Little Things Mean a Lot...

Li'l Jay — the College's resident bobbleheaded doppelganger — has spent much of the past several months roaming the campus, the city, and even the world as part of John Jay's yearlong 50th anniversary celebration. The whimsical 7-inch avatar has popped up in some of the most unlikely places, exuding school spirit as our littlest — yet no less fierce — advocate for justice. Keep an eye out for Li'l Jay; you never know where he might show up next.

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.
Help us make a difference!

www.jjay.cuny.edu/giving
From the President
I’d like to think that every issue of Justice Matters is special, but this edition, in which we celebrate the 50th anniversary of John Jay College, is quite clearly unique. I hope you’ll derive the same pleasure I have as you peruse these pages, with the many wonderful memories they contain as well as glimpses of what lies ahead for our College. And thank you all for your part in the John Jay experience.

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John Jay has long had a place in the vanguard of activism.

President Travis: John Jay has a unique and powerful mission. That’s our greatest asset, captured in our motto, “Educating for Justice,” and it has allowed us to define our own space in the world, and to fully occupy that space and project it globally. So the first building block of the future is the mission, and through that the identity, the profile and the reputation. Over the years, we’ve been able to attract some of the best scholars and teachers available throughout the world, who are dedicated to our mission, to our students, and to their own research. It’s that combination of mission, faculty and students that forms the triangle that upholds this institution and gives us a position of strength. Then you add the more than 50,000 alumni who are now doing important work here and around the world, and you have this growing sense of ripples of change emanating from John Jay. There’s nothing like it in the world.

Justice Matters: Building a bridge to the future requires a strong foundation. What do you see as the key elements of the John Jay that you inherited?

President Travis: When I arrived in 2004, it was to increase the research profile of John Jay faculty. That has happened in very impressive ways measured by the dollar value of the research grants received, but I’d rather measure it by impact. There are some areas of scholarly inquiry where John Jay faculty dominate the field: forensic science, law and literature, forensic psychology, international human rights. There’s a very strong trajectory in terms of the individual scholarly achievements of our faculty, and the aggregate reputation of the College as a place of important research.

Justice Matters: What would you see as the top three signature accomplishments of the past 10 years?

President Travis: We’d have to start with achieving senior college status. It reflected a community decision to make a significant change in terms of the individual scholarly achievements of our faculty, and the aggregate reputation of the College as a place of important research.

Justice Matters: You also interact regularly with our alumni. What kind of feedback do you get from them?

President Travis: John Jay alumni have the strongest identification with their college of all the CUNY colleges, so there’s a special pride that comes from the John Jay alumni in the success of their institution. They’ll say “I remember when John Jay was in the Police Academy. I remember when it was on Park Avenue South. I remember South Hall, North Hall, the Rathskeller.” So there’s a sense of the history and the growth of John Jay that many of them witnessed firsthand. And then they come back to this new building and there’s just this enormous sense of pride.

At the same time, they’re also recognizing that with the growth has come an evolution. The student body is now 60 percent women, three-quarters students of color, and that’s not the John Jay of 1966. But it’s all good. We continue to play an important role in the lives of young people who are motivated, ambitious and filled with raw talent. That’s always been the John Jay gift to the world, that educational opportunity. The demographics have changed, but not the mission.

Justice Matters: When you took office, did you foresee the sweeping transformation that was to follow? Were there big ideas that you had right from the start that have since come to fruition?

President Travis: The most profound aspect to the transformation of John Jay over the past decade has been senior college status with a liberal arts profile. When I arrived in 2004, it had been made clear to me by Chancellor Goldstein that my first task was to examine the possibility that that could happen, and what would it take. I had no idea how profound it would be in terms of its impact. We are now in the top tier of colleges in the City University of New York. We are part of the Macaulay Honors College. We are sending students off to some of the best graduate and professional schools, with prestigious fellowships and scholarships. The John Jay promise is much more powerful today than ever, because we’ve raised the bar on the core educational programs. Was it hard to get here? We all remember moments when it was touch and go, but the more important realization, looking back, is that it’s a profound change, and that’s what we’re building on.

What I was more clear about when I came was that I saw the potential for John Jay to be a major research institution. I said during my first months here that one of my priorities was to increase the research profile of John Jay faculty. That has happened in very impressive ways measured by the dollar value of the research grants received, but I’d rather measure it by impact. There are some areas of scholarly inquiry where John Jay faculty dominate the field: forensic science, law and literature, forensic psychology, international human rights. There’s a very strong trajectory in terms of the individual scholarly achievements of our faculty, and the aggregate reputation of the College as a place of important research.

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Are there personal high and low points that you can single out over the past 10 years? JM: There are. As we've worked with important issues, any day you can walk the halls of John Jay and see people talking about the most important challenges facing the country. The level of policy energy on our campus has never been so high, and the building made that possible. You can't just fill the building unless you've got the intellectual firepower, and we've got that firepower with our faculty, with our research centers, with our student organizations. It all comes together to reinforce the notion that John Jay is a very serious place to do business.

How do you see John Jay College's destiny? JM: We think of the modern College as that place where we've joined the intellectual firepower, and we've got that firepower power with our faculty, with our research centers, with our student organizations. It all comes together to reinforce the notion that John Jay is a very serious place to work on important issues.

PT: Every year I find a high point at Commencement, which is just this great celebration, this affirmation of who we are. Every student who walks across that stage is proud that they've done something important.

Beyond that is the enormous impact of our beautiful new building. The building came at a time when John Jay was increasingly becoming the forum for discussion of difficult or complicated issues. Any day you can walk the halls of John Jay and see people talking about the most important challenges facing the country. The level of policy energy on our campus has never been so high, and the building made that possible. You can't just fill the building unless you've got the intellectual firepower, and we've got that firepower with our faculty, with our research centers, with our student organizations. It all comes together to reinforce the notion that John Jay is a very serious place to work on important issues.

PT: We have a firm foundation on which to build the modern John Jay. Our 50 years, our mission, our revitalization of our academic core over the last 10 years, the faculty we've hired. And that new college will offer access online to anybody around the world who wants to study at John Jay. It will bring more and more practitioners back to John Jay for graduate programs and certificate programs, to stay in touch with their field. It will bring thousands of international students here every year to study and then return to their home countries after having been educated at John Jay. It will produce more and more research that will be ever more relevant to the efforts of practitioners and policy makers and community groups to ensure safety and promote justice.

We will become innovators in the educational enterprise by doing things in nontraditional ways: our use of technology, short courses, long courses, different ways of thinking about the relationship between the field experience and the classroom experience. One of the markers of the next frontier, as we become the modern John Jay, is to be more nimble and to find students in different places anywhere in the world—they don't have to be in the classroom here. It means using the Internet, modern technologies and different pedagogies. We're part of a sector in public higher education that is undergoing a lot of challenges from the outside, and John Jay is positioned to meet those challenges in ways that are not part of our vision for the College, part of our understanding of what John Jay is. We are witnessing the birth of a new John Jay, very much built on the strengths and traditions of the current John Jay.

The admission into Macaulay Honors College is related. The building was great, as was the recent unveiling of John Jay. And of course the opening of the new student center, with our student organizations. It all comes together to reinforce the notion that John Jay is a very serious place to do business.

PT: Are you kidding? Justice Sotomayor! To watch her interact with our students was just priceless. She was so thoughtful and caring and reflective and respectful of our students and their journey. Watching her connect with our students was an experience I will never, ever forget. She's amazing.

JM: Are there personal high and low points that you can single out over the past 10 years? PT: Every year I find a high point at Commencement, which is just this great celebration, this affirmation of who we are. Every student who walks across that stage is proud that they've done something important.

The moments when we've decided to go in new directions — the decision to become a senior college, to embrace fundamental reform of the general-education core, to implement online student evaluation of faculty — when we've come together as a community to take the next challenge and do it collectively, those are great moments because they just reaffirm for me how remarkable this community can be. And of course the opening of the new building was great, as was the recent unveiling of John Jay.

That was a personal campaign of mine, to remind us who we're named after, and there he is, standing for all time on the first step of the Cascade. There are a lot of moments like that where we are reminded that this is just a special place.

JM: Is there a singular high point thus far in our 50th anniversary celebration? PT: Are you kidding? Justice Sotomayor! To watch her interact with our students was just priceless. She was so thoughtful and caring and reflective and respectful of our students and their journey. Watching her connect with our students was an experience I will never, ever forget. She's amazing.

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1966
First civilian (i.e., non-police) students are admitted.

1966
College's name is changed to John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

1966
LEX, the John Jay student newspaper, publishes its first issue.

Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor, State of New York

Scott M. Stringer B.S.’86
Comptroller, City of New York

Dear Friends:

It is with great pleasure to congratulate John Jay College of Criminal Justice – my alma mater – on its 50th anniversary.

