Jeffrey Halperin and Team Receive $2 Million Grant to Research AD/HD

It may sound alarming that a significant number of preschool children are being medicated for hyperactivity and aggressive behavior, characteristics typically associated with AD/HD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder). Although the medication is very helpful for some, it may be that many of these children don’t need it at all.

“What we know is that a lot of young children seem impulsive and hyperactive, but for many of them it’s just a behavioral blip that disappears,” says Jeffrey Halperin (Psychology). “But others do not outgrow their symptoms.”

Trying to identify the factors that predict which children go on to develop AD/HD is the focus of a $2 million National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) grant recently awarded to Halperin and his team at the Queens College Preschool Project (QCPP). “If we can identify who will develop AD/HD, we can have more focused early intervention with the children, and parenting behaviors can be modified,” he says.

The project devotes itself exclusively to researching AD/HD and childhood development, particularly in preschool children. Halperin, who has been at QC since 1989, has worked on child behavior disorders for nearly two decades. For him, the area offers a unique opportunity to examine the interplay of biology and environment. Throughout the years, Halperin and his students have focused on just this connection.

As a result, the five-year study will proceed along two paths—genetic and environmental—focusing on children from the ages of three to five. Cheek swabs will be taken from the children and studied for genetic markers. Children will also participate in psychological testing sessions in which their cognitive abilities are evaluated. They also will be videotaped with a parent to help assess environmental factors that may influence their continued on page 2

Global Warming Under the Microscope

Global warming, one of the hottest environmental topics these days, is now the focus of a National Science Foundation grant recently awarded to Gary Hemming (Earth and Environmental Sciences). Hemming hopes to shed light on whether current warming trends are a dangerous aberration or a cyclical phenomenon similar to others seen throughout earth’s history.

Hemming’s research focuses on historically high levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide that have resulted from the burning of fossil fuels, a major factor in global warming. And since carbon dioxide dissolves in water, affecting its pH balance, Hemming has developed a tool that can accurately gauge the acidity of the ocean thousands of years ago. The tool measures the ratio of certain boron isotopes, specifically in a single-celled ocean organism called foraminifera.

“If I measure the ratio, I’m really measuring the pH of the ocean at the time the foraminifera lived,” says Hemming, continued on page 5
Although *The Passion of the Christ* might be breaking box office records, ANDY BEVERIDGE (Sociology) notes in the March Gotham Gazette that Americans are actually becoming less religious, with a recent survey claiming that about 30 million adults have no religious affiliation, almost double what it was a decade earlier . . . The search for the next poet laureate of Queens has drawn much media coverage recently. On March 17 the *New York Times* ran a front-page article on the search, quoting DAVID COHEN (Library), the head of the search committee, and JOHN TYTELL (English). WABC-TV and WNYC radio also ran reports that day . . . In a February 11 Queens Tribune article commemorating the 40th anniversary of the murder of Kitty Genovese, HOWARD EHRLICHMAN (Psychology) said that “her death played a major role in our understanding of the conditions that will get people to help one another” . . . HOLGER EISL (CBNS), in the March 10 Newsday, described the new underground tank being placed under a portion of Flushing Meadows-Corona Park to handle sewer overflow as a “meaningful technology [that] prevents most of the untreated sewage from reaching the water” . . . TONY GONZALEZ (Art) was quoted extensively in a March 10 Newsday article about a photography exhibit at the Sepia International Gallery in Manhattan . . . MADHULIKA KHANDELWAL (Asian/American Center) noted in a March 22 Newsweek article about South Asians that the wave of Indian immigrants in the 1960s did so well in America because “These people came from a middle-class and educated section of Indian society, so life in America was not entirely new to them” . . . PYONG GAP MIN (Sociology) was quoted in a February 23 New York Times article about the number of international TV channels that are available to immigrants. Although he himself enjoys Korean TV, he worries that it may be used by immigrants as an escape from American life and prevent them from learning American customs . . . VICTORIA PITTS (Sociology) was interviewed for a documentary about body-modification practices shown on the National Geographic Channel.

