Mary Ellen Passantino, Head of Committee for Disabled Students, Dies at 57

Mary Ellen Passantino, who headed the Committee for Disabled Students and served as president of the Graduate Student Association, died on January 3 at the age of 57. The cause of death was complications related to a systemic infection. A memorial service will be held on the fourth floor of the Student Union on Thursday, February 13 from 12 noon to 2 pm. A reception will follow.

Passantino began her advocacy career in the late 1970s as an officer of the Pomonok Tenants Council. She was an advocate for tenants' rights and opportunities, as well as one of the founders of the Pomonok Pre-School Playgroup and its Nursery School.

Affected by rheumatoid arthritis that prevented her from continuing her work in the physically demanding auto salvage industry, Passantino entered Queens College's ACE Program in 1982 and graduated in 1987 with a BA in sociology. She went on to earn a Master of Science degree in counselor education and a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies, with a concentration in disability studies.

Her experiences as a student at Queens kindled her interest in disability advocacy. As an undergraduate, she noticed that students with disabilities participated in fewer activities than other students. She ran for the position of chair of the Committee for Disabled Students (CDS), the College's organization for students with disabilities, on a platform that promised to organize and energize students with disabilities. Within a short time CDS's membership grew from 12 to more than 600 active members. Passantino also organized students to pass a referendum to ensure that students with disabilities would receive a fair share of activity fees to support College programming around disability issues. Her efforts helped to make the College a welcoming place for students with disabilities and to establish it as a center for disability art and culture.

Passantino's accomplishments as a student leader earned her executive positions on the University Student Senate. During her 15 years of leadership at USS, she consistently brought disability issues to the forefront, working to establish the vice chair of disabled students as an executive board position within the organization, and fighting to raise consciousness about disability issues in the corridors of power – within CUNY's central administration and within city and state government. Passantino also was involved in disability issues within her community, serving as a board member of the Queens Independent Living Center.

Mary Ellen Passantino is survived by Donald, her husband of 29 years, and her son Donnie. A memorial fund has been established to help the family with the substantial medical costs. You may send donations to the Passantino Fund, Office of Special Services, Kiely Hall 171.

Evangelos Gizis Appointed Provost

The CUNY Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Evangelos J. Gizis to the position of provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at its January 27 meeting. He had been serving in the position on an interim basis since August 2001.

Gizis has a distinguished record of service at the City University. He served as interim president of Hunter College, where he also held the positions of acting provost and senior VP for academic affairs and VP for administration. Prior to that, he was VP for college affairs, planning, and information systems here at the College. He has also served as acting president, VP for administration, and deputy to the president at Borough of Manhattan Community College, and as acting president of Hostos Community College. Before joining CUNY, Gizis held appointments as a researcher at Long Island Jewish Hospital, Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Mellon Institute of Carnegie Mellon University, and Michigan State University.

Gizis received his B.S. in chemistry from Athens University and earned his M.S. in food science and his Ph.D. in food science–biochemistry from Oregon State University.
Notes

Lecture on Novelist Assia Djebar
The Women’s Studies Program will sponsor a lecture by Susan Z. Andrade on “Inside/Out or the Public and Private in the Work of African Novelist Assia Djebar” on Monday, February 10. Andrade is an associate professor of English and women’s studies at the University of Pittsburgh. The lecture will be held in the Student Union VIP Room, Union Grill, from 12 noon–2 pm. Complimentary lunch will be served. Students earn one CLIQ point for attending.

Internet Cafe Opens
The Internet Cafe in the atrium of the Rosenthal Library is now serving coffee, baked goods, light lunches, and snack items. There are laptop computers for loan from the Library and a wonderful area to enjoy it all, complete with a wireless Internet connection. The Cafe is open Monday–Thursday, 7:30 am to 7:30 pm, Saturday and Sunday, noon to 4 pm, and closed on Friday. The grand opening will take place on Monday, February 10 at 2 pm.

Commencement Set for May 29
The 2003 Commencement will take place on Thursday, May 29 at 9 am on the Quad, notes Joseph Brostek (Special Events). Divisional and departmental ceremonies will follow 30 minutes after Commencement. Baccalaureate will be on Tuesday, May 27 at 7 pm in Colden Center. For the latest information on Commencement, check the graduation Quick Link on the College’s home page.