For five decades, John Jay College has prepared thousands of students to become leaders in public service. The College’s mission is to prepare its students for leadership in public service, and to educate them to become committed citizens.

Today, John Jay College is a leader in the academic and professional community. The College has a strong tradition of academic excellence, and is recognized as a leader in the field of criminal justice.

At the heart of John Jay College is a commitment to the principles of justice, equality, and social justice. The College’s programs are designed to prepare students for leadership in public service, and to educate them to become committed citizens.

I am proud to have been a part of the John Jay College community, and I am confident that the College will continue to make a positive impact on society.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Stringer
Comptroller, City of New York
C. Jama Adams, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Africana Studies

I was 23, with a good teaching gig in Jamaica — fourth graders at a private school and short teaching days. The pay was paltry, but I had time, projects and friends to cogitate with in abundance. The culture was saturated with ideas that made a difference. To breathe was to think audaciously and to argue with passion, if not logic. Pesky mentors nagged that I had potential and therefore should do more. The United States Information Service was where I first became acquainted with John Jay College. I was astounded that so many people with doctoral degrees could be found in one place. I came and was subjected to American excesses too many choices, many of them shallow or false, enough of them profusely enriching. I found mentors, socialized with power, worked hard and, on occasion, originally — in other words, not too hard.

I went to CCNY to do a doctorate and staggered but did not fall — at least not so that anyone could see. I was on a full scholarship, so it was days of reading, rethinking, discussing and writing: the best days of my life. I did the doctorate in six years and returned to John Jay as an adjunct professor in psychology for nine years. Good years of reflection and instruction, and managing the tensions between hubris, humility and confidence. I joined the full-time faculty 20 years ago and continue learning something new every day. Now, in the early evening of my career, I can say it was a good life.

Blanche Wiesen Cook, Ph.D.  
Distinguished Professor of History and Gender Studies

In 1968, it was my great fortune that John Cammett became Dean of Faculty and invited me to take his place in the Department of Government, History and Economics. John Jay College of Criminal Justice existed to bring liberal arts to the hard-working members of the police and fire departments. The College of Criminal Justice existed to bring liberal arts to the Department of Government, History and Economics. John Jay Dean of Faculty and invited me to take his place in the College of Criminal Justice existed to bring liberal arts to the Department of Government, History and Economics. John Jay Dean of Faculty and invited me to take his place in the

Lawrence Kobilinsky, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair, Department of Sciences

I joined John Jay as an adjunct in the late ’70s and became full time in 1980. I had just finished my post-doctoral fellowship at Sloan Kettering Institute and became fascinated with forensic science, a relatively young discipline which blended science and criminal justice. At the time, the Department of Sciences had half the faculty it now has. Equipment was severely limited and much of the analytical instrumentation needed repair. The undergraduate program in forensic science had half the students it now has. The most difficult aspect for me was trying to do research with poor

José Luis Morín, J.D.  
Professor, Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies

In 1998, I returned to New York from Hawaii, where I had been working on indigenous Hawaiian rights issues and taught as a visiting professor at the University of Hawaii. As a human rights lawyer, I was drawn to John Jay by the opportunity to teach human rights, civil, criminal justice and falls and ethnic studies courses to first-generation, low-income college students whose backgrounds resembled mine. I was also intrigued by the challenge to build a department rooted in New York City’s rich Puerto Rican/Latina/o social justice history. Appreciating the difference that the Latin American and Latina/o Studies Department (LLS) was making in students’ lives, I stayed to further its impact. As department chair for eight years, I oversaw the creation of new initiatives, including the Root Brown Law School Prep Program and Palenque, a three-year federal research grant to serve youth from Washington Heights. After serving as the College’s interim Dean of Undergraduate Studies and then founding Provost of Gutmann Community College, I recently returned to the LLS faculty.

Karen Terry, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department of Criminal Justice

I have been a professor at John Jay for more than 16 years and have had the opportunity to work with progressive administrators, eminent distinguished professors, a deeply talented group of junior faculty, and motivated, inspiring students. In that time, I have watched the College and its reputation flourish nationally and internationally, and I am proud to call myself part of the John Jay family.

Since its inception, John Jay College has been dedicated to education, research and service in the fields of criminal justice and related areas of public safety and public service. However, it has also become a top academic institution in regard to both scholarship and teaching in the liberal arts. The breadth and diversity of scholarship at the College reflect its commitment to innovative, interdisciplinary approaches and global perspectives. I have watched John Jay develop from a local into a global institution, with its academic leaders striving to provide students with the skills of critical thinking and effective communication; perspective and moral judgment; the capacity for personal and social growth; the ability to navigate advanced technological systems; and the awareness of the diverse cultural, historical, economic and political forces that shape our society. With the College’s steadfast leadership, the faculty will continue to flourish as teachers, scholars, and the students will graduate and become fierce advocates for justice.

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What are the hallmarks of research at John Jay College? A likely answer to that question would point to notable faculty research done in typical criminal justice fields, such as criminology, forensics, forensic psychology and the social sciences. "But what is less known," Anthony Carpi, Associate Provost and Dean of Research, emphasizes, "is that we also have a remarkable collection of scholars in the humanities and the arts that have pushed the boundaries of their disciplines — producing influential publications, receiving nationally recognized exhibitions, writing award-winning literature, and performing works of significance across the globe." Indeed, what distinguishes John Jay is in large part how it has consistently valued scholarly achievement in the arts and humanities alongside the more traditional areas of criminal justice research, and — over its 50 years of research — how it has fostered disciplinary breadth, relevance and fertile interplay among areas of study.

Today’s researchers at John Jay are well aware that scholarly cross-pollination makes good sense and can yield rich outcomes. Mathematics professor Bill Kahn, for example, sees boundaries among disciplines as “completely artificial” as far as his work is concerned. Kahn has applied his expertise in wireless networking and mathematics (this specialty is group theory) to a number of social science research projects, including the College’s widely cited study on sexual abuse in the Catholic Church, a ground-breaking report showing (among other conclusions) that neither celibacy nor homosexuality was a cause of the abuses. Kahn contributed to a 2014 landmark report on the economics of the sex trade nationwide, and, in another fruitful collaboration, worked with John Jay Professor of Anthropology Ric Curtis, whose innovative methodology used social networks to uncover myth-busting information about patterns of abuse. He also collaborated with Professor Harriet Pollack of the College’s Government Department on a number of research projects, among which was their influential 1976 article “Deception as a Method of Coping,” which held that victims are often treated like sociological pressures often beyond the control of the individual, and, provocatively, saw the potential for deviance in everyone.

Throughout these years, research administration at John Jay has operated hand in hand with faculty researchers to further their efforts by identifying appropriate funding opportunities, supporting research funding applications, and providing training and other support in post-award grant management. In 2006, John Jay President Jeremy Travis established the Office for the Advancement of Research (OAR) to extend the scope of support offered to faculty. As Carpi explains, “over the past several years, OAR has worked to broaden its mission to support all faculty in multiple aspects of research and scholarship by providing training, funding support, metrics to assist with self and institutional performance evaluation, and assistance disseminating the work of our scholars with John Jay and to the outside community.” A cornerstone of this mission has been the establishment of the research consortium, a constellation of research centers and institutes on the forefront of both practice and research. Counted among these are The Institute for Criminal Justice Ethics, the only nonprofit, university-based center of its kind in the country; The Prisoner Reentry Institute, which advances effective practice, policy and partnerships that work to keep people out of prison; The Center for Crime Prevention and Control, which leads a nationwide project to implement innovative crime reduction strategies; and The Center on Terrorism, focused on study terrorism conceptually and academically and provide useful knowledge for the public.

And at the start of its sixth decade, John Jay can build on this rich heritage of inquiry and innovation to meet emerging ways of discovery. The campus’s New Building, which houses the latest technology in classrooms and labs, an art gallery and a black box performance space, offers an infrastructure that seems, in fact, to encourage the college’s spirit of collaboration in education and research. In the words of President Travis, the new building “serves as a critical underpinning of John Jay’s transformation into a senior college.” The same might be said about the history of research at John Jay.

**TIMELINE**

- **1967** President Reisman dies unexpectedly of a heart attack; Dean of Faculty Donald Riddle (left) is named president.
- **1967** John Jay junior Thomas Hetzel swims the English Channel for the first time. He would go on to swim the Channel seven more times.
- **1967** John Jay’s first graduate program, the Master of Public Administration, starts.
TIMELINE

1968 The federal Law Enforcement Education Program is created, providing funds to law enforcement personnel who attend college.

