Richard McCoy Named CUNY Distinguished Professor

“I knew when I read King Lear in high school that I wanted to teach,” says McCoy, who attributes his youthful, grad-studentish appearance to the fact that “I never lost my enthusiasm.” A Californian who earned his BA at Stanford and PhD at the University of California–Berkeley, he headed east in 1975 when Columbia University hired his wife for a position in Chinese literature. Four years later, McCoy came to QC. He has been here ever since, commuting to Flushing from Manhattan’s Upper West Side.

Early in his career, one factor that kept him from moving was the difficulty of coordinating his and his wife’s jobs. But over time, he grew a transplant’s sturdy roots. “Our kids loved it here,” McCoy reports. “New York is a great place to raise children—expensive, but great. And I really do love being at QC. The students are smart and ambitious self-starters who don’t feel entitled. I have wonderful colleagues.”

His affiliation with the CUNY Graduate Center, where he began teaching in the 1980s, and his involvement with the city’s theatre community, proved equally rewarding. “I love CUNY for the same reasons I loved Berkeley, both large public institutions: I enjoy such varieties of points of view and perspective,” he says.

A relative latecomer to the Shakespearean field—he originally focused on the poets Philip Sidney and Edmund Spenser—McCoy made the shift with his third book, Alterations of State: Sacred Kingship in the English Reformation, followed by the ambiguously titled Faith in Shakespeare. This research prompted invitations to lead academic workshops and participate in talkbacks with cast members and directors at the Public Theater and other noted stages. In addition to his many responsibilities at QC, McCoy chairs the council of scholars for the Theatre for a New Audience. “My work with actors and directors is a great blessing,” he observes.

Of his latest distinguished title, McCoy says, “I feel valorized to keep doing what I’m doing. I love my teaching, enjoy the writing, and want to continue my scholarship. And I am really grateful for the support I received from the college.”
CBNS Receives $8 Million to Screen Health of Nuclear Weapons Workers

The Center for the Biology of Natural Systems (CBNS) will receive funding of $8.168 million from the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) to renew its national occupational disease screening program for nuclear weapons workers. The funding covers the period from February 1, 2014, to January 31, 2015. Queens College undertakes the medical screening program, known as the Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP), in conjunction with the United Steelworkers and the Atomic Trades and Labor Council labor unions and regional medical providers.

The Worker Health Protection Program has two goals. The first is to detect work-related illnesses at an early stage when medical intervention can be the most helpful. The second is to provide an occupational medicine evaluation that may help workers obtain compensation through the Energy Employees Occupational Compensation Program, which Congress established in 2000 for DOE workers with occupationally related illnesses.

Queens College has provided free medical screening to over 30,000 nuclear weapons workers since it founded WHPP in 1998. The college offers screening to former workers from 13 DOE nuclear facilities in New York, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Nevada, California, and Idaho. The program utilizes physicians trained in occupational medicine to identify work-related conditions such as asbestos, chronic pulmonary obstructive disease, cancer, hearing loss, and chronic beryllium disease, all of which can be caused by the toxic substances used in a wide range of occupational activities throughout the DOE complex.

WHPP has scanned over 12,000 workers, making it one of the largest occupational lung cancer-screening programs in the world. Since 2000, Queens College has pioneered the use of low-dose computed tomography scanning for the early detection of occupational lung cancer among DOE workers who were exposed to asbestos, radiation beryllium, and other lung carcinogens. To date, WHPP has found over 100 lung cancers, with three-quarters in early and treatable stages.

CBNS Director STEVEN MARKOWITZ stated, “We are pleased that the Department of Energy continues to support the work that we do. More importantly, we are gratified that we are able to help so many people understand the truth about how their work might have affected their health. We are especially proud of how many people we have saved from dying of lung cancer, a terrible and lethal disease.”

NATIONAL JEWISH BOOK AWARD – from page 1

Besides having to contain her excitement in the library, Bemporad was instructed to keep the news secret until the award’s public announcement. “It was supposed to come out the next day, but it actually took two days,” she says. “It was so painful not to tell anybody—although I did tell my husband and my family in Italy, and I did tell my PhD advisor at Stanford.”

Bemporad, who is QC’s Jerry and William Ungar Professor in Eastern European Jewish History and the Holocaust, specializes in the social and cultural history of the Jews of Russia and the Soviet Union. “In terms of scholarship,” she says, “I study the Soviet period, beginning with the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. I mostly focus on the interwar period.”

