

**Remarks for Honors Center Celebration  
November 8, 2011  
The Great Hall**

Thank you for that kind introduction, Shelly.

Ladies and gentleman, I am delighted to welcome you to The Great Hall of The City College of New York to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the City College Honors Center as well as the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Macaulay Honors College at City College. They have established their place among City College's crown jewels.

When the Honors Center was established, it served only 151 students. The freshman cohort that year had 22 students in Macaulay Honors College and 33 in the City College Honors Program. Now, the Center serves around 370 students, and this year's entering class has 72 Honors College Students and 56 in the Honors Program.

The Honors Center has also played a vital role preparing many of City College's best and brightest to apply for prestigious national scholarships. Over the past decade, City College students have earned four Goldwater Scholarships, five Truman Scholarships, two Javits Fellowships and two Rhodes Scholarships plus many other prestigious awards.

If you could imagine we were in a sports arena instead of The Great Hall, hanging from the ceiling would be jerseys bearing names like “Sviridov,” “Bauer,” “Simpkins,” “Gomez,” “Wolf,” “Rhodes,” “Oti” and “Ho.”

Superstar students like these have been at the forefront of the resurgence not only of City College but also for all of CUNY. Their presence has enriched academic life across the campus, to the benefit of their fellow students and their professors.

Tonight, we look forward to what will undoubtedly be a lively discussion with Dr. Burton Richter, 1976 Nobel Laureate in Physics, and author of “Beyond Smoke and Mirrors: Energy and Climate Change in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” and William Macaulay, benefactor of Macaulay Honors College.

They will be questioned by three City College Honors alumni: Gary Chan, Sara Elzeftawy [el-zef-TOW (rhymes with cow)-ee] and Trevor Hauser [HOW-zer] – as well as a current Honors Senior, Ayodole [eye-oh-DOE-lee] Oti [OH-tee]. ~~After the program, Dr. Richter will sign copies of his book.~~

Before we continue, I want to acknowledge and ask to rise the  
Dean of Macaulay Honors College, Dr. Anne Kirschner.

[PAUSE UNTIL SHE IS SEATED]

Now I would like all the honors students and alumni who are here  
to please rise to be recognized.

[PAUSE UNTIL THEY ARE SEATED]

Now it is my great pleasure to call to the podium the person  
whose outstanding leadership has made The City College Honors Center  
the success that it has become, Robin Villa, Director of Honors.

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