



# Stuyvesant-CCNY NEWS

## Scholarship

NOVEMBER 2005

ISSUE 24

### Scholar Spends Summers In Valuable Internship

After undergoing a rigorous selection process, Project Sophomore **Shivanie Latchman** was one of 15 New York City college students chosen for the **Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship Program** - a prestigious three-summer internship.

This year, Shivanie worked with the three staff members of the **International Institute for Education's Scholar Rescue Fund**, which helps third world university scholars who are being actively persecuted for expressing their views.

*"I learned how important academic freedom is,"* says Shivanie, explaining that one of the Fund's approaches is to seek jobs for the scholars at universities in the United States. She also learned about fundraising. *"The Fund would supply \$20,000 per scholar and sought universities to match that."*

Learning on-the-job, Shivanie read e-mails and interviewed scholars by phone to choose appropriate candidates - *"people with established academic careers."* She was in touch with scholars in Iraq who she said *"are leaving in large numbers.....threatened by many factions."* She also worked with scholars from Rwanda.

As part of the Watson program, Shivanie attended weekly seminars

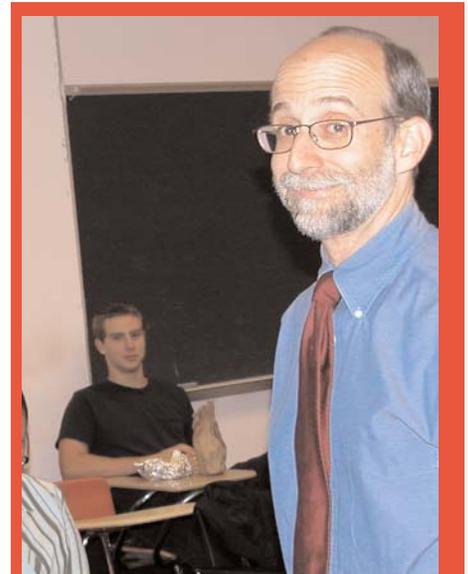
continued on page 3

### One of City's Fastest Growing Programs, Jewish Studies Attracts Diverse Student Body

Since **Professor Roy Mittelman** took over as director of Jewish Studies at City, 3 1/2 years ago, the program has blossomed into one of the fastest growing and most talked about at the College. It has become so popular that, in the last two semesters, a significant number of students were locked out of classes that had grown beyond the normal size.

There are now 19 courses offered, in rotation, within the program. Some 390 students - roughly half of them Latino, the rest reflecting the diverse backgrounds of City students - are enrolled in the eight courses offered this semester. Sixty-two students are majoring in the field and 210 have chosen Jewish Studies as their minor.

What attracts them to things Jewish at today's City College? *"We look into things very existentially and dig into the questions young people ask themselves,"* observes Mittelman. *"Jewish history and writing touch basic issues people are still exploring."* Another reason, Mittelman suggests, is that so many City students are from immigrant families and they are interested in the history of other immigrant groups.



**Professor Roy Mittelman of the Jewish Studies Dept. will fill every seat in that classroom!** photo by Olga Mikhlina

**Ruben Rivera**, a Honduran immigrant, gave up his major in computer science after two semesters. He was looking for inspiration when he took his first Jewish Studies class. *"The course challenged me not only academically but also*

continued on page 4

### PRESIDENT GREGORY H. WILLIAMS ANNOUNCES LARGEST EVER GIFT TO CCNY

Former Intel chairman and alumnus of the Class of 1960, Andy Grove, will give \$26 million to the CCNY School of Engineering.

Calling City College an "American dream machine," Dr. Grove told The New York Times that he hopes others will follow his example with stronger support for City College and institutions like it.

### also in this issue

- Alumnus Arthur Gelb establishes special scholarship through the Project .....pg. 2
- Kudos to Blaufarb and Black .....pg. 3
- More Awards at City .....pg. 4

# Gelb's Gift Supports Engineers & Scientists

As a teenager, Arthur Gelb, CCNY 1958, found himself adrift in a world he had no control over. By age sixteen, both his father and mother had passed away, barely a year apart.

"Because of the way I was raised," Dr. Gelb says, "because of the values my parents instilled in me from an early age, throughout my life I've clung to my education like a drowning person would a raft."

And that education would carry him through a spectacular career.

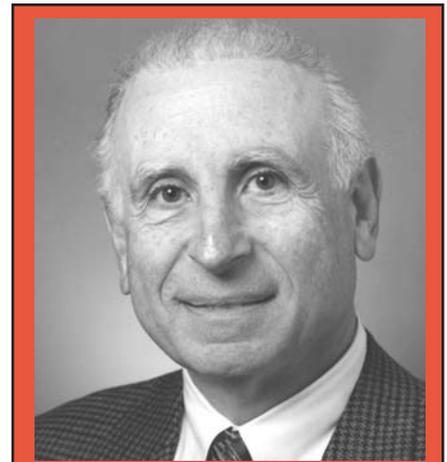
Dr. Gelb was born and raised in Brooklyn (and is still angry about the Brooklyn Dodgers moving to Los Angeles). Always one to go against the grain, he chose to attend City College because almost everyone from his neighborhood was going to Brooklyn College. And while this meant an hour and 45 minute commute to 138th St. and Convent Avenue, it was well worth the trip.

