
CUNY BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

MENTORGRAM

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An occasional communication with colleagues serving as mentors to CUNY Baccalaureate students.

PROFILES OF JUST A FEW OF THE MANY OUTSTANDING JUNE 2000 GRADUATES

CALVIN B. ALDERMAN's dual areas of concentration were *Public Policy* and *Disability Studies*; his faculty mentors were Prof. Obasegun Awolabi, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Medgar Evers and Dean Deborah Shanley, of Brooklyn College's Education School. Mr. Alderman took his area courses at Medgar Evers, Brooklyn, New York City Technical and Queens Colleges. At Medgar Evers, he served as President of the Differently Abled Student Association, President of Student Government, and Vice Chair of the University Faculty Senate CUNY Disabled Students; he also serves on the Board of Directors of the NYS Independent Living Council. Mr. Alderman is applying to the Queens College Urban Studies M.A. program. "As a public advocate for people with disabilities," he writes, "I will work directly with urban communities to assist in implementing public policies and programs that will ensure that the needs and concerns of this class are addressed."

GERARD GRILLO's area of concentration was *Disability Studies* (combining courses from the Education, Psychology and Physical Education at Brooklyn College); his mentor was Prof. Margaret Waters, Education, Brooklyn. A 42-year old father of two school-age children, Mr. Grillo works for the NYC Board of Education as a Travel Trainer for disabled students in District 75 (Citywide Program) working out of the School for the Deaf. He is a Smith Fellow, a Kennedy Fellow and a member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation. Mr. Grillo is one of the first fifty para-professionals to receive a year of funding from the NYC Board of Education/UFT Paraprofessionals-to-Teachers Pilot Program. Mr. Grillo, a Summa Cum Laude graduate, is the recipient also of the CUNY Baccalaureate Alumni Scholarship, the Brooklyn College Alumni/Barbara Ring Award, and the Brooklyn College Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Award. In Fall 2000, he will enter Brooklyn College's Special Education graduate program.

LAURA HATTEN attended Hunter, Borough of Manhattan Community, and New York City Technical Colleges before she entered the CUNY BA/BS Program in 1998. From 1981 to 1998, she worked at Dow Jones & Co. in Advertising Services. In the Program she concentrated in *Information Technology*, taking most of her courses at Baruch and completing a thesis on the study of distance education and how web-based platforms affect a diverse audience. Her mentor was Prof. Russell Griemsmann, Chair of Computer Systems at N.Y.C. Tech. Upon graduating Summa Cum Laude and with a CUNY BA/BS Alumni Association Scholarship, she was accepted (with Fellowships) to the Instructional Technology Ph.D. programs at Columbia and N.Y.U.; however, she accepted the CUNY Graduate Center's offer to enter the Ph.D. computer science program, saying "this program will give me a better foundation in the fundamentals that give rise to information technology." She is in the CUNY Pipeline Program for Careers in College Teaching and Research.

The father of two young children, **WILLIAM C. HOPKINS**, says that while his "love affair with creative writing is a long standing one," his interest in classic literature (as opposed to best sellers) developed while in college. Mentored by Prof. William F. Browne of Brooklyn College, he concentrated in *Creative Writing and American Literature*. While in the Program Mr. Hopkins received 6 CLEP credits (credit by exam) in U.S. History and 14 life experience credits based upon the extensive portfolio he put together reflecting his 22 years as a court officer in the Brooklyn Supreme Court where he is now Senior Court Office Sergeant for the Administrative Judge's Office. He is the recipient of the Thomas W. Smith Academic Fellowship, the Harry and Lily Karansky Scholarship and a CUNY Baccalaureate Program Alumni Scholarship; he is also a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society. Mr. Hopkins will enter Brooklyn College's Master's Program in English in Fall 2000.

Born in London, England, **SHARRON L. JONES**'s *African Design* concentration was supervised by her mentors, Prof. John Moyibi Amoda, Political Science, City College and Prof. Michi Itami, Art, City College. Ms. Jones took courses in Black Studies and Art, and completed an internship in ceramics with the City College Art Department in which she is made tiles and designed kitchen items. Her main objective in this Program was to incorporate an Afrocentric aesthetic into her expanding sense of design. Prior to entering the Program, Ms. Jones took courses at John Jay College and Parsons School of Design. She is the mother of a nine-year old daughter and runs her own design company, Zion Enterprises and

an art school for underprivileged children , Zion School of Arts. Ms. Jones hopes to attend law school in the near future.