March 15 . . . Discussing the performance of *The Apology of Socrates* that took place at the college on February 26, FRED PURNELL (Philosophy) noted in the Queens Times-Ledger that “This superb production brings home to the entire audience what Socrates – and philosophy – is all about.” Socrates was played by Yannis Simonides and the play was directed by QC alumnus Loukas Skipitaris. Purnell was also featured in an article about crossword puzzle devotees in the March issue of New Canaan, Darien & Rowayton magazine . . . JOSEPH SCELSA (Calandra Institute) was interviewed about the Italian American Museum on WVOX-FM on March 11 . . . JUDY SUND (Art) was quoted extensively in a February 28 Scripps Howard News Service release concerning the opening of a Van Gogh exhibit at the Toledo Museum of Art.

*QC IN THE NEWS*

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behavior. Every six months parents and teachers will submit behavior evaluations, and once a year the team will follow-up with the children in person. After the children reach school age, they will undergo another thorough evaluation.

Critical to QCPP’s work is developing relationships with local schools. Over the years, the center has reached out to preschools in Queens through workshops, and in turn schools have sent children to participate in QCPP research.

For this particular study, the center will need 225 children to participate. Halperin, who has worked with some groups of children for more than 10 years, hopes that the NIMH grant will be renewed in 2009, allowing him to continue this research.

“That’s the way you have to do this type of study,” he says. “You can’t just take a snapshot at a certain age. You have to look at children over time and into adulthood.”

Halperin has also been busy mentoring 17-year-old Michelle Bubnik, a senior at St. Francis Prep. Michelle, who has been doing research on AD/HD, was named a semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search last January. Teresa Bubnik, Michelle’s mother, works in the college’s Purchasing Office.
"You never know how much serendipity has to do with what you discover or end up studying," says Michael Barry, a new faculty member in biology. A specialist in sensory biology, he has pursued questions that draw on such fields as ethology (the study of animal behavior), neurophysiology, and neuroanatomy, examining how the senses and nervous system are interrelated.

Barry’s pursuit of the less-traveled path started early. A native of Atlanta, he grew up in Venezuela where his father worked for the oil industry; the family often traveled together into the interior and along the Orinoco. When he might have been playing ball and riding a bike in the States, Barry grew up fishing, snorkeling, and scuba diving.

After attending high school in Connecticut, he went on to earn his BA in biology and (with honors) natural science at the University of Pennsylvania. “I enjoyed the research process,” he says. “If the professor mentioned some interesting phenomenon or other, I would go off to the library and start reading about it.” He went on to complete his MS in zoology at the University of Hawaii and PhD in biological sciences at the University of Delaware, followed by a post-doctoral position at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

Barry, who has published widely, previously held research appointments at the University of Connecticut, Seton Hall University, and Columbia University. Much of his research has focused on gustation, or the sense of taste, in mammals and fish, especially how taste is processed in the central nervous system and related there to other senses.

Because of their specialized sense organs and unusual neural organization, fish offer important insights for the comparative analysis of vertebrate brain structures and evolution. Recently, using functional MRI, Barry also has been mapping how taste is organized in the human cerebral cortex.

Currently Barry is working with members of the Biology and Psychology Departments on a neuroscience initiative that is expected to result in an interdisciplinary major. He enjoys the college and especially the undergraduates he teaches, because “they can broaden you and get you to do things you might not have done otherwise.”
The year that Sonia Touré entered Queens College was a trying one for her. She and her husband separated while she was expecting their third child, and eventually divorced. Though she had no college degree, she completed an ESL teaching certification course that enabled her to support her family with a steady job downtown teaching immigrants and international students. But on 9/11, while feeding her son breakfast, she witnessed the Twin Towers’ destruction from her apartment window. With them went her job near the World Trade Center, leaving her an unemployed single mother in a devastated local economy. “I, like many others, was forced to take a long look at my life and reevaluate the choices I had made,” she says. “It made me realize the importance of living life to its fullest.”

