

1980s

Larold Neil (B.S. '81) recently retired after a 31-year career as a Special Agent and Supervisory Special Agent with the FBI, where he worked at the New Orleans, Newark, and Baltimore field offices as well as at Bureau headquarters. He has accepted another non-law enforcement position with the FBI.

Celeste Dudley-Smith (B.S. '89) is the principal of the Dudley-Smith Law Firm, LLC, which recently opened a new office at 1155 W. Chestnut St., Suite 2A, Union, NJ 07083.

1990s

Stephen McCallister (M.A. '94) has been Police Commissioner of the Village of Floral Park, N.Y., since 2010. He retired from the NYPD in 2009 at the rank of inspector, following a 25-year career.

Milan Bankovic (M.A. '96) is on a three-year assignment as the Foreign Service/Regional Security Officer for the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, Canada. His previous overseas assignments have included Kiev, Beijing, and Beirut.

Michael Corcoran (B.A. '96) is the Commissioner of the Rye, N.Y., Police Department. He writes: "I am a proud John Jay graduate and ultimately earned my J.D. from New York Law School. John Jay gave me a great foundation for all that I do today."



Michael Corcoran

Gregory Spaun (B.A./M.A. '96) was recently appointed to the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County, N.Y., where he assists the organization in providing affordable housing for low-income families and rebuilding neighborhoods and communities.

Rodney Boyce (B.S. '98) retired from the NYPD in September 2016 after 21 years of service, most recently at the 81st Precinct in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

2000s

Stephanie Delia (B.A. '02) welcomed a baby daughter on Dec. 9.

Muhammad Faridi (B.A. '04) has been made partner in the law firm of Patterson Belknap. Faridi, who works in the firm's Litigation Department, received the New York State Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer Award in 2014.



Muhammad Faridi

Jennifer Lorenzo (B.A. '07, M.P.A. '12) gave birth to her first child, Ava, on Nov. 29.

Cecelia Peers (M.A. '07) is the Homeless Continuum of Care Administrator for the Cape Fear Region of North Carolina. She oversees the region's state and federal grants for homeless services and housing, data analysis and reporting, and special initiatives to address vulnerable populations.

2010s

Randi M. Evans (B.A. '10) has been working for the FBI since 2012, starting as a police officer and moving laterally within the Bureau.

Stephen J. Heavey (M.S. '11) was promoted to Battalion Chief with the New York City Fire Department in October.

Jared Maneggio (M.A. '11) began employment as a federal probation officer in the Eastern District of New York in 2015. He also volunteers as a detective for the Nassau County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Ronald Rafailov (B.S. '12) is now in his fourth year working with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. He previously worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, providing services to those who were affected by Superstorm Sandy.

Paul A. Andersen (B.A./M.A. '13) graduated from CUNY Law School in June, passed the New York State bar exam, and is now working as an Assistant District Attorney in the Appeals Bureau of the Bronx County District Attorney's Office.

2010s (continued)

Christian Durante (B.S. '13) works for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in the Nursing Service Division in Brooklyn. He also served as an auxiliary police officer with the NYPD.

Brian J. Bohannon Jr. (B.S. '14) is a 12-year veteran and captain with the NYPD, and was recently appointed commanding officer of the 106th Precinct in Ozone Park, Queens. He was recently accepted to and is in the process of completing the M.A. in Criminal Justice for NYPD Executives at John Jay.

Bryan Nardone (B.S. '14) graduated from the New York State Court Officer Academy in 2015, and since then has been working in the Supreme Court Criminal Term.

Darril Almonte (B.A. '16) has been appointed to the dual positions of Director of Teen Services and Director of Physical Education for the Kips Bay Boys & Girls Club. "My passions are to empower young lives and bring change to impoverished communities that need it most," he said. "I am grateful to have attended John Jay, where I was very well educated on social issues, which sparked my passion."

Michael Christian (M.P.A. '16) is an investigator for the New York State Attorney General's Office.

