

connections

New York City College of Technology

Fall 2009 Vol. 2, No. 1



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SGA President's Message



It's true that "knowledge is power." But there are different levels of knowledge that empower different people to accomplish different things in different areas of life. Knowing this, I made the decision after doing all that needed to be done to see my two daughters successfully enter college to return to school and to pursue the knowledge and know-how at New York City College of Technology that would enable me to add a professional career to my career as a parent.

I have never once regretted choosing City Tech over so many other schools I might have attended. Here, I have come to better understand so many things about myself and about the importance of education. My interactions with so many other individuals who make up this College's diverse student body have been a rich and joyful experience. One of my most memorable experiences was working with other students to lobby for more scholarship funding.

Through determination, persistence, stamina and old fashioned hard work, all of us will graduate and one day soon join those of you who came before us to become City Tech alumni. We will graduate understanding that the one thing that no individual can take from another is that person's knowledge and know-how – a very personal treasure that when wisely spent will have made all that hard work well worth it.

And when our graduation day comes, we will join all of you who continue to support your alma mater in ways essential to City Tech's continued success and who are helping make it possible for us to soon follow in your footsteps. Please remain connected or reconnect with your alma mater and support it in every way you can.

Evita Belmonte



November 2009

is CUNY Month at City Tech

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



COME BACK TO CAMPUS IN NOVEMBER

for the following and other special events in observance of CUNY Month at City Tech. The College will host a series of events designed to showcase its 60 baccalaureate, associate and specialized certificate programs in 21st century technologies as well as an array of continuing education courses and community assistance activities.

CUNY Month at City Tech will kick off on **NOVEMBER 2** with a Black Solidarity Day look at "The Black Church, Politics and the African American Community." Speakers include Dr. Clarence Taylor, Professor of African American Studies and History at Baruch College, and Rev. Violet Dease of the historic Abyssinian Baptist Church, plus performances by the City Tech Community Choir and Black Theater classes.

On **NOVEMBER 5**, Professor Partrick O'Halloran will speak on the topic of "How to Get the Most Out of Your Credit Cards in Tough Economic Times." **NOVEMBER 8** will bring the College's Fall 2009 Open House, which traditionally sees upwards of 1,000 prospective students visit campus to meet with current students and faculty and to

tour academic classrooms, labs and the other state-of-the-art facilities that are the hallmark of a City Tech education.

ALSO IN NOVEMBER, the City Tech Alumni Association will host a reception for alumna mentors and student mentees pursuing careers in areas in which women long have been underrepresented. Also, the Department of Radiologic Technology and Medical Imaging will observe "A Celebration of RadTech Week," while the City Tech Foundation will host a reception for student scholarship recipients and the donors who helped make these awards possible.

Other activities will include free Continuing Education programs for community residents on "What You Need to Know About Foreclosures" and "Pilgrims and Butterballs," which will answer the question about who really invented Thanksgiving. The month also features an Anna Nurse Culinary Workshop presentation by author Norman Weinstein, author of *Mastering Knife Skills: The Essential Guide to the Most Important Tool in Your Kitchen*, and a nationally acclaimed Veterans Center for the Performing Arts production of *Fit for Society*, a three-person

play that unites military veterans with the local community.

NOVEMBER WILL SEE the College's 7th Annual Faculty and Student Research Poster Session, an Ursula C. Schwerin Library Cinem@tech viewing of *Abraham Lincoln*, the Student Wellness Center and Departments of Nursing and Dental Hygiene educational collaboration in observance of Great American Smoke-Out Day, the annual Local Apple Festival/Diabetes Education Day observance, the Black Women's Networking Committee's Holiday Pie Sale to fund a year-long round of professional development programs for City Tech students, faculty and alumni, and the FIRST Tech Challenge Robotic Workshop for high school students.

For a full schedule of November activities, visit <http://www.citytech.cuny.edu/aboutus/newsevents/index.shtml> and click on This Month at City Tech at the top of the "Events" column beginning October 30.

City Tech Professor's Advice

'Don't Be Lured into Credit Card Debt'



by Patrick O'Halloran

In these tough economic times, there is the temptation to obtain more credit cards and run them up. However, according to City Tech Professor Patrick O'Halloran, there are ways to avoid the pitfalls of credit card debt, which averages \$8,400 among all American households. A typical household will pay \$1,200 annually in credit card interest alone.