For Touré, that moment led to Queens College and the revival of her dream of becoming a doctor. At 37 and with three children, she is now a pre-med student, doing so well that last summer she was admitted to the highly selective Summer Medical Education Program at the Yale University School of Medicine. There she participated in a six-week residential program for promising underrepresented students, taking intensive science courses, shadowing physicians, observing open heart surgery and autopsies, preparing for the MCAT, and getting valuable advice on how to be a competitive applicant to medical school.

Touré credits the college with making higher education possible for her, as she recently testified at a CUNY Queens Borough hearing. “Many people ask me how I manage to go to school full time, study, prepare for medical school admission and maintain good grades, all while raising three children alone,” she said. Her answer: the ACE Program, through which she initially returned to college, as well as “the Child Development Center, the Minority Affairs and Pre-Professional Advising Center, and the Science Organization for Minority Students.” All have provided crucial help, from giving her children “a quality education in a multicultural environment” to advising her how to pace and finance her studies. In fact, she agreed to serve as one of four students featured in a widely promoted newspaper advertising campaign for Queens College.

Touré, who is majoring in anthropology, brings her own cross-cultural experiences to her studies, many from her years of living and traveling abroad. In her twenties she volunteered as a teacher for the Latin American Association, a nonprofit group in Atlanta that provides transitional services to immigrants. From there she found work in Mexico teaching English at the University of Guanajuato and to General Motors engineers; she also gave free English classes to young people who could not afford to go to school. Before living in Mexico, she had lived and worked in the Cayman Islands.

As a physician Touré hopes to resume travel and volunteer work, especially humanitarian work overseas. “I don’t think I’m going to be a very rich doctor!” she says with a smile.

Grab a Table with Your Colleagues at the New Corner Bistro

The Corner Bistro (formerly the Union Grill) is now open in the lobby of the Student Union, providing the QC community with restaurant-quality food and waiter service without leaving campus. The menu includes soups, sandwiches, salads and sides, entrees, desserts, combination specials, and daily specials. A recent daily special included potato-leek soup, tilapia Cajun style, herbed rice with peas, string beans, chocolate mousse cake or orange cake and beverage – all for $6.49 with a Campus Dining Club card.

The Campus Dining Club card offers soup-to-dessert meals at a discount of up to 20% off the regular price. The card, which can be purchased by check or cash at the Corner Bistro, is a five-meal-plan prepaid ticket.

The quiet, sun-filled Corner Bistro is an ideal place to enjoy a meal with colleagues or campus visitors. The restaurant, which is open from Monday to Thursday, 11 am-2 pm, can be enjoyed by anyone, with or without a Dining Club card.
changes in carbon dioxide levels over a period of hundreds of thousands of years. The data can then be compared with what is already known about climate change and whether the present high levels of carbon dioxide are part of a historic pattern.

Does this mean, then, that the jury is still out on global warming? According to Hemming, not really. The burning of fossil fuels has obviously had an impact on atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide and temperature. “But we still have to know what the natural cycles are in order to make a plan to deal with global warming. It’s something to work with when we make policy.”

Fascism in 1930s Italy dominated more than just politics—it also dictated what men and women wore. Indeed, in 1932 Mussolini established a government institution that oversaw and promoted the complete cycle of fashion production, from textiles to fashion shows, with the aim of making the body a tool for government propaganda. “Fashion is an important field of study with a long and dark history that is bound up with questions of self and national identity,” says EUGENIA PAULICELLI (European Languages), the author of Fashion Under Fascism: Beyond the Black Shirt (Berg, 2004).

Fashion, Paulicelli feels, often quietly makes a social statement, but under Mussolini it vividly reflected political tyranny. “My interest in fashion started more than a decade ago, born of my research into the relationship between literature and the visual arts. In moving to the study of fashion, I found an ideal terrain on which to combine the threads that make up my research interests: feminism, literature and the arts, cinema, and critical theory.” While shedding new light on the complicated relationship between style and politics, Fashion under Fascism also includes an interview with Micol Fontana, one of the major designers who contributed to the success of Italian style abroad.