Before entering this Program, **ALMA JIMENEZ** took courses at Harriman College and Baruch College. As a CUNY Baccalaureate student, Ms. Jimenez focused on dual areas: *International Politics* and *Puerto Rican History* with mentors Prof. Louis Bolce, Political Science, Baruch and Prof. David Traverzo Galarza, Black and Hispanic Studies, Baruch. She enrolled in classes at Hunter, Baruch, and Queens Colleges and completed two independent studies, one looking at Pentecostal religion and its relationship to the Puerto Rican Culture and one evaluating the lives of some of the most prominent leaders in Puerto Rican history and politics. She took a leave during the Program to give birth to and care for her child who is now 2 ½ years old. She has worked as a Production Specialist evaluating and mastering software packages for her company. Ms. Jimenez is considering applying to graduate school within the next couple of years.

LEONAITASI KULUNI graduated Magna Cum Laude with a dual area of concentration in *International Affairs* and *Demography*. His mentors were Prof. Cynthia Roberts, Political Science, Hunter, and Professor Phillip Kasinitz, Sociology, Hunter. Originally from the Island of Tonga, an independent monarchical Kingdom in the South Pacific Ocean, Mr. Kuluni was granted a scholarship to study at the University of Hawaii (taking courses at Manoa and Hilo) and then came to Hunter College as an exchange student. In the CUNY BA/BS Program he did several independent studies of note: in Tonga, he conducted a demographic study of the Tongan population in Hawaii. This study received an A+ from the summer program at the University of Pennsylvania. He also researched the Fijian diaspora around the world and he completed an internship at the Fijian mission to the United Nations. Among many other awards, Mr. Kuluni received the Pacific Island Development Program Award and a Mellon Foundation Grant.

YASUKO NAGASAWA started college 40 years ago at the Junior College of Engineering, Chiba University, Japan. She came to the United States in 1984 and entered the CUNY Baccalaureate Program in 1996. Under the tutelage of her faculty mentor, Prof. Emily Braun, Hunter, her area of concentration, *20th Century Art History and Criticism*, included courses at both Hunter and Baruch as well as two independent studies. In one independent study, she translated Dr. Meyer Shapiro's essays on contemporary art into Japanese. Ms. Nagasawa considers Shapiro to be one of the most important art historians of the 20th century. Her other independent study included an interview with two Japanese artists: On Kawara and Yayoi Kusama, who moved to New York after World War II; they have been quite influential in the international art world. In addition to directing art exhibitions in New York and Japan, she has been asked to lecture at several universities in Tokyo and will be writing about the New York art scene for the Ryukyuo Shinpo newspaper.

KRISTINA ZAREMBA called her area of concentration *Marketing Perspectives within the Social Sciences*. Before entering the Program, she took courses at Western Michigan University, Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College and Hunter College. Ms. Zaremba asserts that "businesses will need individuals with the ability to see the consumer with fresh eyes and varied backgrounds. This is why I am attracted to studying sociology and anthropology and the connection these subjects have with marketing." She chose Prof. Barry Rosen, Marketing, Baruch and Prof. Susan Lees, Anthropology, Hunter as her mentors. Her concentration included courses in Marketing, Sociology, Anthropology, and Psychology. Her final area course was an independent study with Professor Rosen that resulted in a paper pulling together these disciplines and analyzing her area of concentration.

After a year at Hunter in 1940, **MIRIAM G. WOLFSON** attended college sporadically. In 1996 she returned to Hunter and later joined the CUNY Baccalaureate Program saying: "At the age of 74, I decided to return to college in order to complete my degree. I had a successful career as an accountant for 43 years but always bemoaned the fact that I had not completed my degree. As a young woman, I had dreams of becoming a physician. With my family's negative attitude toward a woman becoming a doctor, my education was not a priority, the pursuit of my goals was not encouraged. I left school, began working and never stopped until my retirement. Along the way, I always enrolled in classes, some matriculated, some not, but always with the goal of expanding my knowledge base. My thirst for exposure to ideas and learning has always stayed with me. Now, with the gift of luxury of time, I can pursue a life-long interest in psychology." Her area of concentration has been *Psychology* under the mentorship of Profs. Robert Fried and Vita Rabinowitz. Ms. Wolfson, a member of Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology, will enter the Master's in Social Work program at Hunter College in Fall 2000.