Becoming Soviet Jews explores the social integration and acculturation into the Soviet system experienced by the Jews of Minsk between the two World Wars. Bemporad spent a year living in the city, now the capital of Belarus, where she says Jews had a long and vibrant history, representing 40 percent of the population until their essential liquidation by the Germans in World War II.

Bemporad explains that the book reflects a major change she experienced while pursuing her PhD at Stanford.

Markowitz

CBNS Receives $8 Million to Screen Health of Nuclear Weapons Workers

WHPP screens personnel from nuclear weapons plants such as Fernald in Ohio (left) and K-25 GDP in Tennessee (above).

Queens College has provided free medical screening to over 30,000 nuclear weapons workers since it founded WHPP in 1998. The college offers screening to former workers from 13 DOE nuclear facilities in New York, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Nevada, California, and Idaho. The program utilizes physicians trained in occupational medicine to identify work-related conditions such as asbestos, chronic pulmonary obstructive disease, cancer, hearing loss, and chronic beryllium disease, all of which can be caused by the toxic substances used in a wide range of occupational activities throughout the DOE complex.

WHPP has scanned over 12,000 workers, making it one of the largest occupational lung cancer-screening programs in the world. Since 2000, Queens College has pioneered the use of low-dose computed tomography scanning for the early detection of occupational lung cancer among DOE workers who were exposed to asbestos, radiation beryllium, and other lung carcinogens. To date, WHPP has found over 100 lung cancers, with three-quarters in early and treatable stages.

CBNS Director STEVEN MARKOWITZ stated, “We are pleased that the Department of Energy continues to support the work that we do. More importantly, we are gratified that we are able to help so many people understand the truth about how their work might have affected their health. We are especially proud of how many people we have saved from dying of lung cancer, a terrible and lethal disease.”
QC Named a 2014 Princeton Review “Best Value College”

The latest feather in Queens College’s cap is being named one of the nation’s “Best Value” colleges by the Princeton Review. The renowned education services company profiles the college in The Best Value Colleges 2014 Edition: The 150 Best-Buy Schools and What It Takes to Get In. Seventy-five public and seventy-five private colleges are designated as best values based on surveys of 2,000 colleges and universities nationwide.

The selection process analyzed school-reported information across more than 30 data points covering academics, cost, and financial aid, as well as data from the Princeton Review’s surveys of students at the schools over the past three academic years.

“It is always rewarding to receive external confirmation of what we in the Queens College community have long known: We provide a top-notch, yet affordably priced education,” says Interim President Evangelos Gizis. “In a still-struggling economy, more families are discovering us as the smart choice—a college that combines excellent academics with superb value, in a richly diverse environment.”

Princeton Review editors say Queens College offers students the chance to get a degree that is “affordable without sacrificing proper education.” They describe courses as “topical and abundant,” with a class schedule that “is flexible enough to accommodate students who work and attend part-time.” Other highlights are the school’s LEED Gold-certified residence hall, the Summit Apartments; internal honors programs; and its participation in the CUNY-wide Macaulay Honors College. Culture plays a central role at the college, with “an impressive fine arts center, three museums, and a venerated reading series that regularly features Nobel Prize-winning authors.”

Alumni Academy Holds First Class

How do you leverage the talents of distinguished QC graduates? Invite them back to campus to share in-depth knowledge of their specialty. That’s the intriguing conclusion of an educational experiment conducted last month by the Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

Former dean of the division “Larry Liebovitch formed an advisory committee of alums,” explains Marc Dichter ’64, emeritus professor of neurology at the University of Pennsylvania. “During one of our meetings, we developed the idea of creating an alumni academy. Liebovitch nominated me to lead the first program.”

Dichter designed the Neurobiology of Disease, a one-week exploration of 12 major neurological and psychiatric conditions. Then Neuroscience Director Ray Johnson and Deputy Director Joshua Brumberg notified mid- and upper-level undergraduates about this unusual opportunity. Fifteen students committed themselves to five long days in Remsen Hall, starting on January 6. To eliminate his commute and maximize his time with students, Dichter stayed in the Summit Apartments. “Very convenient,” he notes.

Dichter assessed the students on class discussion, their participation in a debate about the causes of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, and their evaluation of an unknown case about an autoimmune disorder that had recently been identified at Penn. “I gave the students two questions,” reports Dichter. “What’s the cause of the disease? And how did it cause the symptoms?”

