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**FACULTY DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

**Dr. Harriet Shenkman**  
Faculty Director  
Center for Teaching Excellence

We are looking forward to a number of new initiatives. In June, thirteen faculty from Hostos, Lehman, and Bronx will study historic and literary figures in the Hall of Fame for Great Americans with distinguished guest scholars under the sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Plans are underway for CTE Week as well. We are extremely fortunate to have Stacy Schiff as guest speaker. She will speak about the subject of her latest book, Benjamin Franklin. Not only is she a Pulitzer Prize winner, but she has just won the prestigious Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Eight faculty from five different disciplines and counselors will be gearing up for a newly invigorated effort to form a model learning community for entering freshman. The faculty will be engaged in collaborative inquiry about how best to engage, retain, and increase the learning outcomes of students.

A new "Technology Enhancement" program (pending funding) will integrate pedagogy and technology. Twelve faculty will study the work of the National Center for Case Study Teaching in Science at the University of Buffalo, problem-based learning models, and cognitive apprenticeship models. They will create digital modules to be used in their classes to enhance students' engagement and critical thinking in the disciplines. The emphasis will be on using technology-based tools to think in new ways.

Lastly, and at long last, we will have the opportunity to welcome faculty to our new CTE Center in Philosophy Hall. We are scheduling the ribbon-cutting ceremony during CTE Week on November 6. We hope you will join us in our celebration.



**Upcoming CTE Events**

**New Faculty Orientation:**  
August 29, 10am-3pm

**CTE Center Opening:**  
November 6, 10am-Noon

**CTE Week:**  
November 6-10  
Guest Speaker:  
Pulitzer Prize Winner:  
Stacy Schiff

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***Andrew Delbanco***



**Guest Speaker At NEH Hall of Fame Seminars**

CTE was awarded a prestigious NEH grant to conduct faculty development around the theme of the Hall of Fame for Great Americans. Dr. Delbanco, a noted scholar and social critic from Columbia University, and Dr. Joseph Marbach, professor of Political Science from Seton Hall University will be guest scholars.



### Faculty Technology Showcase

**Bruce Rosenblom**  
CTE Asst. Director

In March 2006, CTE and the TLTR Committees co-sponsored the first of a series of faculty technology showcases. This event demonstrated how technology can be creatively and effectively used to improve teaching and student outcomes at BCC. About 20 persons attended the showcase, which will hopefully inspire and motivate others at BCC to use technology in productive and exciting new ways.

Four professors presented engaging and informative discussion on topics ranging from PC tablets (Jordi Getman), to editing student papers with Word Markup (Steven Powers), to Collaborations within the Chemistry department (Anthony Durante) to Podcasting (Charles Alston).

### Professor Elizabeth H. Smith Wins 2006 NY Times Award

We congratulate Professor Elizabeth H. Smith (Assistant Professor, English Department) on being awarded the 2006 Innovative Teaching Award from the NY Times League for Innovation. Professor Smith was one of 10 professors sponsored by CTE to participate in the NY Times Media Across the Curriculum program. According to the awards press release, *"Smith was chosen for this award because of the creative way she used various sources, including The New York Times, which contextualized, enriched, and developed students' understanding of themes in ways that would otherwise have been impossible."*



### Title V Update

**Mitchell Wenzel**  
Title V Director

This September 2006 we begin our final year of the Title V Cooperative Grant with Lehman College. The CTE Center in the lower level of Philosophy Hall has been completed and is in the process of being equipped with computers, laptops, software and other technology equipment. This new facility should be up and running sometime during the fall semester.



Art Zuckerman and Susan Zuckerman (not in photo) conducted a tour of the Hall of Fame for students. (Photo by Bryant Mason)



### Hall of Fame Event: April 5

**Dr. Joseph Todaro,**  
Asst. Professor  
Dept. of Education and Reading

The Hall of Fame of Great Americans was the site of yet another CTE celebration on April 5, 2006. Students, faculty and invited guests attended a celebration of America's first Hall of Fame. Opening the morning program, CTE Faculty Director, Dr. Harriet Shenkman, hailed the Hall of Fame as a landmark that "connects us to the past and allows us to contemplate our place in the future."

All those who attended were treated to a number of educational and entertaining events, including a tour of the Hall. The tour was conducted by the resident Hall of Fame historians, Susan and Art Zuckerman, who offered not only a history of the Hall and the building which houses it, but a number of amusing anecdotes about the great Americans commemorated there. The ensuing events included video displays highlighting some of the many films that have used the Hall of Fame for location shooting, as well as a dramatic presentation by the members of the BCC Speech, Drama, and Debate Team with their choral readings of Edgar Allan Poe's "Annabel Lee" and "The Tell-Tale Heart."

The day's events culminated in an afternoon faculty development workshop on Aesthetic Education led by Holly Fairbank (Lincoln Center Institute) and Dr. Amanda Gulla (Lehman College). The Planning Committee included Susan Amper, Vaso Thomas, Ellen Mareneck, and Melissa Kirk.



### Blackboard Usage Up

**Jerry Simotas**

Educational Technology Director  
Center for Teaching Excellence

We have experienced a considerable increase in the number of courses offered in Blackboard (Bb). A jump from 38 Bb courses in the fall 2005 to 102 in spring 2006 is impressive. Concurrent with overall Bb usage has been an increase in fully online and hybrid courses which have increased from 7 in 2002, to 16 in 2003, to 18 in 2004, to 23 in 2005 and estimated to reach 30 by the end of 2006.

These statistics indicate that our faculty is becoming increasingly more adept in the technology and pedagogical tools of Bb to complement their teaching.

**Note:** All faculty thinking of doing a hybrid/asynchronous (H/A) course in the fall should fill out the DNL form on the CUNY website as soon as possible.



Part of the Hall of Fame Celebration was a poetry reading from the BCC Speech, Drama and Debate Team led by Professor Ellen Mareneck. (Photo by Bryant Mason)



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