1970 Graduate student Jack Shaw, an FBI agent, criticizes the Bureau, and an arranged Director J. Edgar Hoover forces him to resign, and orders other FBI agents to withdraw from John Jay.

1986 Female students stage a sit-in to protest the lack of women’s restrooms.

Salvatore Cassano (B.S. ’76) FORMER NEW YORK CITY FIRE COMMISSIONER

Congratulations, John Jay College, on your 50th anniversary, on 50 years of successfully shaping the lives of students from all over the world. You have supported young students just out of high school, as well as older adults strengthening existing careers or studying for new ones. Every step of the way, the staff at John Jay was there to help us.

My experience at John Jay is full of wonderful memories of attending classes with many of my FDNY colleagues and developing a comradery that carried over into our workplace. Attending classes with members of the department from all ranks, I learned from them what it takes to be a good firefighter, and my classes helped my career as I rose through the ranks.

Working full time and carrying a full school schedule was not easy, but the College’s helpful schedule — offering classes taught by the same faculty in day and evening sessions — allowed us to do this. Our teachers were respectful of our demanding schedules and because our partners in managing difficult workloads. Thinking back on the impact John Jay has had on so many members of the FDNY, I can say without hesitation that the school has profoundly benefited the public we served during our careers.

Very close to my heart are the student veterans who have received their educations at John Jay. It is something we owe them for their service to our great country.

Fifty years and tens of thousands of graduates later, John Jay’s influence is felt by corporations, agencies and individuals in cities, states and countries lucky enough to employ our alumni. It is safe to say that John Jay College will continue to impact the lives of students of all ages and backgrounds worldwide.

We know how good the first 50 years were and can only imagine how great the next 50 will be. Keep up the good work!

Teri Coaxum

(B.A. ’94/M.P.A. ’08) REGIONAL ADVOCATE, U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

John Jay College of Criminal Justice changed my life. I’m a product of a teenage parent, raised and inspired to dream by my grandmother. Despite her generosity and hard work, people often took advantage of her; I wanted to be in a place to help people like her: good, decent people trapped by circumstance. I dreamed of becoming a lawyer. In 1984, I graduated with honors. John Jay helped me gain a full fellowship for law school and later to become a forensic scientist in the largest forensic DNA laboratory in the world. I have never felt the need for aggressively seeking employment because a diploma from John Jay speaks for itself. It is a name that is universally respected by everyone in the field.

It amazes me how the College surpassed my expectations not only during my time as a student but also now as I continue my involvement as an alumnus and reflect on all the College has accomplished. I feel such a deep loyalty to John Jay, which I know will only strengthen as we enjoy this milestone anniversary and work to make the next 50 years even better.

Hank Sheinkopf

(M.A. ’79) POLITICAL CONSULTANT

As a political consultant, I’ve worked on roughly 700 campaigns in 25 foreign countries, 44 American states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, alongside such clients as President Bill Clinton, Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Dominican Republic President Leonel Fernandez. I have had my opinions sought and reported by journalists from around the world and have appeared on the Today show, CBS Nightly News, CNN and in hundreds of other media outlets. I have served as a consultant to major corporations in the banking, insurance, real estate, healthcare and gaming industries, and to police labor organizations in 25 states. I’m expecting to complete my Ph.D. at the CUNY Graduate Center in May 2015.

Through it all, it is safe to say, the John Jay experience changed my entire world view. I grew up in the South Bronx, had no real family and nowhere to live at age 16. I went back to school, finished college at CUNY, and became a police officer. John Jay faculty convinced me that I could make something of myself. I hope I did.

Carmen R. Velasquez (B.A. ’84)

JUSTICE, NEW YORK STATE SUPREME COURT

John Jay College has a special place in my heart and my life. I was accepted to John Jay through the SEEK program [Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge], and I am forever grateful to John Jay, and a proud alumna.

In 1979, I entered John Jay College with a dream of becoming a lawyer. In 1984, I graduated with honors. John Jay helped me to gain a full fellowship for law school and later to become a successful attorney. Recently, I was elected as a New York State Supreme Court Justice — the first Ecuadorian American to serve on the court.

I remember entering John Jay on my first day; I was nervous. My SEEK guidance counselors, Ms. Vega and Ms. Guadalupe, were inspirational; Dean of Students James Malone and Assistant Dean Richard Saulnir were absolutely amazing. I became a very active member of the Student Council. I was elected Freshmen Representative, and later served as President of the Women’s Awareness Club, National Model United Nations and other organizations. While a student, I helped set up the child care program and looked for ways to improve the College. I recall we did not have any legal programs, so I and others in the Law Society urged the College to offer services for future law students. As an alumna, I was vice president of the John Jay Alumni Association. I participated in the first pre-law boot camp. Now I am a mentor to John Jay students and provide judicial internship opportunities.

Andrew Schweighardt

(M.A. ’09, PH.D. ’11) CRIMINALIST, NEW YORK CITY MEDICAL EXAMINER’S OFFICE

After earning my bachelor's degree from a small school, I wanted to enroll in John Jay's forensic science graduate program. However, I was concerned about making the transition to a big university and losing the family-like atmosphere to which I had grown accustomed. When I accidentally missed John Jay's graduate open house, I found myself being invited to a professor's home to discuss the College. I knew immediately that John Jay was no ordinary school. It offered all the personalized attention that I sought, while providing me with access to top-tier faculty, laboratories and technology. I learned from the most talented people in the field and forged connections that later turned into career opportunities.

Thanks to John Jay and the people I met there, I was able to secure a post-graduate research position in a world-renowned federal crime laboratory, and later a full-time position as a forensic scientist in the largest forensic DNA laboratory in the world. I have never felt the need for aggressively seeking employment because a diploma from John Jay speaks for itself. It is a name that is universally respected by everyone in the field.

I am forever grateful to John Jay, and a proud alumna. It amazes me how the College surpassed my expectations not only during my time as a student but also now as I continue my involvement as an alumnus and reflect on all the College has accomplished. I feel such a deep loyalty to John Jay, which I know will only strengthen as we enjoy this milestone anniversary and work to make the next 50 years even better.
Scenes from John Jay's Year-Long Celebration!

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor dazzles students, faculty and administrators at the September convocation for first-year students.

The Alexandre Dang Exhibit was on display from October 15 through November 2014.

The bronze statue of John Jay finds a home—and is an instant hit—in the Kroll Atrium.

Students pack meals as part of the Acts of Justice Community Service Drive, August 2014 – May 2015.

In commemoration of Veterans Day, President Jeremy Travis, along with student veterans, rang the opening bell at NASDAQ OMX Stock Market.

John Jay statue unveiling

TIMELINE

1970 Start of the Open Admissions era at CUNY. Student enrollment and faculty ranks swell at John Jay, and non-police students become the majority.

1970 The SEEK Program (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) is launched at John Jay.

1971 Baseball team is formed.
From its humble if ambitious beginnings, in which John Jay was little known beyond the New York metro area, the College has extended its influence worldwide, making its mark in training, scholarship and research — and not just in law enforcement and criminal justice, but in human rights, international relations and many other important fields.

Today, John Jay faculty serve as part of an extensive network of ambassadors, sharing their expertise in a variety of international outreach activities and cementing the college’s primacy in what might be described as the global classroom. As important, the College now routinely attracts to its faculty ranks alumni of some of the world’s most esteemed institutions of higher learning.

“Our faculty are conducting research in countries around the world,” said President Jeremy Travis, who in more than 10 years of leading John Jay has compiled a well-stamped passport of his own. “Our students trace their lineage to well over 130 countries and bring that diversity into our classrooms. The College has dozens of institutional partnerships, some very recent and some longstanding, with universities, governments and NGOs around the world. There is wide-ranging interest by the international community to come here. We have become, to be sure, an institution of international consequence.”

Fittingly, perhaps, given American policing’s roots in the English system, John Jay’s first significant foray into the international arena occurred in the mid-1970s with the establishment of a faculty exchange program with the British Police College in Bramshill. Each semester, a John Jay professor travels “across the pond” to spend 15 weeks lecturing, conducting research and making new connections at England’s leading police training facility. At the same time, a top British police official joins the John Jay faculty for the semester.

Since then, John Jay faculty have led classrooms on every continent except Antarctica.

The cultural and ethnic diversity of the John Jay faculty allows them to bring their own unique perspectives to their teaching and research endeavors. And some travel overseas — to their native countries, in many cases — to conduct research that enhances the canon of scholarship and the College’s own international prestige. Examples abound, and are impressively wide-ranging.