He was a perfect fit with City. He was highly motivated, and possessed a work ethic second to none. "I push myself. Even when I was working at a candy store

in lower Manhattan for 65 cents an hour, I gave everything I had."

The work he did at City prepared him for great things to come. He graduated 2nd in his class with a degree in electrical engineering. He went on to get a master's degree in applied mathematics from Harvard. While there, he was called into the dean's office with two other students who had just come up from CCNY. The dean was so impressed with the work they were all doing, he said that he couldn't wait to get more City College students up to Harvard.

Dr. Gelb earned a doctorate from MIT in systems engineering, a four year degree that he accomplished in two years, and with straight A's. He later went on to co-found and run the Analytic Sciences Corporation for nearly 25 years, before retiring and selling it in 1991. But, always eager to work, he promptly started another company. He founded and is still president of the Four Sigma Corporation, which works



**Arthur Gelb has had an extraordinary career. "I owe City College a debt that I can never repay," he says.**

towards developing mathematical models for trading in financial markets. "I've always loved mathematics," he says.

Throughout his career, Dr. Gelb has given back to those that helped him early in life. He has been highly active in alumni activities at MIT, including donating over \$2 million to help create the Laboratory for Complex Systems in the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at MIT. And just recently, he pledged \$250,000 to the Stuyvesant-CCNY Scholarship Project, \$100,000 of which has already been received and matched through the Project's Challenge Grant. The money will be used to create the Ron Gelb Scholarship, in honor of his son who died from a rare type of cancer. It will be available to engineering students, and also students interested in biology and cancer research.

Dr. Gelb thinks back to his arrival at City and has an interesting perspective: "My first day at City, everything was ready. What I mean is that people whose names I'll never know had already worked behind the scenes to ensure that City College was a great institution. They had given money and devoted a lot of time to thinking and planning. This is why I want to help as much as I can. I want to make sure City will always be ready to provide that same experience to new students for decades to come."

## support a great education for great students!

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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STUY GRAD YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ CCNY YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to attend an event at Stuyvesant or City College.*

*I would like to contribute material to the Stuyvesant-CCNY Scholarship NEWS*

I PLEDGE  \$50,000  \$25,000  \$10,000  \$5,000  \$1,000

other amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Pledges of \$1,000 or more are payable over four years .*

I PLEDGE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ EACH YEAR FOR \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS.

I enclose my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to: The City College Fund / Stuy

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STUYVESANT-CCNY SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT, THE CITY COLLEGE FUND,

160 CONVENT AVENUE, SHEPARD HALL ROOM 166, NYC 10031

## Valuable Summer Internship

continued from page 1

with students interning in other agencies. "We had political discussions. We each wrote a paper on what constitutes a 'just war.' We also were divided into groups of four and prepared presenta-



photo by Olga Mikhлина

This summer, Shivanie interned at the Scholar Rescue Fund of the International Institute for Education. When a statistical report that she wrote caught the attention of the Fund's president, Allan Goodman, he shared it with Senator Patrick Leahy in an effort to get backing from the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee.

tions. My group's topic was 'Preventing Gentrification by Promoting Home Ownership,' focusing on Central Harlem. We did a mock pitch of our proposal to a **Rockefeller Foundation** representative who critiqued it."

Shivanie arrived at CCNY

## Blaufarb & Black Leave Behind Happy Stuyvesant Grads

While generous funds available for scholarships have been paramount to the success of the Stuyvesant-CCNY Scholarship Project, the knowledge that CCNY is well prepared to give our students an outstanding education has built tremendous confidence.

The recruiting efforts of CCNY's Patricia Black and Eugene Blaufarb, both of whom retired this year, helped to draw nearly sixty Stuyvesant graduates to the Honors College in the three years since the Project was started. And the buzz about high standards and special academic opportunities at City College attracted Stuyvesant graduates in addition to those who enrolled with the benefits of these new scholarships. A decades-long trend of disinterest was broken as Stuyvesant became proud once again to steer its graduates to City.

All concerned wish to thank Black and Blaufarb for helping to bring this important group of talented scholars to CCNY.

interested in international studies but finds herself undecided about her major at this point. "My courses are split between liberal arts and science," she says. **Honors Center Director Robin Villa** and **Coordinator Lee Linde** recommended she apply for the Watson program.