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<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/alumni-class-notes>



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As chairman of the John Jay College Foundation—and a proud donor to the College—I salute each and every one of you for your willingness to lead by example, and for making it possible for John Jay to build on its well-earned international reputation in Educating for Justice.

JULES KROLL

Chairman

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A Grateful Alumna

LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson (B.A. '75) has never lost sight of the impact John Jay College has had on her life. Once an activist student, she is now an active, and grateful, alumna, whose desire to give back to her alma mater led to a major gift to support the John Jay Children's Center. Garrett-Nelson pledged a total of \$250,000, which will be used for need-based student scholarships, professional development, equipment purchases and the creation of an emergency fund for students and children. In recognition, a ceremony was held Sept. 29, 2016, to rename the facility the "LaBrenda Garrett-Nelson '75 Children's Center." Garrett-Nelson, a trustee of the John Jay College Foundation, is seen here (2nd from left) with President Travis, her daughter Alexis Garrett Stodghill and her husband, the Rev. Paul Nelson.



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Technology Careers Are in the Pipeline

The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation has provided a three-year, \$300,000 grant to expand the pipeline of community college students to study cybersecurity and subsequently find fulfilling careers in that field. Approximately 1,000 students per year will be served by the program, which will include academic advisement, enhancement programs with participating community colleges, and an innovation palette of career preparation and development activities that are aligned with the needs of industry to ensure work readiness. The project builds on the success of the CUNY Justice Academy and the Cybersecurity Workforce Alliance initiative to provide an innovative success model for technology-focused career readiness.



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Ann Jacobs

A Gift that Keeps on Giving

After attending the Educating for Justice Gala in May 2016, Ann Jacobs was inspired to begin making a regular \$85-a-month gift to support student scholarships. Jacobs, Director of John Jay's Prisoner Reentry Institute, saw how these gifts transformed students' lives, providing them with opportunities they might have only dreamed of. "It is a privilege for me to work at an institution whose historic mission has been to make education accessible to people who might otherwise not have the opportunity to attend college," said Jacobs. "I contribute to the scholarship fund because I know that education is transformative and I want to invest in people who are investing in themselves."

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—**Christopher P. Hitchcock**, Director of Scholarships,
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Responsible Innovation

On Feb. 8, the College formally launched the new Ron Moelis Social Innovation Fellowship Program, underwritten by a gift from John Jay Foundation trustee Ron Moelis, co-founder and CEO of L+M Development partners. The fellowship program, an initiative aimed at taking advantage of the emerging trend of social responsibility in the business sector, will provide 10 students a year with stipends, structured internship placements and mentoring, focused classroom learning, and other support. On hand to discuss the new program were (l.-r.) the program's director, Professor Heath Brown of the Department of Public Management; Andi Phillips, co-founder and Managing Partner at Maycomb Capital LP; Randolph Brown, Chief Technology Officer at Jopwell, the recruitment and career advancement firm; and Moelis.

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Thank You

John and Laura Arnold



A Firm Foundation

The Laura and John Arnold Foundation is proving itself a stalwart partner of John Jay College and its extended mission of Educating for Justice, having recently awarded a three-year, \$3.25-million grant to the Research Network on Misdemeanor Justice, which is being used to add six sites to the network to help inform policy discussions and reform regarding trends in the enforcement of lower-level offenses.

Building on the success of the Misdemeanor Justice Project in New York City, the Research Network will now also focus on Los Angeles; Seattle; St. Louis; Toledo, Ohio; Durham, N.C., and Prince George's County, Md.

Matt Alsdorf, the Arnold Foundation's Vice President of Criminal Justice, said: "The

network has generated an outpouring of academic and government interest in pioneering a national conversation around enforcement of lower-level crimes—something that leads a large number of individuals to enter our justice system. We are proud of the diverse U.S. cities leading this conversation and we look forward to learning how the research partnerships inform local and national justice policies for the long-term."

The Arnold Foundation has previously supported the Misdemeanor Justice Project in its publication of a series of reports examining trends in the enforcement of low-level offenses in New York City and State, including misdemeanor arrests, criminal summonses, pedestrian stops, and jail admissions.