How to Get a New ID Card
All faculty and staff who wish to obtain a new ID card may do so by going to the Main Gate Security Building on Kissena Blvd., Tuesday through Thursday, from 10 am to 7 pm.

Academic Senate Faculty Nominations
Provost Evangelos Gizis would like to remind faculty that nominations for Senate delegate and alternate positions are being accepted beginning February 18. The self-nomination petitions will be mailed out shortly. The deadline for nominations is Friday, February 28. The Academic Senate renders important service to the College. Its responsible commitment is at the heart of the faculty governance process in the academic community. For more information, contact the Academic Senate Elections Committee at 5390.

11-Digit Dialing Begins
As of February 1, all calls made in the NYC area require dialing 11 digits. For all calls to the 718 area code, you must first dial 1+718+ then the 7-digit line number. When on campus, you can no longer dial 9 + 7 digits for calls to Queens, Brooklyn, and the Bronx. Preprogrammed numbers in computer modems, security/fire alarms, and fax machines must be reprogrammed.

Star of College’s Water Polo Team Dies
Caner Erdogru, one of the stars of the College’s water polo team, died on January 12 while visiting his family in Ankara, Turkey. The cause of death was a heart attack. Erdogru, who was to graduate this spring with degrees in economics and physical education, had been named the Most Valuable Player at the NCAA championship in California this past December.

Works of Clinton Hill at Godwin-Ternbach
Clinton Hill (Art emeritus), one of the first to explore the possibilities of handmade paper as an art form, is the subject of an exhibit at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum. This retrospective of 70 works, representing the last 20 years of Hill’s career, opens on Tuesday, February 18 and runs through May 23. A reception featuring jazz of the 1950s and 1960s will be held on Thursday, February 20 from 6–8 pm. On Wednesday, February 26 at 12 noon, museum director Amy Winter will present a gallery talk on the exhibition. All are invited to attend.

Health Center News
■ The NYC Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Mobile Unit will be on campus through March 21. The unit will be available to students, faculty, staff, and community members for free testing of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B, pregnancy, TB, and STDs. The Mobile Unit, which will be parked outside the cafeteria, is open from 10 am until 3 pm. All testing is confidential. Contact the Health Service Center at 2760 for further information (please note that HSC will not have access to any test results).
■ A GHI representative will be on campus in the cafeteria on February 13 from 10 am until 4 pm for questions related to GHI medical insurance.
■ Students without health insurance may be able to receive free medical insurance from Family Health Plus. To find out if you qualify, visit the HSC on the following days when a representative will be available: February 6 and 7 from 9:30 am–4 pm and February 10 and 11 from 10 am–1 pm. Representatives from Family Health Plus will also be available on campus on February 26 and March 26 at various locations from 10 am until 3 pm. Call 2760 for more information.
■ Dr. David Chieng will present a CLIQ event at the Health Service Center on February 19 at 12 noon. “Take the Fear Out of Your First GYN Exam” will be the topic of discussion. Chieng is an OB/GYN on staff at New York Hospital, Queens. The Health Service Center is located in FitzGerald Gym, Room 204.

Art Center Showing Works of Nútró
An exhibition by Nútró, a group of established and emerging Russian-American artists, will be on view in the Art Center of Rosenthal Library start-
Is Peace Possible in the Middle East?
A symposium entitled The Middle East at the Crossroads: Peace Making or Peace Breaking will take place on Friday, February 21 from 9:00 am to 3:45 pm in Rosenthal 230. The symposium, which is free and open to the public, will attempt to answer such important questions as:

- What are the larger regional implications of the continued Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
- Can we assess the prospects for peace between the two groups?
- What can be done to change the pattern of violence between the antagonists?
- What went wrong after the Oslo Accords and what role should the U.S. play to promote peace negotiations between the parties?

The symposium will feature two speakers who will arrive from Israel and the Palestinian Authority especially for this event. Other speakers will include Richard Murphy, former assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs (during the Reagan administration) and currently senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations; Yossi Alpher, a former senior official with the Mossad and adviser to former Israeli PM Ehud Barak during the Camp David negotiations; Claude Salhani, author and senior editor withUPI who covered the 1991 desert war from both the Iraqi and coalition sides; and Mark Rosenblum (History), director of the Harring-
ton Center and founder and policy director of Americans for Peace Now. For more information, contact Ziva Flamhaft (Political Science) at 5476.