Dichter was delighted with the responses he got. “The students soaked everything up,” he observes. “We had a lot of fun.”

The students agree. “We were able to go into topics that interested us,” says Kumarie Budhu ’16. “Because we didn’t have an exam, we didn’t have that pressure.”

“The course spanned all spectrums, from the cellular and molecular level to systems to treating people,” adds Lauren Blachorsky ’15. “It was an amazing experience. By the end of the week, you got a sense that he knew and cared about everyone.”

QC Observes Women’s History Month with Annual Conference

A term coined in reaction to World War II, genocide is gender neutral. But strategic violence against women has long been a common component in campaigns to destroy an entire ethnic group. Women have also played significant roles as either perpetrators or community defenders. This complicated record is the topic of the 2014 Virginia Frese Palmer Conference, Women and Genocide, taking place at the Student Union on Monday, March 17, at 9 am.

Collectively, eight panelists will review nearly a hundred years of war and its aftermath. Donna-Lee Friese, from New York’s Center for Jewish History, will talk about women’s experience in the Armenian genocide of 1915. New York University history professor Marion Kaplan will discuss the Holocaust’s female victims and resisters, while Claremont McKenna College’s Wendy Lower will focus on the German wives, secretaries, and nurses who abetted the Nazis. More recent conflicts resulted in the targeting of Mayan women in Guatemala in the 1980s, the subject to be explored

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6
Although families are the fundamental building blocks of all human societies, they differ dramatically around the world—not unexpectedly, as values, economics, laws, and social contexts (such as war and peace) vary across nations. In *Handbook of Family Policies Across the Globe* (Springer), MIHAELA ROBILA (FNES) has edited an ambitious collection of scholarly studies focused on ways in which government policies affect families’ material success, emotional well-being, stability, and other qualities. Each contributing author discusses recent research and evaluates policies and outcomes in particular nations. The result is both an up-to-date portrait of people’s often challenging efforts to create fulfilling, sustainable families and a greater critical and comparative understanding of how governments can help or hinder family life.

“Children,” writes ALICE SARDELL (Urban Studies), “have special meaning within the context of U.S. social policy” as they are “viewed as both vulnerable and innocent.” Although Americans support health care for children more than for any other group, U.S. children have poorer health status than children in any other wealthy nation. In *Insuring Children’s Health: Contentious Politics and Public Policy* (Lynne Rienner Publishers), Sardell draws on both archival material and her interviews with policy-makers and children’s advocates to explore the behind-the-scenes processes of expanding health insurance coverage for low-income children, from Medicaid expansions in the 1980s through the creation of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in 1997 and the conflict over its reauthorization in 2007–09. She describes the roles of key members of Congress and the strategies of advocates. She explains opposition to expanding coverage to children in higher income families (and two presidential vetoes) to the desire to maintain ideological boundaries between the private and public sectors of the U.S. health system. The controversy over the reauthorization of SCHIP foreshadowed the current debate over the Affordable Health Care Act and its implementation.

We may be a nation of immigrants, but we are still coming to terms with our multicultural roots, especially in the literary canon. That is a key project of Anthony Tamburri’s *Re-reading Italian Americana: Specificities and Generalities on Literature and Criticism* (Fairleigh Dickinson University Press). In this work, ANTHONY TAMBURRl (Calandra Institute) calls for raising the bar on the study of Italian American literature so as to move it from the margins to the center of American literature. Arguing that literary criticism has been too sentimental and not sufficiently analytical—about, for instance, the bicultural, bilingual character of Italian American writing—he offers his own close readings of three novelists (Pietro di Donato, Mario Puzo, and Luigi Barzini) and three poets (Joseph Tusiani, Maria Mazzioletti Gillan, and Rina Ferrarelli). Tamburri urges a vigorously theoretical approach capable of breaching the comfort zone in which, he believes, Italian American criticism is sidelined.