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Ford, Atlantic, and John Jay's First Named Professorship

An infusion of \$2.5 million in grants from the Ford Foundation and the Atlantic Philanthropies has enabled John Jay College to establish the Franklin A. Thomas Professorship in Policing Equity, a post that will be held by the celebrated social psychologist Dr. Phillip Atiba Goff, one of the nation's leading scholars on the phenomenon of implicit bias.

The new professorship is named for Franklin A. Thomas, a former president of the Ford Foundation and a pioneering official of the New York City Police Department in the 1960's.

The appointment of Goff, one of the most influential thinkers, scholars, and reformers on topics of policing and race, and the challenges facing policing organizations, also brings to John Jay the Center for Policing Equity, the research and action think tank he co-founded and serves as president. The Center brings together law enforcement agencies and leading researchers to study policing equity issues, including race



and implicit bias, and provide a scientific basis for reforms in participating police departments around the country.

The grant from the Ford Foundation and Atlantic Philanthropies will also support the recruitment and mentoring of a cohort of Fellows, including a post-doctoral scholar and five undergraduate students each year, who will work at the Center for Policing Equity and contribute to its research projects. Through the work of these Fellows, the Center aims to influence a new generation of scholarship on policing equity and advance innovative reforms.

THE JEREMY TRAVIS SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY ABROAD

A LEGACY WITHOUT BORDERS

The Jeremy Travis Scholarship for Study Abroad honors the dedicated leadership of President Travis who is stepping down after 13 years of service to John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He has been a strong advocate of educating students to be engaged global citizens, making it a cornerstone of the College's mission. The goal of this scholarship is to prepare students for careers in an interdependent world through immersive study abroad opportunities. The scholarship will be open to undergraduate and graduate students with financial need and seeks to expand the number of students traditionally underrepresented in study abroad programs.

EXPLORING JUSTICE ON A GLOBAL SCALE

Having experienced the power of studying abroad in his youth, President Travis expanded study abroad programming during his tenure at the College. By supporting the Jeremy Travis Scholarship for Study Abroad, you will be honoring his legacy and helping prepare our students to explore justice on a global scale. Students who study abroad through this scholarship will bring their experiences back to the College, enriching the lives of their fellow students.

SUPPORT LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES

The average summer study abroad program costs \$3,000-\$5,000, an expense out of reach for many John Jay students. We need your help to build the Travis Scholarship for Study Abroad fund so that we can provide these transformative experiences to deserving students. The more funds we raise, the more students will be able to gain an intimate view of the institutions and practices of other cultures.

TO DONATE, visit:

www.jjay.cuny.edu/travisscholarship

For more information, call **212-393-6810**.



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You Can Make A Difference

Your contribution levels the playing field. How?
Your support makes it possible for students to pursue:

Unpaid Internships | Research Projects | Studies Abroad | and more

Each experience propels John Jay students to a greater future.

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Leading by Example

A GIFT THAT ADDS UP

Dr. Lily E. Christ and
Dr. Duane M. Christ

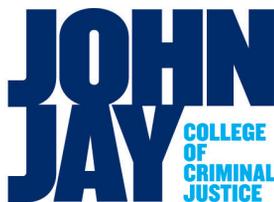


When Professor Emerita Christ chose, along with her husband, to make a planned gift to John Jay College, it was natural that they wanted to support math scholarships for students. Not only had the Christs met in a math class, Professor Christ taught mathematics here for almost four decades!

The \$1,000 HI-TECH PREP Mathematics scholarships, established through the College's

Charitable Gift Annuity program, help offset the cost of a mathematics course to "bring more students to a love of math."

A Charitable Gift Annuity contract with John Jay College pays the donor – and if desired, a loved one – a guaranteed, fixed income for life that is partially tax-free, while supporting key programs at the College.



**For more information about planning a gift to
John Jay College of Criminal Justice, please contact:**

Kathryn Cousins, CFRE, Executive Director of Development
Phone: (212) 484-1156 Email: kcousins@jjay.cuny.edu



John Jay College of Criminal Justice
524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019
www.jjay.cuny.edu

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