• Professor Edward Snajdr has conducted various anthropological studies in Bosnia, Kazakhstan, Slovakia and Hungary.
• Professor Gabrielle Salfati, a pioneer in investigative psychology, has done unprecedented research into serial killings in South Africa.
• Professor and interim Associate Dean for Research Anthony Carpi spent a six-month sabbatical in the jungles of Brazil, examining soil for signs of mercury poisoning.
• Professor David Brotherton has led a study of holistic responses in European policing, which hopes to create a paradigm shift in how police forces interact with gang crime and youth subculture groups.

There are faculty experts on Middle East terrorism, security issues in the Balkans, women’s rights in the Muslim world, African economic development, organized crime in Eastern Europe, government violence in Latin America, and social networks in the Arctic, among many other global issues. Faculty members have won Fulbright fellowships and other prestigious appointments to teach in Brazil, South Korea and the People’s Republic of China.
When the world needs help with justice-related concerns, it is frequently John Jay that gets the call. In 2005, a historic agreement was signed at the College under which John Jay faculty would help train the 30,000-member national police force in the Dominican Republic. The agreement also provided for the exchange of students, faculty and police between John Jay and Dominican institutions. Another program brought the College’s resources to bear in addressing terrorism, transnational organized crime and other security issues facing Greece, Turkey and Balkan countries. The program grant also supported the development of graduate-level scholarships to John Jay for Greek law enforcement officers. Similar academic exchanges are underway or planned with Ukraine and China.

And the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Interpol, two of the world’s foremost criminal justice entities, tapped the expertise of John Jay faculty and graduate students to assess the quality of their crime data.

The 1990s were a fertile time for the growth of John Jay’s international brand. One of the first large-scale exports of the College’s scholarly riches was the Human Dignity and the Police program. Cooperating with the University of Cambridge, the College took a leadership role as a mover of human rights around the world, the program initially focused on reversing police abuses in Latin American nations, and has since trained thousands of police officers in Africa, Asia and Europe in the area of human rights principles.

Around the same time, the College began making an entirely different mark on the global stage, with the launch of the Biennial International Conference series. First held in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1992, the conferences have since traveled to such locales throughout Europe, as well as the Caribbean and North Africa, in each case providing a forum for criminal justice professionals, policy-makers and academics to meet and discuss global and interdisciplinary perspectives on a host of justice issues.

In 1996, following the murder of an Irish police officer during a robbery engineered by the Irish Republican Army, former president of the International Association for the Study of Organized Crime. At the graduate level, the International Crime and Justice major is under the direction of Professor Rosemary Barberet, former chair of the American Society of Criminology’s International Division.

Students who want more direct exposure to different cultures can take advantage of John Jay’s ample study-abroad opportunities. Participants in such programs might find themselves living and learning in such far-flung destinations as the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Italy, Japan, Greece, Morocco, Oman and Turkey.

The John Jay curriculum, of course, is ever-evolving, and as it does, new avenues of globally informed study become available. During the fall 2014 semester, a State Department-sponsored initiative known as the Diplomacy Lab gave students in four undergraduate and graduate courses the opportunity to conduct research into real-world foreign policy challenges. And the newest internationally flavored addition to the curriculum, the Latin American and Latina/o Studies major, will make its debut in the fall 2015 semester after a decade of planning and development (see sidebar).
Graduating Seniors Reflect on their John Jay Journey

Stephania Guzman
Forensic Science

My John Jay journey is nothing like I expected. As a freshman, my goals and ambitions only went as far as graduating and working as a technician in a forensics lab. It wasn’t until I became part of the PRISM program and started working under my mentor, Dr. Nathan Lents, that I realized my passion and curiosity beyond the classroom. From there I was able to engage in research and even present my work at a biomedical conference. Dr. Lents really changed my perspective and my goals.

I am now looking forward with enthusiasm to pursuing a Ph.D. in the biology field, and to one day working for a pharmaceutical company or for the government. I am thankful to John Jay College for the opportunities and the experiences I’ve had.

Shereef Hassan
Humanities and Justice
(Philosophy and History minors)

Five years ago, I did not want to attend John Jay for lack of a track team. It seems silly now that I think back on it. After attending my first class, I felt that John Jay was the place for me. Classes such as Medieval Literature, Philosophical Logic and Modern History changed my life, providing me with a different layer of knowledge and understanding, and helping me to read, think and act in deeper ways. I have also benefited from being able to interact with a wealth of great professors and kind administrators, and from an overall supportive environment.

John Jay has taught me a very important lesson that I will take to my grave: always seek understanding in every part of life. Thank you, John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Jamel Love
Political Science

I entered college as a business student at Michigan State University. After two years I transferred to John Jay, where I changed my major to Political Science. I found an interest in research, which was supported by the close student-faculty relationships that encouraged me to think critically about my own interests and ideas. My participation in the Ronald E. McNair Scholars program and the Honors Program, and the critical discussions concerning issues of social justice and equality, have tremendously influenced and supported my decision to become a professor in the social sciences.

The resources and support I’ve received from John Jay have been invaluable in helping me accomplish so much during my time here, and have ultimately realized within me a passion for social change and collective action.

Christopher Patterson
Gender Studies

My experience at John Jay is a two-and-half-year journey of personal and professional discovery. I came here in the spring of 2013 from Borough of Manhattan Community College. I was a Political Science major to start and was considering going to law school in the future. However, I realized I needed to go in a different direction. That is where the Gender Studies major came in. I figured this major would keep me engaged and I would be able to apply the knowledge I was bringing to the major in a unique way.

It has been an interesting journey. I currently work in the field of human services, and I have my experience at John Jay to help me along the way.

David Vegvari
International Criminal Justice
(Security Management minor)

I am proud to say that throughout my time at John Jay, I represented my school as a member and Captain of the Rifle Team. I am a college assistant in the Health and Physical Education Department, and an avid student in the Honors Program. Every faculty and staff member I have come in contact with throughout my four years has driven me to be the best I can be, with the motivation to do great things in the name of justice.

My undergraduate experience has been nothing less than ideal. I intend to continue my education by applying to John Jay’s master’s program in International Crime and Justice, with the long-term goal of working for the State Department’s Office of Diplomatic Security. Thanks to John Jay, I am prepared for what lies ahead.

The McNair Scholars Program

Someday,birthplaceofthe

Groomed for Great Things by the McNair Scholars Program

Some hail from hardscrabblenewyorkcityneighborhoodslikedford-stuyvesant, east harlem, and the south bronx places more likely to be associated in the public imagination with crime and poverty than academic excellence. Others are the sons and daughters of immigrants who settled in New York away from the political turmoil of El Salvador or the poverty and strife of Bangladesh.

Each year, up to 26 John Jay students from diverse ethnic and racial groups that are underrepresented in the nation’s post-baccalaureate programs begin a rigorous, years-long journey that culminates in the conferral of master’s degrees, then doctorates.

In just over a decade, over 300 John Jay students have had the same opportunity under the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The John Jay program is one of only three in New York City; the others are at Hunter College/CUNY and St. John’s University.

Reflecting the diversity of New York City — and by extension, John Jay College — past and current McNair scholars include students of Asian, Caribbean, Eastern European, Latin American, Russian and African-American heritage.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the program is named for the African-American astronaut who with six colleagues died in the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in 1986. McNair, an accomplished physicist, was only the second African-American to fly in space at the time of his death.

“Our real purpose is to have scholars who are from underrepresented groups obtain Ph.D.s,” said the program’s director, Dr. Jessica Gordon Nembhard, who also is coordinator of minors studies in John Jay’s Africana Department.

To qualify to be a McNair scholar, juniors and senior applicants must carry a minimum 3.0 GPA. After selection, they work with John Jay faculty members who teach courses in their chosen field of study. Under mentors’ supervision, McNair scholars also are required to take an active role in the research process by assisting and conducting research.

“We do everything we can to ensure they are ready, prepared and able to go on to graduate school, particularly Ph.D. programs,” she added.

Applicants to the program must be first-generation, low-income college students whose ethnic, cultural or racial background is underrepresented in graduate schools.

Students from these backgrounds face daunting obstacles that prevent them from reaching the pinnacle of academic achievement, Nembhard noted.

“Often, they are the first in their families to go to college, and their family members can’t help them with college-related issues or they may be unsupportive. Being low-income is a huge barrier. They work all through school, so one of the biggest challenges is getting the students to go directly to grad school because many have to go directly to work. Others have families or must provide care to family members, and may have to leave the city to pursue a career.”

McNair scholars are required to begin post-baccalaureate studies in the autumn immediately after receiving their undergraduate degrees, and have to years to obtain their doctorates. During that time, most serve as teaching assistants and researchers, many in graduate programs at John Jay. But others leave New York to enter programs elsewhere in the United States.