Exhibit on Sacred Emblems Opens Today
Sacred Emblems, Community Signs: Historic Flags and Religious Banners from Italian Williamsburg, Brooklyn is the subject of an exhibition being presented by the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College, and Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at NYU. It features historic flags and religious banners from the Italian American community of Williamsburg, which illustrate the history of Italian American aesthetic and religious practices. The exhibit, which runs through the end of the month, is at Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò, 24 W. 12th St. between 5th & 6th Avenues in Manhattan. Hours are Monday–Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. An opening reception will take place today at 6 pm. The exhibit and reception are open to the public.

In Memoriam:
Henry Wolz
Henry Wolz, professor emeritus of philosophy, died on January 14 of natural causes. He was in his late nineties. Fred Purnell (Philosophy) remembers that “Henry was one of the mainstays of the philosophy department for many years and one of the College’s great teachers. He was a teacher of the old school who loved to examine the great texts of philosophy and engage his students one-on-one.”

Born in Kornwestheim, Germany in 1905, Henry Wolz became a U.S. citizen in 1944 and served in the U.S. Army for three years in its finance department. He received his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in philosophy from Fordham University. He taught at Columbia, Brooklyn College, and several other institutions before joining the philosophy faculty at Queens in 1951.

Wolz’s main interest was Kant and the post-Kantians and their influence on modern philosophers such as Husserl. His belief that the teachings of Plato influenced the issues that engaged Kant and his followers led to his major work of scholarship, *Plato and Heidegger: In Search of Selfhood* (Bucknell UP, 1981). After reaching what was then the mandatory retirement age in 1975, Wolz continued to teach at the College for years as an adjunct professor.

Wolz is survived by daughter Ursula, son-in-law Jim Dunne, and two grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on February 9 at 1:30 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Washington, NJ.

Doctorow and Sontag Head Sebald Tribute
E. L. Doctorow and Susan Sontag are among the authors who will take part in the Evening Readings Series’ tribute to W. G. Sebald on Wednesday, February 26 at 7 pm in the Music Building. The author of *After Nature, Vertigo, The Emigrants*, and other works, Sebald died in a car accident on December 14, 2001.

Doctorow is the National Book Award-winning author of many novels, including *The Book of Daniel, Loon Lake, Billy Bathgate, World’s Fair,* and *Ragtime.* Sontag, also a National Book Award winner, is the author of the novels *In America* and *The Volcano Lover,* as well as *Against Interpretation, On Photography, Illness as Metaphor,* and *Where the Stress Falls.* Also taking part in the tribute will be Sebald’s editor Michael Krüger and poet Adam Zagajewski.

Admission is $12. For more information visit www.qc.edu/readings or call 4646.

Shifting Attitudes of Italian Women Examined
On Wednesday, February 19, Jennifer Guglielmo will present a lecture entitled “At the Crossroads: Italian Women, Race, and Urban Politics in New York City, 1930-1950.” In the post-World War II period, Italians in New York abandoned their earlier affinity with leftist politics to defend anti-communism, protest desegregation, and support right-wing political leaders. Guglielmo, who teaches history and women’s studies at SUNY–New Paltz, will examine this period of transition from the perspective of Italian immigrant women and their daughters. Lecture begins at 6:30 pm at the Calandra Institute in Manhattan. Call (212) 642-2035 for information or visit www.qc.edu/calandra. Seating is limited.

New Museum Wants Your Old Junk
Cleaning out your closet/desk/office? Voices of Old Technology – A Museum in the Making would like to see what treasures are buried there and might even carry some away for future exhibits. Of interest could be almost anything: books, manuals, ads, pictures, syllabi, magazines, bills, as well as gadgets and old office and educational technology.

Some of the treasures already gathered from around the College will be on display at the one-day exhibit *Standard Issue at Queens College* on February 10 from 11 am–7 pm in the Library Rotunda. This exhibit is tied to *Perspectives on Our History Through Technology* in the Rotunda and second floor display cases through February 28. Among the old computers on display will be a Kaypro, an Osborn, an Apple II, a Franklin, an IBM PC-XT, and two early Macs – most of which were used at the College or at home by faculty and staff.

For further information, contact Syd Lefkoe (syd@qc1.qc.edu or 5115).

To Our Readers Please submit items for FYI at least two weeks in advance to the Office of News and Information Services, Kiely Hall 1310, 5590. All submissions that are more than one short paragraph in length should be submitted on disk or sent by e-mail to nis@qc.edu.