"The golden rule with regard to your new credit card is to pay your account in full each month, so you don't incur any interest charges," O'Halloran says. "A \$1,000 charge on an average credit card will take almost 22 years to pay and cost more than \$2,300 in interest (\$3,300 total) if only the two percent minimum payments are made."

Other tips offered by O'Halloran include:

- Negotiate with the card company to have the annual fee (membership fee) waived, if possible.
- Only have one credit card and be aware of what your "balance due" is on it at all times.
- Research the credit card companies you're considering. Review the annual percentage rate (APR); this determines the cost to you of using the credit.
- Consider having an initial credit balance on your credit card; that is, pre-pay \$500 in advance of any purchase you wish to make. By

doing this you won't fall for the mantra "buy now, pay later."

- Consider initially having a secured credit card, which requires maintaining a savings account to secure the line of credit for the card. The savings account generally equals 50 to 100 percent of the actual line of credit.
- Confirm with the credit card company that you will not be required to make a minimum number of purchases within a year.
- Always mail your payment check five to seven days prior to the "payment due date" to avoid incurring late charges.

"If you can't pay off the entire credit balance when it is due, paying more than the minimum can make a big difference," O'Halloran says. "And keep in mind that because of the high annual percentage rates on bad debt, not paying for what you buy right away will result in every item on your credit card bill costing more."

If you do get into debt that is overwhelming, the non-profit National Foundation for Credit

Counseling can assist with structuring a repayment plan. For more information, call 800.388.2227 or log on to www.nfcc.org.



CONTINUING EDUCATION LAUNCHES NEW ACCESS FOR WOMEN JOB TRAINING PROGRAM



The ACCESS for Women (AFW) program at City Tech has received a \$343,000 Federal Stimulus Grant through the New York City Department of Small Business Services. In partnership with the Parks Department's Parks Opportunity Program (POP), the grant funds a new Electrical Technician Training (E-TECH) program through July 2010.

E-TECH is a special program designed by ACCESS for Women in collaboration with the College's Department of

Computer Engineering Technology. The program consists of four courses that will prepare graduates to meet entry-level technical requirements for the position of electrical maintenance and service technician.

In preparation for the training, POP conducted a 160-hour Math Academy for clients, 35 of which entered AFW's new 440-hour E-TECH program in August of this year. School of Technology & Design faculty and staff worked with AFW on curriculum development and course design for a three-day training model that includes classroom instruction, technical labs, hands-on projects and field experience.

In addition to courses that will be held here on campus, the trainees will be taken on various trips to observe and speak with individuals at work in jobs for which they are being trained. Upon completion of the new E-TECH program, POP Sparks will provide graduates with job placement assistance.

Fall 2009 Enrollment Soars

City Tech has experienced an eight percent increase in fall 2009 enrollment over last year, bringing total enrollment to 15,399, the highest since tuition was imposed in 1976. Enrollment has jumped 28 percent since fall 2004.

Part of the reason for the enrollment increase is the significant rise in the number of first-year students who came back for their sophomore year – which at City Tech now totals 78 percent – placing the College among the top 20 of all comprehensive baccalaureate colleges in the North, according to *U.S. News & World Report*. This fall, 3,329 freshmen enrolled, marking an increase of five percent over last year's entering class.

For several years in a row, City Tech has been recognized as having one of the most diverse student populations in its category, according to the same publication. This year the College ranks second in that category and also in the top five in the number of international students.



Thirty New Faculty Members Boost Total to Record High

City Tech has added 30 new full-time, tenure-track professors, reflecting both the rapid growth of the College and the strong commitment that The City University of New York has made to increasing the percentage of classes taught by full-time faculty members. The increase brings the total of full-time faculty to more than 400, the highest level since 1976.

New faculty at the College bring with them excellent credentials and exciting research interests.

"Enrollment growth, efficiencies and dedicated CUNY Compact funding have also allowed us to continue our broad faculty recruitment initiative," City Tech President Russell Hotzler said in a letter to the campus community. "To date, this effort has added over 140 full-time highly qualified professionals to the faculty over the past four years.