John Jay’s McNair program has produced successful stories of ascent. Nembhard said, adding that the successes of McNair scholars enhance the college’s reputation for academic excellence as well. One standout is Antonio Jones, whose efforts under the McNair program resulted in his receiving fully funded offers from five different doctoral programs. He settled on the University of Chicago, where he is a doctoral candidate in the sociology department.

Two McNair scholars are studying in Great Britain as candidates in prestigious programs. In 2012, Nicolas Montano was the first John Jay student and 2015’s first McNair scholar to win a Marshall Scholarship, a full scholarship program funded by the British government that allows U.S. students to do post-graduate studies in England expense-free. Montano, who is of El Salvadoran descent, will participate in two master’s degree programs there. He is studying research methods in social policy at the University of Liverpool, to be followed by a criminal justice/police program at the London School of Economics.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh-born Popy Begum is studying criminology at Oxford University, where her work will focus on human trafficking, forced marriage and issues affecting youth. She was one of 20 students selected for the program — and one of only three research-degree candidates accepted. JJ

Recent McNair Scholars

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The Write Stuff
Meet the Inaugural Siegel Fellows

Eleven John Jay students have been named to the inaugural cohort of Siegel Fellows in Strategic and Nonprofit Communication, funded by a John Jay College Foundation trustee who is a pioneer and visionary in the branding and communications fields.

Alan Siegel, the president and CEO of Siegelvision, created the fellowships as a five-semester certificate program intended to teach best practices in strategic communications in the public and nonprofit sectors.

A new group of at least 10 sophomores will be chosen each year for the fellowships, in which they will be immersed in the world of strategic thinking and taught how to improve communication within and between organizations and their audiences. The program will consist of a core curriculum of five strategic communications courses, including a senior-year internship, and a workshop series of mini-courses or case studies. The mini-courses will be based on Siegelvision’s diverse client portfolio and, wherever possible, will be taught by those who designed the campaign.

Seniors in the fellowship program will collaborate with branding professionals on a public communication issue or campaign, and present their research and/or creative work at a Siegel Symposium in the spring semester of their senior year.

The Siegel Fellowship program, directed by Professor Donna Byrne, is aimed at motivated students with a GPA of 3.3 or more. Fellows will receive a stipend each semester, along with an iPad and other perks. The inaugural Siegel Fellows are:

- Arijana Ivezic, a Criminal Justice B.A. major who aspires to a career in non-profit management.
- Naomi Haber, a CUNY B.A. student in Mass Media, Rhetoric and Public Opinion, has a passion for political campaign strategy.
- Fatime Uruci, a Criminal Justice B.A. major whose goal is a career in government service or as an educator for an international nonprofit organization. She is particularly interested in working with victims of abuse.
- Homaly Webb, a Criminal Justice B.A. major who hopes to become a lawyer defending juvenile offenders.
- Loyana Welsh, an English major, is focused on becoming an educator for an international nonprofit organization. She is interested in working with victims of abuse.
- Ardjana Ivezic is a Criminal Justice B.A. major who aspires to a career as a researcher or policy analyst. As a freshman, she was an intern at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.
- Kelly Konadroski, a double major in Forensic Psychology and Criminal Justice, plans to pursue both J.D. and Ph.D. degrees, with a career goal of influencing policies affecting persons with mental disabilities.
- Amaure Levy, a B.A./M.A. student in Forensic Psychology, is passionate about world culture, and is aiming for a career as a psychologist with the FBI.
- Vincent Palermo, who is majoring in English, plans to use his interest in communication as a springboard to law school and a career as an attorney, judge or in public office.
- Justice Brittany Rayborn is a B.A./M.A. student in Forensic Psychology and intends to pursue a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and a career working with troubled youth and juvenile offenders.
- Leslie Smith-Ramirez, a Philosophy major, has her sights set on a career in international law, so she can be an effective advocate for important causes in countries that need urgent solutions.
- Fatine Uruc, a double major in English and Philosophy, aspires to a career in international affairs and foreign service.
- Nicole Mary Vitrit, a Law and Society major, hopes to integrate strategic communication into a career with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.
- Loyana Welsh, an English major, is focused on becoming an educator for an international nonprofit organization. She is particularly interested in working with victims of abuse.
- On September 18, John Jay dedicated the Alan Siegel Writing Centre in recognition of Siegel’s generosity and his commitment to building a world-class communications program for the College. Siegel, who developed the College’s brand identity keyed to the theme of “Fierce Advocates for Justice,” was praised by President Jeremy Travis as one whose “dedication and vision has helped to communicate and solidify John Jay’s position as the preeminent leader in educating for justice.”

The scholarship, which will be awarded annually and will cover full-time, undergraduate tuition and fees for up to two semesters, is awarded to students who have attempted to make contributions to social justice through community service. Recipients must continue to provide community service during their final year of undergraduate study.

Its inception began as an outgrowth of a meeting between Kaye and Kushner when both received honorary degrees at John Jay’s commencement in May 2011, said Michael Scaduto, the assistant director of financial aid at the college who is charged with coordinating its scholarship programs.

“They connected, and he was inspired by her for many reasons — her work for women’s and gay rights, and her involvement in some bedrock [legal] cases in New York,” Scaduto said.

Last August, Kushner announced he would be endowing a scholarship honoring Kaye for John Jay students with $100,000; he received as recipient of the Puffin Foundation/Nation Institute Prize for Creative Citizenship. The prize honors those whose work has furthered the cause of social justice.
The United States has a prison and jail population of roughly 2.2 million adults — the largest in the world — and the question of how that came to be, and what to do about it, was tackled boldly in 2014 by a blue-ribbon panel of the National Research Council, chaired by John Jay President Jeremy Travis.

The report produced by the NRC Committee on Law and Justice — “The Growth of Incarceration in the United States: Exploring Causes and Consequences” — was released April 30 to considerable media attention. The committee’s inquiry found that the rate of imprisonment in the United States more than quadrupled during the last four decades, driven largely by policy changes rather than increased crime rates. Moreover, the U.S. prison population is largely drawn from the most disadvantaged sectors of the nation’s population: mostly men under age 40, disproportionately minority, and poorly educated.

The end result, the committee concluded, is that the costs of the current rate of incarceration in the U.S. far outweigh the benefits.

“The United States has gone past the point where the number of people in prison can be justified by any potential social benefits,” Travis told a Sept. 4 conference held at John Jay to explore the report’s implications for New York State. “A criminal justice system that makes less use of incarceration can better achieve its aims than a harsher, more punitive system. There are common-sense, practical steps we can take to move in this direction.”

The report recommends changes in sentencing policy, prison policy and social policy to address the nation’s reliance on incarceration, and poses a number of important research questions that must be answered in order to provide a firmer basis for correctional policy.

At the daylong conference at John Jay, an A-list gathering of scholars, elected officials, criminal justice leaders and others gathered for a wide-ranging, thought-provoking discussion of relevant issues — notably, the fact that increased incarceration has had only a small impact on crime reduction while producing far-reaching social and economic consequences.

Sociology Professor Bruce Western of Harvard University, vice chair of the committee and one of the report’s co-editors, noted: “It’s clear that incarceration is now a facet of the complex combination of negative conditions that characterize high-poverty communities in U.S. cities. Prisons are part of a poverty trap, with many paths leading in, but few leading out.”

Among those discussing the NRC report’s implications for New York State was the co-chair of the New York State Permanent Commission on Sentencing, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. “The answer to every felony conviction is not necessarily more jail,” said Vance, adding that New York State has experienced a drop in its overall prison population since its peak in 1998. “The goal for all of us,” he told the audience, “should be reducing the state prison population without sacrificing public safety.”

The NRC report, Vance said, offers a reminder that sound criminal justice policy is “not about being tough on crime, but smart.”

The full NRC report can be read online at http://www.nap.edu/.
John Jay College students interested in pursuing medical careers would get a shot in the arm under a proposal to provide services through a Pre-Health Advisement Center, which will help students determine whether such a career choice is right for them and help them lay the groundwork for a successful post-graduate experience in the medical profession and other health-related fields.

The proposal, now being considered as part of the College’s next five-year strategic plan, called John Jay 2020, would allow John Jay College to offer intensive educational support and career guidance to undergraduates who may be considering a medical career, as well as prepare them for the rigors of graduate, medical or dental school.

While John Jay has offered a Pre-Health Advisory Program for about 30 years, it’s been “run on a shoestring,” said Dr. Lawrence Kobilinsky, chairman of the Department of Sciences and project director of the Program for Research Initiatives in Science and Math. The current program operates under the umbrella of PRISM, which provides research opportunities to undergraduates so they can hone their skills in advance of graduate school.