“I died typing mid-sentence in a T-shirt and boxer shorts in front of my computer.” So begins *The Writers Afterlife* (Three Rooms Press), the latest novel by RICHARD VETERE (Media Studies). Protagonist Tom Chillo passes over to the Writers Afterlife, populated by writers, where he is slated to feel no pain except that of never having achieved fame. Then Tom is given a week to return to his life and try to set the wheels of fame in motion. In this witty novel, Vetere’s ear for dialogue helps him capture the texture, personalities, desires, and anxieties that are the stuff of the professional writer’s life in New York.
In his 44-year career, Warren Phillips ’47 rose from copy editor at the Wall Street Journal to chairman and CEO of its corporate parent, Dow Jones. Institutions throughout the country would have vied for the privilege of housing his archives. But QC won the battle without firing a shot when Phillips contacted the college last year about donating his papers. “Alexandra Dolan-Mescal delivered his FedEx letter to me in class,” recalls BEN ALEXANDER (GSLIS). “I’ve never been so happy for an interruption.”

Appropriately enough, Dolan-Mescal herself got to follow up with Phillips at his Bridgehampton home. “He said he wanted to give this to us because Queens was the only school that would take him when he was a student,” she says. The issue may have been his age. The future journalist had graduated from high school at age 14 and applied to college at 15, after a year at a prep school.

Several semesters after Phillips matriculated at QC, he interrupted his education to serve in World War II. Upon finishing his degree, he sought jobs at every local newspaper; in an echo of his experience with higher education, the only daily willing to hire him was the Wall Street Journal, where he rapidly made his mark.

A collector from childhood, Phillips saved and organized everything, from the newsletter he wrote and illustrated at age 6 or 7, to press passes and expired passports, to correspondence pertaining to his 2011 memoir, Newspaperman: Inside the News Business at The Wall Street Journal. The results are a gold mine for anyone interested in journalism, international affairs—Phillips was among the first set of reporters to go to China after President Richard Nixon met Chairman Mao Zedong in 1972—or related topics.

Dolan-Mescal literally brought the collection to campus aboard her Volvo station wagon. Now 15 linear feet of acid-free boxes are on shelves in Rosenthal Library, awaiting processing. “We will go through each box and preserve its contents,” Dolan-Mescal explains. “For example, we’ll take material out of scrapbooks and put it in acid-free Mylar. We provide alternate copies for researchers.”

They’ll also conduct interviews with Phillips to get background information, so all the items can be identified and given a context. In the final steps, Dolan-Mescal says, “We’ll connect this archive to other collections, and promote it. We want to make sure everyone knows that it’s here.”
QC People

NICHOLAS ALEXIOU (Sociology) was among the writers featured in a National Herald story about a February meeting in Manhattan of the Greek American Writers Association. . .

DOMINICK CARIELLI and JOSEPH GROSSO (Calandra) are the editors of Benessere Psicologico: Contemporary Thought on Italian American Mental Health, volume 7 in Studies on Italian Americana. Grosso also soon will publish the 10th anniversary edition of Il Giornalino, a journal of writing by college and high school students studying Italian . . .

NICHOLAS COCH (SEES) is featured in the CUNY Media production San of Sandy: Bracing for the Next Devastating Hurricane (available on YouTube), which has been nominated for a 2014 New York Emmy Award . . .

Research on hydrofracking by TIMOTHY EATON (SEES) was summarized in the January issue of Science for Environment Policy, a news service of the European Commission. Eaton discusses the limitations of current political decision-making and risk assessment, and argues for use of the precautionary principle (which would mean showing that fracking will not harm the public) . . .

JAMIE LAU (Academic Advising Center) won the LICSPA Award for Creative Program of the Year for her workshops for juniors and seniors. It was presented at the annual conference of the Long Island Council of Student Personnel Administrators, held February 7 at Adelphi University . . .

RYI YAN MA (Macaulay) won the Gilman Award, which will support her studies at Yan Se University in Seoul, Korea . . .

Former President James Muyskens was the subject of NY Senate Resolution K773-2013, adopted January 23, honoring him on the occasion of his retirement . . .

ASHAKI ROUFF (SEES) received $251,152 for “SusChEM: Controls on Struvite Neogenesis and Reactivity in Engineered and Geochemical Systems,” one of the inaugural awards of the National Science Foundation’s Sustainable Chemistry, Engineering and Materials initiative in interdisciplinary green science. She hopes to contribute to efforts to recover and reuse struvite, a mineral by-product found in human and agricultural wastes that represents phosphorous lost during human use as a fertilizer . . .

ANTHONY TAMBURRI (Calandra) published a short essay on Bill de Blasio’s election in Atlas, a bilingual Italian magazine that is carried on the daily Delta/Altitalia flights between New York and Italy. He also recently received the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Teachers of Italian. In the spring he and FRED GARDAPHE (English) will lead a team of U.S. and Italian professors of American studies in a four-day workshop at the Rockefeller Center in Bellagio, Italy . . .