"Faculty scholarship activity at the College has increased significantly as well, resulting in an impressive and ever-lengthening list of faculty achievements," he added.

"New faculty at the College bring with them excellent credentials and exciting research interests. They will provide generations of students to come the skills necessary to succeed in our technology-dependent world," says City Tech Provost Bonne August.

Among the new faculty are:

Jay Deiner, PhD (chemistry) earned a doctorate in chemistry from Harvard. While employed by Hewlett-Packard, he led research efforts to incorporate novel surfactants in inkjet inks and participated in the invention of and wrote patent disclosures for inkjet ink formulations with enhanced performance.

Sean Patrice MacDonald, PhD (social sciences) has 16 years experience in economic analysis, most recently as the acting director of financial services research for the New York State Banking Department.

Jason Montgomery, RA, LEED, AP (architectural technology) holds an MA in architecture from the University of Wales at Cardiff. As a principal with Hart Howerton, he worked on hotels, resorts, residential and town planning projects in the U.S., Europe, North Africa, Central America, the Caribbean and the Middle East.

Armando D. Solis, PhD (biological sciences) applies bioinformatics and computational structural biology to clarify how protein molecules fold into definite structures, useful in understanding diseases and designing pharmaceutical treatments. He has had articles published in *Proteins: Structure, Function and Bioinformatics* and other journals.

Melanie Villatoro, PE (construction management and civil engineering technology) holds a master's degree in geotechnical engineering from Columbia University. As an assistant project manager for Langan Engineering & Environmental Services, she provided design services for residential and commercial waterfront developments as well as railroads, highways, bridges and airports in the NYC area.

Yu Wang, PhD (computer engineering technology) was a research associate in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Dalian Jiaotong University, China for seven years before coming to the U.S. She taught at CCNY and is part of a research team that develops mathematical models to ensure proper information transfer among electronic devices, including data transfer through computer networks.

Construction to Bring New Facilities, New Look to City Tech

Construction will be underway all over the campus next spring. Rising on the site of the current Klitgord Center will be a new state-of-the-art academic building of approximately 350,000 square feet, which will house the sciences and healthcare programs and include a new auditorium and gymnasium.

"These investments represent recognition on the part of the State, the City and The University of the importance of City Tech to our students, the economy and our community at large," President Hotzler explained.

The new LEED-certified building is being designed by Perkins-Eastman, a leading innovative international architectural firm whose redesign of the TKS Booth and of Father Duffy Square created a new center for Times Square. The design for the new building is under review at this time, with the demolition of the existing building scheduled for the spring 2010 semester.

Meanwhile, bids have been received for a new facade for Voorhees Hall, with construction scheduled to begin spring 2010. Also, construction drawings have been completed for the renovation of the

ground level and first floor of the Adams Street facade of the Pearl Building, and for a Student Welcome Center, which will be conveniently located on the first floor of the Atrium Building.

This fall, students and faculty alike have found extensive improvements of facilities. Sixteen classrooms were recently renovated and 11 state-of-the-art "smart" classrooms were added. In addition, the City Tech hospitality management department's training kitchen renovation is scheduled to be completed before the start of the spring 2010 semester.

'WEIRD' COINCIDENCE LINKS CITY TECH TO HIT BROADWAY SHOW

What's the probability of two strangers – whose sons star in the same role on Broadway – working at the same place? It's 100 percent if you happen to be Tammy Cummings and David Alvarez-Carbonell.

City Tech Provost Bonne August discovered this weird coincidence when Cumming came on board this past summer as director of assessment and institutional research. Cummings, who most recently served as executive director of the Iowa City-based National Learning and Achievement Organization, brings extensive experience as a researcher, consultant and teacher to her position. Her son, Alex Ko, is the fifth actor to rotate into the title role of "Billy" in the Tony-award winning hit *Billy Elliot the Musical*.

Alex joined Adjunct Assistant Chemistry Professor David Alvarez-Carbonell's son, also named David, who has starred in the show since it opened on Broadway a year ago. Professor Carbonell-Alvarez, a biochemist and molecular biologist who is also a senior research scientist in the Department of Medicine at NYU Medical Center, began teaching at City Tech last spring.