"The first summer, we work with a not-for-profit, the next in a corporate setting, then lastly go overseas. We'll also be meeting for seminars during this academic year."



photo by Larry Gralla

Gene Blaufarb has seen the surge of student interest in City College first-hand. By year two of the Project, Stuyvesant seniors were clamoring for information about the CCNY Honors College.

### STUYVESANT-CCNY SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT

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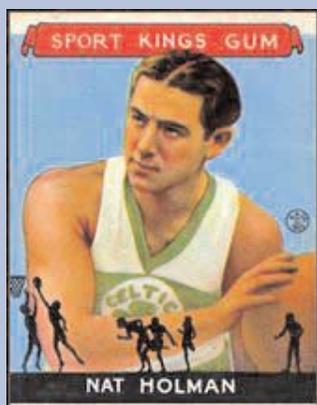
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## SPORTS FANS

See the exhibit about Mr. Basketball!

**Nat Holman: The Man, His Legacy,  
and CCNY**

at the Cohen Library now through  
December 30th.

## Jewish Studies Inspires Multi-Cultural Student Body

continued from page 1



Project Scholar Olga Mikhlina has declared a dual major in Jewish Studies and Psychology.

psychologically and emotionally," he says. "Through the Jewish Studies Program I have found a new passion in my life. I decided to major in Jewish Studies because I love everything there is about it. All the classroom readings and discussions have changed my way of thinking and given me a new thirst for knowledge."

Gillian Grude, who has also chosen Jewish Studies as her major, was exposed to multiple religious practices as a child and has been hooked on the study of religion since her Bat Mitzvah at age 13. "I was fascinated with the concepts of questioning the past and evaluating how we can apply the lessons of the past to the future," she says.

Project Scholar Olga Mikhlina says, "Originally, the 'Psychology of Religion' course was what really interested me. I want to learn more about the Holocaust and about the Jewish people. I hope to gain a sense of where anti-Semitism comes from. I also want desperately to gain some kind of understanding of religion and its pull and influence."

The department is working with City's Dominican Studies Institute to bring a select number of students to the long-established Jewish community of Sosua in the Dominican Republic to study either the Sabbath or Passover. And earlier this year, 10 CCNY Jewish Studies students were selected by the Anti-Defamation League for their academic excellence in the field. They joined students from throughout the

United States last April in a March of the Living through parts of Poland and of Israel.

Stephania Salomon, a native of Haiti, was one of the Jewish Studies majors who went on the trip. She has described it as a 'heart-breaking, gut-wrenching, life-changing' experience. "With every tear I shed [in Majdanek]" she says, "I lost a little of the person I used to be."

### A Wealth of Experience

Faculty members have extensive experience beyond the campus. Rabbi Robert Kaplan, head of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York's Department of Intergroup Relations and Community Concerns, taught "Jewish Life in New York" last semester. Opera singer and performer of North African Jewish music, Gerard Edery, has taught "Introduction to Jewish Music." CCNY English, history, political science and comparative literature professors and well-known visiting writers, including Elie Wiesel and Cynthia Ozick, have taught courses collaboratively with the department.

As far as Olga is concerned, Professor Mittelman is one of the best teachers she has had. "The excitement, knowledge and enthusiasm he brings to the classroom definitely made an impression on me," she says.

## WHAT'S NEW AT CCNY?

A major five-year NIH grant through the RCMI (Research Centers for Minority Institutions) initiative, will provide \$2.158 million in year-one funding with recommendations for an additional \$10.3 million over the life of the grant. Among the plans for the proceeds of the grant, the College will add four scientists to the faculty, with expertise in bio-molecular structure and function, cancer, neurobiology, and immunology.

Twenty-seven premed students, whose Program in Pre-Medical Studies (PPS) offers career opportunities in medicine for underrepresented groups, have been inducted as charter members of CCNY's new Alpha Epsilon Delta Chapter.

The Biomedical Engineering Department announced that it has received a \$750,000 grant from the National Cancer Institute to conduct cancer research and training activities in partnership with Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

Dr. Charles B. Watkins, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and former Dean of Engineering has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

## AND AUMANN MAKES NINE!

1. Julius Axelrod '33 ■ 1970 Nobel laureate in Medicine
2. Kenneth Arrow '40 ■ 1972 Nobel laureate in Economics
3. Herbert Hauptman '37 ■ 1985 Nobel laureate in Chemistry
4. Robert Hofstadter '35 ■ 1961 Nobel laureate in Physics
5. Jerome Karle '37 ■ 1985 Nobel laureate in Chemistry
6. Arthur Kornberg '37 ■ 1959 Nobel laureate in Medicine
7. Leon M. Lederman '43 ■ 1988 Nobel laureate in Physics
8. Arno Penzias '54 ■ 1978 Nobel laureate in Physics

This October, Robert J. Aumann became the 9th City College graduate to be awarded the Nobel Prize.....

9. Robert J. Aumann '50 ■ 2005 Nobel laureate in Economics!

