Lillias White made her Broadway debut in *Barnum* in 1981, and for the past 30 years this Emmy- and Tony-awarding Brooklyn native has thrilled audiences with a voice that recalls both Bessie Smith and Barbara Streisand, but is fully her own.

Ms. White understudied for the role of Effie in the original 1981 production of *Dreamgirls*, only to play the role in the 1987 revival, winning the Drama League Award for Best Featured Actress in a Musical. The list of her Broadway performances – in *Cats, Rock’ N’ Roll: The First 5000 Years, Carrie, Once on This Island, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, Chicago and Hair* – reads like the roll-call of some of the great American musicals. Her most remarkable role was in *The Life* that won her a Tony, a Drama Desk, and an Outer Critics Circle Awards for her portrayal of a prostitute. For her most remarkable role, as the world-weary and streetwise hooker Sonja in *The Life*, Ms. White won the Tony, Drama Desk, and Outer Critics Circle Awards; her performance of “The Oldest Profession” received standing ovations nightly. Most recently, Ms. White earned a Tony-nomination for her performance in the Broadway musical *FELA!* in the role of Fela’s mother, Funmilayo Anikulapo-Kuti.

Her off-Broadway credits include the Public Theater production of the William Finn musical *Romance in Hard Times*, which won her an Obie Award; *Dinah Was*, in which she portrayed the legendary blues and jazz singer Dinah Washington; *The Vagina Monologues, South Pacific, Purlie* and *Crowns*. Her national tours include *Ain’t Misbehavin’* and *The Wiz* and she toured internationally with her one-woman show *From Brooklyn to Broadway*. She has raised the rafters in performances at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center. Lillias White has appeared in numerous in films and television shows – including a five-year stretch on *Sesame Street*, and in the PBS Great Performances presentation of *South Pacific*.

An incredible actress and songstress at the peak of her profession, Lillias White is also dedicated to New York City and the Harlem community, and has performed and taught at City College. She was awarded the Townsend Harris Medal from the City College Alumni Association in 1999. She has touched the lives of countless people through the power of her art, and The City College of New York is proud to nominate her for Doctorate of Fine Arts, *honoris causa*. 
THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
2014 HONORARY DEGREE NOMINEE FOR

Doctor of Humane Letters

MILLARD DREXLER

CEO, J. Crew

Millard (Mickey) Drexler began his college career at City College before transferring to SUNY Buffalo and Boston University, yet he never forgot where he came from. Even today, as Chairman and CEO of the J Crew Group, Drexler is committed to hiring people from humble backgrounds, much like City College students, rather than those who have grown up with a feeling of entitlement because of personal wealth or advantage. He is famous for prizing hard work and emotional intelligence, and seeks these qualities in his staff.

The son of a button-buyer born and raised in the Bronx Drexler grew up sleeping in the foyer of his family’s apartment. “I always wished I had a bedroom,” he told CNBC Correspondence David Faber.

Drexler’s retail career began at Bloomingdales in 1968, shortly after which he moved onto become president of Ann Taylor. Noting his successful recreation of this previously dull shop, Gap Inc.’s legendary founder Donald Fisher soon recruited Drexler to run the chain, where Drexler engineered one of the great turnarounds in retail history. His reinvention of Gap Inc.’s Banana Republic stores and the launch of Old Navy proved to be strokes of genius; in 19 years, Drexler took Gap Inc. from $400 million to $14 billion in annual revenue, and from 450 to more than 2,000 stores. Drexler’s keen sense of how the average American lives, shops and dresses, translated to the retail floor, distinguished Gap Inc. from its competitors. Then in 2003, Mickey Drexler began his greatest retail transformation to date: with more than 300 stores and nearly $2 billion in sales, J Crew has moved from an uninspired, lackluster brand to a fashion force. Here, too, his hands-on style, emphasis on access and open communication, and clear focus contribute to his company’s success and lucrative extensions.

Drexler has served as a Director for Apple Inc., Common Sense Media, and Teach for America. He was honored at CCNY’s 2012 Presidential Gala, and has established a student scholarship and internship fund for City College students.

Mickey Drexler’s commitment to expose students to leaders is dear to his heart, stemming from a particularly impressionable childhood visit by Eleanor Roosevelt to his elementary school. “The man who dressed America” has this message for our students: “The qualities that make people successful are hard work, doing the best you can do, taking risks, getting a college diploma, and always looking forward. When you get kicked a bit, get up and keep moving.” The City College of New York is proud to nominate him for Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa.
THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK
2014 HONORARY DEGREE NOMINEE FOR

Doctor of Science

HENRY PERAHIA BE MECH ’71, ME MECH ’73
Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation

An alumnus of the Grove School of Engineering at The City College of New York, Deputy Commissioner Perahia is responsible for the planning and administration of all aspects of design, construction and maintenance of 787 City-owned bridges and tunnels. His outstanding achievements in the fields of mechanical engineering and transportation have been recognized by the Sloan foundation and, on two occasions, by the White House.

For the first 11 years of his career, Perahia worked for private consultants in the planning, licensing, designing, constructing and operating of large industrial facilities. In 1983, he left the private sector to work for the NYC Department of Sanitation, when he became the Director of Engineering for the Bureau of Waste Disposal. In 1989 Perahia joined the Department of Transportation as the Director of Engineering Management for the Bureau of Transit Operations, and rose through the ranks to become the Department’s Chief Engineer and Chief Bridge Officer.

Perahia’s uniquely distinguished service and dedication to New York City was demonstrated after the unprecedented damage to the city’s infrastructure on September 11, 2001. The highest ranking engineer at the DOT, he immediately initiated rescue efforts at the Ground Zero by dispatching the first ironworkers and electricians, and spent months on-site personally supervising their work. In the wake of the attacks, he has continues to serve as the DOT’s security coordinator with the NYC Police Department and the US Department of Homeland Security; his portfolio ranges from long-range planning to strengthening structures against attacks, to more immediate concerns, such as assessing the safety of the Brooklyn Bridge after police officers on patrol notice an open gate to a stairway. His work earned him the 2011 Sloan Public Service Award for Distinguished Service to New York City. In addition, Perahia was selected by the White House in 2012 as a Champion of Change for his oversight of a $157 million project that included the rehabilitation of eight NYC vehicular and one pedestrian bridges and improving commuter access to the Staten Island Ferry Terminal.

Henry Perahia was recognized as a CCNY Chapter Honor Member in 2010 by the Chi Epsilon National Civil Engineering Honor Society for his dedicated work with City’s students to further their education, and the College is proud to nominate him for a Doctorate of Science, honoris causa.