The play focuses on a poor British working-class boy, who, despite the lack of support from his family, pursues his dream of becoming a ballet dancer. Unlike the fictional character they portray, Alex and David both had the support of their parents, who made the same

decision to relocate their families to New York City – one from Iowa, the other from California – thus giving their sons the chance to make their dreams a reality.

Perfect timing played a major role in bringing Cumming to City Tech and her son Alex to Broadway. "He had his final audition for Billy Elliot the same week I had my big interview at City Tech," she recalls. "I had told him that if he got the part he could only take it if I could get a job in New York."

When Alvarez-Carbonell asked his son what he thought about the coincidence, the youngster replied, "Gosh, that's weird if you ask me." Adds Alvarez-Carbonell: "That's really funny because it's the same response that Billy's friend Michael gives in the play when Billy asks Michael what he thinks of Billy's audition for the Royal Ballet!"

City Tech Veteran Students to Help Celebrate Veterans Day on November 11

November 11, 2009, marks the 90th Anniversary of The New York City Veterans Day Parade. This year, City Tech veteran students again will join other City University of New York student vets abroad a CUNY-sponsored float.

Since 1919, the parade has brought New Yorkers and Americans together to honor those who served, defending our democracy. From its modest beginnings, a year after the Armistice was signed that ended World War I, the parade has grown not just in scope and scale, but in national importance. The Parade has always been a reflection of New York City's sense of patriotism and community spirit. Participating in this high-energy commemoration is yet another way in which New Yorkers thank all City Tech and other vets who proudly served our country and protected our freedoms.



City Tech Helps Launch New High School

City Tech has partnered with the New York City Department of Education (DOE), National Academy Foundation (NAF) and The City University of New York's (CUNY) Early College Initiative to launch a new secondary school in Downtown Brooklyn.

Making its debut this fall with 142 students, the new school – City Polytechnic High School of Engineering, Architecture and Technology (City Poly High) – will operate on a trimester schedule that allows students to earn credits faster and fulfill their high school graduation requirements in three years instead of four. They will receive an associate degree from City Tech when they complete their fifth year.

The school will blend a curriculum focused on career and technical education with advanced courses in such subjects as civil engineering, computer systems and architectural technology.



Housed at Westinghouse High School (105 Tech Place), adjacent to the City Tech campus, City Poly High is the first of its kind in New York City. Currently, 11 Early College schools allow high school students to earn college credit at CUNY. But none are able to integrate a career and technological high school program with a closely linked career-oriented college degree like City Poly High, designated by Schools

Chancellor Klein as one of four demonstration Career and Technical Education (CTE) high schools in the DOE.

Several City Tech departments – Architectural Technology, Construction Management and Civil Engineering Technology and Computer Systems Technology – have played an active role in curriculum development and will continue to be engaged in faculty professional development, student projects and curricular work to truly connect the school to City Tech programs.

“I believe this high school will offer its students a wonderful opportunity and will bring City Tech some very highly qualified and focused students,” says City Tech Provost Bonne August.

For more information on City Poly High, go to: <http://www.citypolyhigh.org>.

City Tech Professor's New Book Mixes Politics with Play

In his newly published book, *Queer Political Performance and Protest: Play, Pleasure, and Social Movement* (Routledge), City Tech Assistant Professor of Human Services Benjamin Shepard explores the role of fun, creativity, pleasure and play in social movements, especially the theatrical approach to protest and community building taken by the gay liberation movement and “queer activism.”

“This wonderful book tells the remarkable story of the rise of the theatrical and audacious queer movement in the United States,” says Frances Fox Piven, Distinguished Professor, CUNY Graduate Center. “It’s a fascinating read that is theoretically illuminating as well.”

The book examines the intersections between the global justice movement and queer activism, post-war cabaret culture and its links to politics, the rise of gay liberation, AIDS activism, links between direct action groups and service providers, and current movements. But according to Shepard, no movement has had a larger influence on the emergence of a playful model of social movement renewal than the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP).