JOHN TYTELL (English) joined Barry Miles in a discussion and QA at the Strand in January, where the topic was Miles’s new biography of William Burroughs, Call Me Burroughs. This can be viewed on YouTube.

Year of Brazil Springs Forward

This semester’s Year of Brazil events promise to bring energy to a campus tiring of winter. Lectures include a series that explores the history and culture of Brazil through its music (March 10 and 24, and April 7). Dates for additional talks, on topics ranging from water policy to the commercialization of the urban slums known as favelas, are still being set.

Visual arts are well represented in the lineup. The distinctive architecture of Brasilia, Brazil’s modernist capital, and Rio de Janeiro, the country’s original capital, is already on display in a virtual photography show, which can be viewed at http://brazil.qc.cuny.edu/gallery. Other exhibitions will take place on campus. On April 7 the QC Art Center will open Os Sertoes: The Land, The Man, The Fight, a group show inspired by journalist Euclides de Cunha’s account of a peasant rebellion and its suppression by the government. Three weeks later, the Godwin-Ternbach Museum will present a solo show by Afro-Brazilian painter and political leader Abdias do Nascimento (April 28).

Programs will be added throughout the semester. For the complete calendar, visit http://brazil.qc.cuny.edu/events.
IN MEMORIAM

MARTIN EISENBERG

Martin Eisenberg (Urban Studies, Sociology, and College Now) died on August 21, 2013, at the age of 73, from complications related to cancer treatment. His survivors include his wife, Rhonda, and their children, Jewlia and Samuel.

After receiving an MA in history from the University of Iowa, Eisenberg worked as a community organizer with the United Community Centers (UCC) in East New York, Brooklyn, for 24 years. For 10 of those years he also directed the summer camp affiliated with the UCC. In 1999 he received a PhD in sociology from the CUNY Graduate Center, writing a dissertation and then journal articles that analyzed the work of the UCC within the context of theories of community organization, race, and urban politics.

Eisenberg brought brilliance, passion, and a commitment to social justice to his scholarship and teaching, and warmth, generosity, and wit to his interactions with students and faculty. He cared deeply about each of his students and worked tirelessly, one on one, helping them to succeed. He would come in often on Saturday (a day he did not teach) to help evening students with their course papers. He was always available and willing to converse, assist, and mentor everyone—from faculty to the cleaning staff. His wry sense of humor, warmth, and passion for knowledge in the service of community empowerment and social justice will be greatly missed.

JUDITH FUCHEL MAHLER

The Queens College community was saddened by the loss of Judith Fuchel Mahler (Secondary Education) this past December. A graduate of Hunter High School and Hunter College, she earned her doctorate in secondary education and psychology at Harvard University. Following work as a psychologist and school psychologist in Connecticut and Massachusetts, she returned to New York City and taught at Queens College for 30 years, from 1957 until her retirement in 1987. She taught clinical, research, and other courses that emphasized a special love for open education and the use of the arts in therapy. She also served as a mental health counselor on campus. Her daughter Rachel recalls that, on the occasion of her own graduation from QC in 1982, her mother was chosen to lead the procession to the commencement ceremony.

GLORIA NEWBERG

Flags on campus were lowered on Thursday, February 6, in honor of Gloria Newberg, a college office assistant who passed away on February 2. For the past 30 years, first in the Bursar’s Office and then in Financial Aid, Newberg worked hard to ensure the careful and smooth handling of students’ financial aid. Rena Smith-Kiawu, director of Financial Aid, describes her as “one of the many unsung heroes here.”

Location, location, location could be the mantra of DIANE LEDERMAN ’87. But she isn’t a real estate agent. She’s the production designer of The Leftovers, an HBO series set to debut this summer. Based on Tom Perrotta’s novel of the same name, the show explores the lives of people left behind after family and friends disappear in the Rapture.

In a one-day February shoot that filled the first floor of Queens Hall with cameras, computers, and a hospital cot, Lederman and her crew turned QH 105 into a psychiatrist’s office. “We needed a hallway with a door, and high ceilings,” says the alumna, who learned about Queens Hall through location manager Demian Resnick, who heard about the potential site from Dale Nussbaum (Campus Event Services). Other considerations included proximity to a wooded area—in this case, Forest Park—needed for a different scene. “The look and configuration for our schedule worked for us,” observes Lederman. “Putting a film schedule together is like putting a jigsaw puzzle together.”