Under the expanded initiative, the Pre-Health Advisory Program would serve students in all John Jay majors, including criminal justice and forensic psychology students, whose career paths often wind up in the medical field, Kobilinsky said.

The Pre-Health Career Advisement Center focuses on helping students determine whether a medical career is right for them, then goes about helping them make it happen by offering help on how to apply to medical, nursing and dental schools, said Dr. Edgardo Sanabria-Valentín, who serves as Pre-Health Advisor at John Jay.

Sanabria-Valentín knows first-hand the importance of such resources: he once planned to become a doctor before entering the biotechnology field. “Volunteering to answer phones and changing beds in an emergency room were deciding factors [for me] not to pursue medicine — much to my mom’s dismay,” he said.

As important as possessing a temperament suited to medical jobs is the determination as to the “what and how” to proceed toward that career goal, Sanabria-Valentín pointed out. “If you look at the data, the best predictor of success in professional careers is to know the what and how,” he said.

“What does a professional in the career I want to pursue actually do, and how do I get there?”

The center helps students answer these questions by helping them plan their education that is geared to the requirements of post-baccalaureate study in the field upon which they decide. The center hopes to promote volunteer opportunities so those considering medical careers can get field experience, and will aim to offer other extracurricular activities aimed at enhancing knowledge of the field, he said, often with the participation of working medical professionals.

While students benefit from the current arrangement, there is a need for more intensive investment in students who may opt for a medical career, Sanabria-Valentín noted. An expanded program would not only attract more students but also would help establish solid relationships with other institutions like medical schools, hospitals and private practitioners so John Jay students could benefit from their expertise through workshops, field experience and internships, he added.

While 31 John Jay students applied to medical schools over the past five years through the American Medical Colleges Application System — the organization responsible for medical school admission, including administration of the Medical College Admission Test — only eight were accepted and matriculated, and most of them were graduate students. Students who apply to medical schools are accepted partly on the basis of grade-point average and MCAT scores. While most of the college’s forensic science students perform at the national average, students from other majors perform below the average in certain sections of the MCAT. These students might well benefit from an expanded Pre-Health Advisement program, which would provide assistance with preparing for such exams, said Sanabria-Valentín.

In addition, John Jay students would get more help in shoring up clinical experiences, volunteering, writing admission essays and learning how to perform well in candidate interviews. “Most students do not generally know the importance of these factors,” the proposal states.

Specifically, an expanded Pre-Health program would help undergraduates early on to identify and map a career path; encourage clinically relevant activities; provide skills-development resources like workshops to aid in the application process; and increase awareness of John Jay students by other institutions.

A John Jay Pre-Medical Club was formed a few years ago by students who planned to enter the medicine field, partly as a response to the absence of a formal pre-health program at John Jay, noted Richard Piszczatowski, who graduated in 2011 with a bachelor’s degree in forensic science and who now is in his second year of an eight-year M.D./Ph.D. program at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx. He said he believes such a program would be an excellent way for John Jay to “answer and address the interests of those students interested in a career in medicine.”

“Applying to medical school is very intimidating and challenging; there are so many things on one’s checklist that must be taken care of in order to be a successful applicant,” said Piszczatowski, who wants to establish a mentoring program for John Jay students with participation of medical school graduates and practitioners who are John Jay alumni.

“This is a great idea, and I hope to see this program at John Jay,” added Rumman Hussain, who attended John Jay from 2012 to 2014 as an undergraduate. Hussain, who will soon begin studies at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine, said that Sanabria-Valentín’s work as Pre-Health advisor was instrumental in gaining entrance to that program. “I certainly could not have done it without his guidance.”
John Jay’s Distinguished Professors

The title of Distinguished Professor is the highest faculty rank the City University of New York can offer, and John Jay College is home to seven such esteemed scholars — three historians, three psychologists, and a specialist in American literature and law.

Under CUNY bylaws, a Distinguished Professor must have “a national reputation as a scholar, an acknowledged status as a leader in the field of specialization, and a record of innovative, sustained, and influential research.” President Jeremy Travis has called the Distinguished Professors “essential ingredients in building John Jay’s future, [who] enrich the intellectual life of this community.”

Beyond the Oval Office

Blanche Wiesen Cook

History and Women’s Studies

Her dissertation analyzing President Woodrow Wilson earned her a doctorate “with distinction.”

For her latest, career-capping work, Blanche Wiesen Cook went inside the White House again to produce an award-winning biography of America’s most distinguished — and controversial — First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

A member of John Jay’s faculty since 1968, Cook has scholarly interests that range from 20th century diplomatic history to women and political change, from war and imperialism to violence and social unrest. A self-described “activist, journalist and historian, not necessarily in that order,” she has been the host, producer or panelist for shows on CUNY-TV, Pacifica Radio, C-SPAN and PBS.

Cook’s best-selling portrait of Eleanor Roosevelt has inspired many readers to pursue further explorations in biography — and Roosevelt’s in particular — just as her signature classroom style has enlivened the study of history for many a John Jay student.

Midnight Confessions

Saul Kassin

Psychology

Why would someone who is innocent of a crime — especially a heinous one — make a false confession to police? As one of the world’s foremost experts on police interrogation techniques, confessions, eyewitness memory and jury deliberation, Saul Kassin knows that it happens far more often than might be presumed.

Kassin applies social and cognitive psychology to areas of legal decision-making, often with unsettling results. In one study, Kassin discovered that actual innocence often does not protect citizens from the pressures of interrogation, in part because innocent people, believing that they have nothing to hide, typically waive their Miranda rights. Kassin regularly testifies as an expert witness in false-confession cases he describes as so egregious as to be heartbreaking.

The founder of the Legal Studies program at Williams College, Kassin has been funded by the MacArthur Foundation to study the role bias plays in pre-interrogation interviews of juveniles and minority suspects.

Grave Concerns

Gerald Markowitz

History

For Gerry Markowitz, a member of the John Jay faculty since 1979, the history of occupational and environmental health has been an ongoing focus for a brand of investigative scholarship that has drawn back the curtain on more than a century of corporate deception and denial, corruption and criminal contempt for the health, safety and lives of industrial workers and the general public.

Markowitz’s focus on occupational health and safety has flowered in several books, most with former CUNY distinguished professor David Rosner. His scholarship earned him the 2000 Viseltear Prize from the American Public Health Association’s Medical Care Section for “Outstanding Contributions to the History of Public Health.”

And, if John Jay College could be said to have an unofficial historian, it would be Markowitz, whose 1990 book Educating for Justice, a history of the College, is now in its second edition.

The Eyes Have It — Or Do They?

Steven Penrod

Psychology

From photo arrays to stationhouse lineups to courtroom testimony, there’s not much that television “cops” seem to like better than eyewitnesses to a crime. They’re usually pretty hard to beat when it comes to convincing a jury.

But such appearances can be very misleading — and unrealistic. Just ask Steven Penrod, whose research credentials spanning three decades include penetrating examinations of such issues as the reallability of eyewitness identification and jury decision-making.

As early as 1988, Penrod’s still-evolving track record of scholarship was recognized by the American Psychological Association, which conferred on him its Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Applied Psychology.

Over the course of his career, he has deftly combined law and psychology in explorations of a variety of topics, including cameras in the courtroom, media depictions of violence, and pretrial publicity.

Family Matters

Cathy Spatz Widom

Psychology

The notion that abused kids grow up to become violent adults was a widely held assumption with little science to back it up when psychologist and criminologist Cathy Spatz Widom published a groundbreaking study that used hard data to connect the dots between childhood victimization and subsequent criminal behavior.

Recognized as one of the leading experts on the consequences of child abuse and neglect, and particularly the intergenerational transmission of violence, Widom’s 1989 study of "The Cycle of Violence" has since been cited more than 1,385 times, and formed the foundation for other critical work on Health and Social Policy in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, and beyond.

Among her many professional honors, in 2013, she became the first member of the John Jay faculty to win the coveted Edwin H. Sutherland Award, the American Society of Criminology’s highest honor, for her pioneering research and insight into child abuse and neglect.

TIMELINE

1988 Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Theresa is awarded an honorary doctorate by John Jay.

1990 Haaren Hall (the “T Building”), originally built as DeWitt Clinton High School in 1903, is opened.

1992 First biennial international conference held in St. Petersburg, Russia.

1994 John Jay opens a branch campus in Gurbaro, P.R.O.
Distinguished Lecturers are senior scholars who have strong and/or extensive experience as practitioners. They bring to the role a demonstrated ability to mentor students, connecting them to the world of practice and promoting experiential learning opportunities. President Travis has noted that John Jay’s six Distinguished Lecturers make significant contributions to the College “by their outstanding teaching in the classroom, by extending our reach into the world of practice, by elevating our profile in important circles, and by linking their research interests to topics pertaining to justice.”