Queer Political Performance
and Protest

Benjamin Shepard



Foundation Corner

DR. MARVA LORETTA CLARK GORDON '69 LEAVES LEGACY TO CITY TECH

New York City College of Technology (CUNY) has learned that Dr. Marva Loretta Clark Gordon, who passed away in late May, has remembered City Tech in her will with one of the largest individual gifts in the College's history. Her gift is earmarked for the Nursing Department.

When Dr. Gordon was a high school senior in Camden, NJ, she was selected by her drama teacher to play a maid in a school play. She refused the part, even though the teacher threatened to fail her. Her resolve made newspaper headlines.

"I stood my ground," she said, "and informed the principal that my great-great-grandfather had been a slave and a boot smith to Abraham Lincoln, and that both my great grandmother, who helped raise me, and my mother worked too hard to see me stereotyped that way."

Her success and determination did not stop there. She worked two jobs in the summers while in high school and, once in college, worked full-time as a

nurse's aide on the midnight to 8 a.m. shift while taking classes in the mornings and evenings. Gordon, who eventually made her home in Tucson, Arizona, went on to earn several additional academic degrees after graduating from City Tech with an associate's degree in nursing in '69, capping her achievement with a PhD in sociology from St. Johns University (Queens, NY) in 1983. In 2003, she received an Extraordinary Citizen Award from the Mayor of Tucson for her visionary leadership and tenacity in coordinating human services needs within the greater Tucson community.

In 2004, she was honored by City Tech with the President's Award at the College's annual commencement exercises and also was recognized, along with her husband, for establishing the Dr. Marva L. and Mr. John Gordon Scholarship Fund, demonstrating their strong commitment to future generations of City Tech students. The late Mr. Gordon also graduated from City Tech.

PLANNED GIVING

This is an exciting time at City Tech as student enrollment and additions to full-time faculty soar. What's more, the College is about to bring the curtain down on Klitgord Center Auditorium and other facilities in preparation for construction of a new state-of-the-art academic building to begin next year. However, with all that we have to boast about, providing our 15,399 students with a first-rate education and an engaging academic environment remains our top priority.

You can help us maintain our high standards for tomorrow's scholars by remembering City Tech in your estate plan. As you think about your intentions, you'll find our brochure, *Eleven Things To Remember*, a valuable reminder of estate planning basics and our booklet, *How To Make A Will That Works*, which offers valuable information that will be helpful to you as you plan for the long-term distribution of your property to family, friends and charitable interests, especially in light of recent tax law changes that may result in more freedom as you decide how your property is ultimately distributed.

Contact us at foundation@citytech.cuny.edu or write to us at City Tech Foundation, 300 Jay Street, Namm Hall 323, Brooklyn, NY 11201 to request your copies.

YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Thank you for your support of New York City College of Technology! Gifts to City Tech directly benefit our extraordinary students and scholars, who come to City Tech to avail themselves of the unique educational opportunities that only we can offer, from our renowned faculty to our innovative schools and programs.

City Tech relies on its dedicated community of alumni, parents, friends,

faculty, staff and administrators to help make possible its continued excellence. Gifts to City Tech support financial aid and scholarships, allow us to recruit and retain a world-class faculty, to build and renovate state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories, and so much more.

Regardless of where you direct your support, your gift will truly make a difference.

PHONATHON

In the heart of City Tech lies a room that comes alive each evening with the energy and excitement of students. These students gather nightly during the fall and spring semesters on the third floor of Namm Hall to reach out to alumni and other friends of the College across the nation. Their mission is to increase Annual Giving participation and strengthen ties with those who are not able to regularly visit the campus. As a matter of fact, these students are the key element in increasing

unrestricted support essential to City Tech's continued success.

Our student callers are committed to helping maintain and enhance the City Tech experience for today and tomorrow's students. They value the quality education they receive at City Tech, and they realize the life-long advantages that it provides. So when you see City Tech on your Caller ID, pick up the phone and, at the very least, update our alumni records and let us know how you can give back to your alma mater.

Who's NEWS?

Works of sculpture titled "Transfiguration to Hope" by Advertising Design and Graphic Arts Professor **Bernard Aptekar** were exhibited at Miejska Galeria Sztuki in Lodz, Poland, in September 2009. The exhibit is a narrative on Polish life and culture and the valiant struggle of the Polish people for autonomy and independence.