A media studies major at QC—“I took a class with Jonathan Buchsbaum and I blame him”—Lederman gravitated toward production design and learned the field from the ground up. Among the credits on her resume are the movies Summer of Sam, Before the Devil Knows You’re Dead, and The Butler, all as set decorator; Leftovers is her first job as production designer.

“I have achieved what I was working toward in this project,” she muses. “I studied film and here I am at QC working at it. It’s a nice culmination of events.”

Mehran Scholarship Winner

Raeka Rui Wang is the winner of the English Language Institute’s Fifth Annual Margaret Mehran Scholarship, which includes a full scholarship at ELI for the spring semester.

April 23

WILLIAM GREEN

On April 23 the college will host a memorial event in honor of Professor Emeritus of English William Green. Consistent with Green’s passion for Shakespeare and theatre, the memorial is scheduled on Shakespeare’s birthday. It will be held at Rosenthal Library during free hour (12:15–1:30 pm).
IN THE MEDIA

PEOPLE IN THE MEDIA

The Jewish Ledger featured a Q&A with ELISSA BEMPORAD (History) concerning her book Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk (see p. 1) . . . The Queens Chronicle offered a feature about the Queens College Psychological Center and its director, YVETTE CARO . . . Several papers reported the announcement that former provost EVANGELOS GIZIS would serve as QC’s interim president: the Greek Herald, the TimesLedger, Queens Gazette, the National Herald, and the Daily News. Gizis also was interviewed on NY1 about QC’s inclusion in the 2014 edition of the Princeton Review’s Best Value Colleges (a story about this also appeared in the TimesLedger) . . . A Daily News story about a collaborative effort of Cornell NYC Tech and Queens College to create a tech incubator in Long Island City quoted BRUCE JONES (Schutzman Center) . . . CBNS Director STEVEN MARKOWITZ was quoted in the TimesLedger and Queens Gazette about the center’s receiving a $547,000 federal grant to create a program to address health hazards experienced by laborers working on post-Hurricane Sandy reconstruction . . . CECILIA MCHUGH (SEES) appeared in a Newsday story concerning the discovery of the radioactive element cesium-137 in sediment samples from local waters following Hurricane Sandy . . . The Queens Gazette joined other Queens weeklies that had previously reported the retirement of President JAMES MUYSKENS, and the Daily News featured an interview with him on his last day in office. Muyksens and LEONARD RODBERG (Urban Studies) were mentioned in an opinion piece in the Queens Chronicle by Assemblyman Phillip Goldfeder concerning efforts to revive abandoned rail lines in Queens as a means of improving transportation options for borough residents . . . JEFFREY ROSENSTOCK (External and Governmental Relations) was quoted in stories in the TimesLedger and at DNAinfo.com about his production at Kupferberg Center of Legislative Acts, a musical and comedy review featuring local politicians. The show raised money for QC’s Big Buddy and Women and Work programs . . . HAROLD SCHECHTER (English) and his new book The Mad Sculptor: The Maniac, the Model and the Murder that Shook the Nation were mentioned in the Bookshelf column of the New York Times . . . JOHN WALDMAN (Biology) co-authored with David Strayer a column in the New York Times about the threat posed to the ecology of the Hudson River by an invasive species of carp.

EVENTS IN THE MEDIA

The Daily News, Flushing Times, and NY1 featured stories about the Student Association’s sponsorship of a Puppy Room in the library. The idea behind the room was that students could go there during exam week to relieve their stress by petting the puppies . . . Crain’s New York Business reported that QC has more engineering students than Columbia and NYU combined, and that most are first-generation immigrants . . . The Daily News highlighted the Louis Armstrong House Museum’s Annual Holiday Historic House Tour held on Dec. 8.

QC received press coverage when students (shown with Acting Chief Librarian Rolf Swensen, center) went to the dogs during exam week to relieve finals-related stress.

J. Cole Bowls Over Audiences

Hip-hop star J. Cole (top) and hosts Stacy Keibler and Nick Cannon (inset) put on a winning performance when VH1 kicked off its Super Bowl Blitz—a series of concerts—at Colden Auditorium on Monday, January 27. In a bit of a role reversal, fans sang to Cole at midnight: His birthday falls on January 28.