No Mere Oversight
Jonathan Childerley
Public Management
Childerley worked at United Nations headquarters in New York for 20 years before retiring from the world organization in 2011. He served as head of the Oversight Support Unit, and also spent time as Chief of Administrative Services at the U.N. Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, a tiny outpost stuck in between Indonesia and northern Australia.

Childerley’s globe-girdling accounting exploits also took him to Papua New Guinea for eight years, where he first worked on a World Bank-sponsored rural development program. Later, he served as a member of a U.N.-sponsored project that successfully introduced computerized accounting and payroll systems throughout the national and provincial governments.

Taking the Initiative
Rossana Rosado
Latin American and Latina/o Studies
As the College got set to launch a new Latino Initiative last year, it seemed ideal that the project would be led by the former head of El Diario-La Prensa, the nation’s oldest Spanish-language newspaper. So it was that Rossana Rosado, the newspaper’s former Publisher and CEO, joined the Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies.

Sentence Structure
Martin F. Horn
Law, Police Science and Criminal Justice Administration
New York City’s loss became John Jay’s gain when Martin F. Horn, former Commissioner of the city’s Department of Correction and Department of Probation, joined the College as a Distinguished Lecturer in the College’s Department of Law & Police Science.

Suspension of Dibelief
Tanya Coke
Public Management
A single out-of-school suspension significantly increases a high school student’s likelihood of involvement in the criminal justice system, notes Tanya Coke, the veteran civil rights lawyer who joined the John Jay Department of Public Management in 2013, and is a leading figure in a national movement to transform public school disciplinary policies. Coke says she became interested in “the school-to-prison pipeline” after seeing growing numbers of young people charged in juvenile courts for minor misbehavior in school that a generation ago would have landed them in a principal’s office. She has studied youth experiences of criminalization at school, on the street and at home, and the collective impact of those experiences on academic achievement. Her work also seeks to transform punitive school-discipline policies into a more positive, restorative approach.

Women's Work
Johanna Lessinger
Anthropology
Johanna Lessinger’s love of anthropological fieldwork has taken her from inner-city neighborhoods in New York to the produce markets and garment factories of South India.

New York City is one of the most widely cited ethnographic works in its field. As a Ph.D. student, Lessinger’s field research in the large South Indian city of Madras (now called Chennai) sparked a lifelong interest in the interaction between women’s lives and women’s labor and, more recently, in the effects of globalization on India. Her research has explored how the impact of globalization has fallen particularly hard on women and the urban working class, with one recent conference paper underscoring the link between gender violence in India and the economic frustration of working-class men.

In addition to her scholarly pursuits, Lessinger serves as coordinator of the recently-launched Anthropology major at John Jay — “the drum major,” she calls herself.

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Fiscal Fitness
Philip Zisman
Public Management
Philip Zisman is more than just a distinguished member of the Public Management faculty. He is a veteran municipal official who has spent years fighting corruption, waste and other fiscal abuses in city government, and serves as Executive Director of the Association of Inspectors General (AIG), a national organization housed at John Jay.

Zisman’s teaching is informed by 18 years of experience with the Yonkers city government, first as Corporation Counsel and then as the city’s first Inspector General. As head of the AIG, a post he has held since 2011, Zisman oversees a staff of John Jay students to manage the association’s diverse day-to-day activities. “It’s rewarding to work with students,” he said. “They are dedicated and energetic and represent the future for the organization.” Zisman is a founder of Accountants for the Public Interest, which offers tax services to nonprofit groups and to the poor.

Taking the Initiative
Rossana Rosado
Latin American and Latina/o Studies
As the College got set to launch a new Latino Initiative last year, it seemed ideal that the project would be led by the former head of El Diario-La Prensa, the nation’s oldest Spanish-language newspaper. So it was that Rossana Rosado, the newspaper’s former Publisher and CEO, joined the Department of Latin American and Latina/o Studies.

The Latino Initiative will focus on the challenges facing Hispanic students, who constitute more than 40 percent of the student body, while mobilizing external resources to support them on the road to success. The initiative seeks to make John Jay a Latino destination for talent, thinkers and potential supporters.

Rosado’s media career earned her an Emmy Award and a Peabody Award, among other honors. Rosado also serves on the John Jay College Foundation Board of Trustees, and as chair of the New York State Governor’s Council on Community Re-Entry and Reintegration.

Philip Zisman
Public Management
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The history of John Jay Athletics — erratic, even frustrating at times — has evolved from humble beginnings to produce enough spotlight moments to make any institution proud. Today, the intercollegiate athletics program is an integral part of college life, with a new cadre of administrators and coaches continuing to innovate while setting the bar of success ever higher.

Student-athletes of 2015 could be forgiven if they had trouble remembering the pistol team was so good that opponents worked overtime to get past John Jay. The bloodbath at the New York City Police Academy in 1969 set the tone for the pistol team, which would go on to win three national championships and 16 national titles. The men’s basketball team, the granddaddy of John Jay athletics, has gone from intercollegiate teams to club sports, while the rifle team has won the Mid Atlantic Conference crown in 1992, 1996, 1999, 2002 and 2006-2007. The rifle team has won the Mid Atlantic Conference title an astounding 10 times. Women’s basketball took the CUNY crown in 1992; women’s softball in 2000. The men’s tennis team brought home championship trophies in 1990 and 1996. Men’s cross-country raced to championships in 1995, 2006 and 2007, while their counterparts on the women’s team won it all in 1998. And the men’s basketball team, the grandaddy of John Jay athletics, finally overcame a 21-year record of frustration in 2008 when it won the CUNY tournament.

Other Bloodhound teams have made their own championship contributions. The rifle team has won the Mid Atlantic Conference title an astounding 12 times. Women’s basketball took the CUNY crown in 1992; women’s softball in 2000. The men’s tennis team brought home championship trophies in 1990 and 1996. Men’s cross-country raced to championships in 1995, 2006 and 2007, while their counterparts on the women’s team won it all in 1998. And the men’s basketball team, the grandaddy of John Jay athletics, finally overcame a 21-year record of frustration in 2008 when it won the CUNY tournament.

Today, the spotlight shines on the men’s basketball team, which has won its first-ever conference championship. The team’s success has been achieved through hard work and dedication to the sport. The coach, Bob Fox, has been instrumental in leading the team to success. The players have shown a strong work ethic and a commitment to the sport, which has paid off in the form of championship wins. The team’s success has been a source of pride for the college and the community. The men’s basketball team has become a model of success for other teams to follow, and their achievements have set a new standard for intercollegiate athletics at John Jay College.
A veteran athletics administrator in CUNY and elsewhere, who has emphasized the theme of “Bloodhounds Moving Forward,” Katz says she wants to upgrade “from an excellent athletic experience to an extraordinary one.” And, when asked what’s missing from the big picture of John Jay Athletics, she doesn’t hesitate: “A national championship.” As New York Mets fans used to say, “Ya gotta believe!”

The John Jay Athletics Hall of Fame, founded in 1993, honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the field of intercollegiate athletics and who have helped bring recognition, honor, distinction and excellence to John Jay. The current honor roll includes:

- Sayeed Abdul-Muntaqim (basketball)
- Regina Eley (basketball)
- Barbara Leahy-Edwards (basketball/softball)
- Mario Ferrengo (baseball)
- Duane Martin (basketball)
- Anthony Lambert (baseball)
- Robert Mulligan (baseball)
- Duwayne Boyce (tennis/soccer)
- Teon Harmon (basketball)
- Wallace Davis (administrator)
- Louis DiMartino (coach, baseball)
- Joseph Frittitta (baseball)
- John Brant (baseball)
- Samantha Donaldson (basketball)
- James V. Nemorin (volleyball/softball)
- William Allard (pistol)
- Gregory Andrew (basketball)
- Barry Raffone (softball)
- Carri Tinsley (basketball/softball)
- Jason Bowery (soccer)
- James DeCesare (basketball)
- John Dobkowski (baseball)
- Jane Katz (coach, swimming)
- Stephen Kelly (basketball/rowing)
- Susan Larkin (administrator)
- Heather Stewart (softball)

BRINGING “The Heat”
Heather Hardy, BS ’05

From a humble forensic psychology graduate of John Jay to a champion boxer, Heather Hardy puts the fierce in “Fierce Advocates for Justice.”

A professional fighter since 2013, Hardy — known by the nickname “The Heat” — was a young, divorced mother with career plans in flux when she began the process of reinventing herself, prompted in large part by a kickboxing class she took at a local gym in Gerritsen Beach, Brooklyn. Three weeks after starting the class, she recalled, “They offered me a fight, and I won it, and it just felt like it was the missing puzzle piece.”