Assistant Professor **Oleg Berman**, Physics, presented "Bose-Einstein Condensation of Quasiparticles in Graphene," at the Nano and Giga Conference held in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, August 10-14, 2009.

Former Chief Librarian and College Archivist **Catherine Veronica Tyler Brody** died at the age of 81 on Friday, September 4, 2009. She served for 30 years as a professor and administrator, and was the author of several books on the history of printing.

Distinguished Hungarian Philosopher and Fulbright Scholar **István Bujalos** is teaching at City Tech this fall as a visiting professor. He is director and associate professor of the Department of Philosophy at the University of Debrecen, Hungary, and formerly served as the college's dean of faculty of humanities and social sciences

Assistant Professor **Jean Claude '96**, Hospitality Management, and culinary arts students treated hundreds of Downtown Brooklyn office workers and other passers-by to a tasting of Warm Eggplant with Garlic, Tomato and Basil on Brushetta at a Cooks in the Market foodfest held in Columbus Park near Borough Hall on September 24, 2009.

Assistant Professors **Candy Dato** and **Peggy Rafferty** together with Adjunct Assistant Professor **Kevin McGirr**, and more than 20 Department of Nursing students joined other nursing students from across the country in lobbying for healthcare reform in the nation's capital during summer break.

Assistant Professor **Ann Delikan**, Humanities, presented "Getting Dependent Feet to Toe the Line: Asymmetrical Application of Segmental Processes in Malay" at the CUNY Linguistics Colloquium held at the CUNY Graduate Center on September 17, 2009.

Retired Acting Dean of Continuing Education **James A. Goldman** authored a guest article on "Why We Don't Say Shanath Tovath" for the "On Language" column of the October 9, 2009, edition of *The Jewish Daily Forward*.

College Laboratory Technicians **Calvin Grace** and **Chi Jau Yuan** have been recommended to the CUNY Board of Trustees for promotion to the rank of Senior College Laboratory Technician, effective January 1, 2010.

Computer Engineering Technology Professor **Iem Heng** accompanied students **Sandor Bocz**, **Michael Hernandez** and **David Ruffins** to Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts, on November 7 and 8, 2009. The three students were selected to participate in the WPI's 1st Annual Robotics Innovations Competition & Conference (RICC). The students designed and built a five-fingered robotic prototype that mimics the finger movements of a controlling human wearing a wireless glove and sensor strapped to the human's arm.

Professor **Roman Kezerashvili**, chair of the Department of Physics, presented "Baryons in the Field Correlator Method," at the 10th International Conference on the Intersections of Particle and Nuclear Physics held in San Diego, California, May 26-31, 2009, "Deviations from Keplerian Orbits for Solar Sails" at the 6th International Academy of Astronautics Symposium on Realistic Near-Term Advanced Scientific Space Missions held in Aosta, Italy,

In Memoriam

Lenny Eylinkrig '95

Alumnus and Adjunct Lecturer
Department of Hospitality Management

The City Tech community was saddened to learn of the untimely death of Hospitality Management alumnus and Adjunct Lecturer Lenny Eylinkrig '95 on September 19, 2009. In addition to teaching at City Tech, he served as director of services for the La Guardia Airport Marriott.

Eylinkrig was one of two Greenburgh, NY, residents killed in unrelated incidents over a two-day period.

"This certainly is a difficult time for the students, faculty and staff of the hospitality management department," retired department chair Francisco J. Betancourt wrote to the College community in a moving tribute to his former student and colleague. "He was an exceptional student, a fantastic teacher and a very dedicated member of the hospitality industry. I valued him as a friend who would always be available to offer a kind word or helping hand. Lenny loved his students and

found so many of them employment and opportunities to intern in various positions throughout the industry. He made those who performed tasks which others would never want to be involved with proud of their accomplishments. The College, department, hospitality industry, and his family and friends have a very special person looking out for all of us in Heaven."

The Eylinkrig family has established The Lenny Eylinkrig Memorial Library at Congregation Sons of Israel in the Bronx. For more information about the library, call 718.231.6213.

July 6-10, 2009, and "A Four-Electron Artificial Atom in the Hyperspherical Function Method" at the 19th International Conference on Few-Body Problems in Physics held in at the University of Bonn, Bonn, Germany, August 31-September 5, 2009.

Sixteen drawings (pencil on gessoed wood panel) by Advertising Design and Graphic Arts Adjunct Lecturer **Joe LoGuirato** that showcased historically significant structures in Queens were on exhibit at the Bayside Historical Society through November 1, 2009.

Assistant Professor Gregory Matloff, Physics, presented a paper, "NEOs as Stepping Stones to Mars and Near-Earth Asteroids," at the 6th International Academy of Astronautics Symposium on Realistic Near-Term Advanced Scientific Space Missions held in Aosta, Italy, in July 6-10, 2009. The paper was co-authored by **Monika Wilga**, a former student in Professor Matloff's astronomy classes.

Assistant Professor Justin Vazquez-Poritz, Physics, presented "Escape Trajectories of Solar Sails and General Relativity" at the 6th International Academy of Astronautics Symposium on Realistic Near-Term Advanced Scientific Space Missions held in Aosta, Italy, from July 6-10, 2009, and "Strings on AdS Wormholes" at the 6th International Symposium on Quantum Theory and Symmetries 6 held at the University of Kentucky from July 20-25, 2009.

Professor Robert Russo, chair of the Department of Vision Care Technology, was honored with the Dennis Tilley Educator of the Year Award by the American Board of Opticianry-National Contact Lens Examiners at the organization's annual conference held earlier this year in Cincinnati.

Assistant Professor of History Geoff D. Zylstra lectured on "The Rise and Fall of Coney Island: A Story of Industrial and Post-Industrial Consumption" as part of St. Francis College's Lecture Series "Brooklyn Observed: History, Politics, Culture," on September 22, 2009.

Class ACT!

Nooria Nodrat '09



Nooria Nodrat and her friendly guide dog, "Yahoo," were a familiar presence at City Tech during the years Nooria worked toward a baccalaureate degree in human services. Having faced severe challenges in her life that would have broken most other people, Nooria has emerged stronger and with a will and ability to help others that have fueled a fierce ambition to realize the

most difficult of goals. Now pursuing graduate studies to prepare her for a career in clinical psychology, Nooria recently made another dream come true by establishing a foundation to assist blind women and children in her native Afghanistan.

She immigrated to the United States in 1991, after losing both her husband and brother to the ravages of that war-torn land. Initially forced to leave her two children behind, she eventually brought them to Flushing, where she lived at the time before moving to Long Island City.

Then, in 1997, Nooria was robbed of her eyesight on a New York City subway train after a drug-addicted teenage girl repeatedly punched her in the head, inflicting such extensive damage that it was necessary for doctors to remove both of her eyes. In Afghanistan, her husband and older brother had been blind, and Nooria had worked as a proofreader for the Institute of the Blind and learned Braille, an ability that would serve her well in her own later struggle.

Countless New Yorkers read about her courage and determination in a widely published profile that appeared in the regional media as she trained to participate in the 2006 New York City Marathon. The city read about her again in an October 2007 *New York Post* feature, "Blind Devotion," that both recounted the many tragedies she had endured and overcome and announced her nomination for the News Corporation's 2007 Liberty Medal for Freedom, an award she won. Her life in the aftermath of the losses she has experienced was captured in a documentary, *New York Nooria: An American Journey*, which premiered in New York City in January 2009.

Volunteer Opportunities

Why volunteer?

City Tech alumni are vital members of their communities; many leave an impressive mark because of the character, dedication and talent they developed here. Their experience, skills, resources and just plain enthusiasm have had an impact on the College.

Here are some ways you can be part of the action

- Volunteer to mentor a student
- Speak at alumni and/or student workshops
- Serve on Alumni Association Board committees
- Help out with reunions, events, public relations and strategic planning
- Help out with the annual Phonathon

Yes! I want to volunteer!

Call 718.260.5006 or

email: alumni@citytech.cuny.edu

City Tech Alumni Relations Office, 300 Jay Street, N-322, Brooklyn, NY 11201



Connections
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Brooklyn, New York 11201

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