Now a rising star in women’s boxing, Hardy is a 5-foot, 9-inch ball of fire in the ring, where she has compiled a 12-0 record with a style that she readily admits is “like a guy, very aggressive.” Typically, she observes, female boxers are seen as being more like dancers, unwilling to get punched in the face. “I don’t seem to worry about my face too much,” said Hardy, who was knocked down in her very first fight but says proudly, “I haven’t hit the canvas since.”

Tough? Hardy says heart — and the ability to take a punch — is her greatest asset. “Fencers call it heart when you don’t quit, and I would die in the ring before I quit,” she says. “That’s what makes me a winner.”

Hardy’s fan base includes family, friends and neighbors, with her mother ranked as her biggest supporter. “She’s been to every fight I’ve ever had, always cheering the loudest. My family’s been really supportive, and my neighbors are really like family to me. It’s something exciting, something new that the people in my small neighborhood have taken to since I started.”

She has given her fans plenty of what they came to see and cheer about, in venues that have included Madison Square Garden and Brooklyn’s Barclays Center. In between fights, she’s a regular at the world-famous Gleason’s Gym in Brooklyn, where she trains.

An interest in working with special victims is what initially drew Hardy to John Jay and the forensic psychology program. The lessons learned at John Jay stay with her as she makes her way in the small but growing universe of female boxing. “People think boxing is only a sport, but it’s also a business. Psychology really plays a part when you’re dealing with people who are trying to make money off you and exploit you. Psychology helps to explain what role I have in this game, and what assets I need in use in order to move ahead.”

Hardy, who says she has “always been kind of an action junkie,” graduated from John Jay in 2005 hoping to become an NYPD detective or an FBI agent. Those plans are on hold, but not off the table entirely. “I’m only 33, and I have plenty of time. Whenever I do something, I do it 100 percent, so for now boxing has all my attention.” It’s that attitude that underlies the advice she would give to current John Jay students.

“The road gets so hard between mediocre and exceptional,” Hardy believes. “What puts you above the rest is getting through the hardest part. So when things get really tough, don’t stop going; you’ll get there. You just have to prove that you’re worth it. You have to prove that you want it bad enough.”

Heather Hardy, BS ’05
Making a Difference

Benjamin Tucker (B.S. ’77)

When Benjamin Tucker (B.S. ’77) entered the NYPD as an 18-year-old police trainee in November 1969, he could hardly have foreseen the amazing career path that has taken him to the second-highest job in the police department, a post that few other John Jay alumni have equaled or exceeded.

Tucker brings to the job of First Deputy Commissioner the view that he has brought to each of his prior positions in the agency. Having worked in a wide range of capacities, he knows the big picture around the country, said Tucker. “It was clear to me that communities were not happy with the content of what we teach, teaching officers to be disciplinary in the police training process. It should be a level playing field,” he maintained. “We want to get them engaged with each other. We’re about quality police work, not quantity.”

His 21 years with the NYPD, and the more than 22 years in various posts since his 1991 retirement, gave Tucker a perspective on the job that lacks for neither details nor the big picture. He has served as assistant director of the Civilian Complaint Review Board, in the Mayor’s Office of Operations (where he was deputy to future John Jay President Jeremy Travis), as Chief of Operations for former Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger, and with the U.S. Justice Department’s Office of Community-Oriented Policing Services. “My time at the COPs office allowed me to look at the big picture around the country,” said Tucker.

The role of First Deputy Commissioner has been expanded for him, Tucker said. “The PC made it clear I would be a full partner in the agency, and to that end he broadened by more than 100 percent the scope of the First Dep’s office. I was especially glad that the Commissioner supported my desire to keep the Training Bureau in my portfolio.”

Tucker, who was succeeded as head of the Training Bureau by fellow John Jay alumnus Michael Haggerty (B.S. ’70), wants to see such themes as community partnership, fairness and procedural justice embedded in the police training process. “It was clear to me that communities were not happy with the cops, and cops were not comfortable with the community,” he said. “We want to get them engaged with each other. We’re changing the content of what we teach, teaching officers to be fair. We’re about quality police work, not quantity.”

Tucker will also have a hand in the departmental disciplinary process, which he believes goes hand in hand with training. “It should be a level playing field,” he maintained.

Underlying his multifaceted new role will be the lingering impact that his John Jay education has had on him. “Attending John Jay was instrumental in changing my life,” said Tucker. “I benefited from great professors who broadened and nurtured my thirst for knowledge.”

Tucker called his new job “a great opportunity,” for which the timing could not have been better. “I believe I can make a difference,” he asserted.

Our grads make us proud!

Share your story with your classmates and the community at http://johnjay.jjay.cuny.edu/alumnistory/

1980s

Michael Haggerty (MA ’79) retired in March 2014 after 22 years with the federal government on a disability annuity, due to several line-of-duty injuries. Haggerty spent the last 14-plus years as a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. At ATF, he worked on the D.C. sniper investigation, and was the case agent on the 2009 Coastville, Pa., arson spree investigations. His career also included service with the Bureau of Prisons at the Metropolitan Correctional Center New York, where he dealt with the World Trade Center bombers and John Gotti, and then with the Old Immigration and Naturalization Service in New York. He is now a licensed private investigator with his own firm, An Garda Intelligence Services.

1990s

Adrienne Rodriguez DiGaetani (BS ’96) began working shortly after graduation as a case aide with the Bronx District Attorney’s Office. In 2008, she and her family moved to Dutchess County, where she worked for the Wapping’s Falls Police Department. Since January 2014, she has been working as a Law Department Investigator for the New York State Attorney General, in the Investigation Division of the Poughkeepsie regional office.

2000s

Rosanna DeFranza (BA ’00) has been working as a supervisor in social services for the New York City Human Resources Administration for the past four years. Prior to that, she worked for the Wardag’s Falls Police Department. Since January 2014, she has been working as a Law Department Investigator for the New York State Attorney General, in the Investigation Division of the Poughkeepsie regional office.

2010s

Anna Biboltevich (MA ’12) was hired right out of college as a criminal defense investigator for the State Public Defender in Story County, Iowa. She reports: “My supervisor told me that, despite my lack of experience, my academic background and my being a John Jay alumnus made me stand out from the other 150 applicants. Thank you, John Jay!”

Kisha DeJesus (MA ’13) took the New York State parole officer exam shortly after graduating, and was called in to fill one of 40 training-academy slots. She graduated from the training academy in Albany in January 2014 and now works for the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision as a parole officer in the Brooklyn 1 area office. “At John Jay College, I was afforded the opportunity to learn from the very best in the field,” she says, “and I appreciate the knowledge I acquired during my time there.”

Theodore Miraldi (MA ’13) reports that in August 2014 he was appointed by the Civil Court of New York as a Guardian Ad Litem, to be available to accept appointments by the court to assist litigants who are physically or mentally impaired.

Sharaya Wallace-Collins (BA ’13) was the first granddaughter in her immediate family to graduate from college. “My main goal in life was to graduate high school and college without becoming a parent,” she says. “I’m proud to say I succeeded!” During her tenure at John Jay, not only did she attend classes full-time but she worked full-time while taking part-time care of my mother, who was sick at the time. Fortunately, I made it out of the rough patch, received a promotion at work and managed to get married. Without support from my partner and many others, I might not have made it through school. I feel I can make it through all of that, so can you! Never give up on goals and/or dreams. This life is precious and limitless. The only restriction would be you getting in your own way. Step out of your comfort zone and thrive!”

1980s

Students approve an increase in activity fees — the first such increase in 25 years.

2013

Four alumni are elected to high public office in New York: New York City Controller Scott Stringer, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Kings County District Attorney Kenneth Thompson and Rochester Mayor Lovely Warren.

2013

9/11 memorial, made of steel from the destroyed World Trade Center, is dedicated.

2014

New majors in Anthropology and Latin American & Latina/o Studies are approved, bringing the number of courses of study to 26 majors, along with 43 minors.

2014

John Jay launches its first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).
Over the last 10 years of President Travis’s leadership, John Jay College has been transformed into a vibrant liberal arts senior college with a global reputation for its vital justice mission. By deciding to include a bequest for John Jay College in his will, President Travis has declared his commitment to ensuring that the College remains a leader on the world stage; educating Fierce Advocates for Justice long into the future.

**Leading by Example**

**PRESIDENT JEREMY TRAVIS**

Bequests are the most common type of planned gift received by John Jay College. Bequests allow you to make a significant gift in the future, without affecting your current cash flow or net worth.

**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