One of the most controversial issues in students’ library research is the role of computers in the information-seeking process. How children and youth locate reliable information on the Web and where on-line research belongs in the school library are hotly debated questions. To address such concerns, MARY K. CHELTON and COLLEEN COOL, both members of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, have edited a collection of articles that look closely at students’ behavioral patterns when seeking electronic information. Youth Information-Seeking Behavior: Theories, Models, and Issues (Scarecrow Press, 2004) combines classic papers on digital-age research with newer theoretical and empirical contributions, beginning with Chelton and Cool’s own critical literature review.

IN MEMORIAM
Stanley Sham, a retired Senior College Laboratory Technician in the Department of Psychology, died February 22 after suffering a massive stroke at the age of 61. Sham joined the department in 1971 and was promoted to Senior CLT ten years later. During his tenure, he helped convert the undergraduate experimental laboratories and administrative offices into high-efficiency computerized operations, and was involved in electronic technical work. Sham opted for early retirement in 1998 to devote himself to his wife, Sue, and their two sons.

FUNDING DEADLINE
The form for the CUNY Faculty Development Program Request for Proposals (RFP) for funding of planned programs during the Fall 2004 semester and the full 2004-2005 academic year is now available. Submission deadline is Friday, April 16 at 5 pm. For more information about the program and to obtain copies (in PDF format so it is printable from your computer), visit web.gc.cuny.edu/provost/apit/facdev. Copies also are available from the Provost’s office, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, and department chairs.

POWDERMAKER HALL DEDICATION
All are invited to come to the official dedication ceremonies for Powdermaker Hall being held on Friday, April 23 at 10 am on the front steps of Powdermaker. A reception will follow.
PATRICK BROCK and ALLAN LUDMAN (SEES) conducted an all-day geology workshop for 25 members of the NYC Urban Park Rangers in February. The training was requested by the Park Ranger supervisors to give their personnel appropriate background to answer questions by park visitors and devise programs based on the geologic setting of individual parks. In preparation for the workshop, Brock and Ludman teamed with PAMELA CHASE BROCK (SEES Research Associate) and SEES Senior Laboratory Technician Daniel Klinger to prepare a booklet entitled ‘Understanding the Geology of New York City and its Parks.’ A publisher has expressed interest in this booklet, as has the NYC Department of Education . . .

HAROLD BRUDER (Emeritus, Art) will have an exhibition, Selected Paintings 1963-2003, on view at the Mitchell Algus Gallery at 511 W. 25 Street in Manhattan from April 8 through May 8. A reception for the artist will be held at the gallery on April 15 . . . Two QC juniors recently appeared on “Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?” Biology major KIMBERLY ELLIS won $8,000 and political science major CHRISTOPHER GILROY won $4,000 . . . TAMARA EVANS was an invited speaker at a symposium on Robert Walser in America, held at Deutsches Haus at New York University on March 27 . . . MARIA FOSCO will be representing the Calandra Institute at a conference in Rome on April 16-17. The conference is sponsored by Migrantes, a nongovernmental service organization affiliated with the Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations . . . Two novels translated by GREGORY RABASSA (Hispanic Languages) have recently been published by Aliform Publishing: Jail by Jesus Zárate (from the Spanish) and My World Is Not of this Kingdom by João de Mel (from the Portuguese) . . . Several compositions by BRUCE SAYLOR (Music) will be performed this year. When Samson Met Delilah (violin and piano) was heard in March at Symphony Space in New York and will be performed in Holland later this year. Welcome the Morning Star (for soprano, mezzo-soprano, and string orchestra) will be performed next month in Rome and other Italian cities . . . Forty-nine of New York City’s 59 community districts suffer from a lack of nonprofit community services such as hospitals and senior centers, according to a report written by JOHN SELEY (Urban Studies) and Julian Wolpert (Princeton) and published by the New York City Nonprofits Project. The report, Nonprofit Services in New York City’s Neighborhoods, finds that services are significantly lacking in lower-income neighborhoods, even though these are the neighborhoods that can most benefit from them . . . ROBERT VAGO (Linguistics and Communication Disorders) presented a lecture in January at the invitation of the Research Institute for Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest. His topic was “The Analysis of Geminates.”

PEOPLE

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William Thompson Addresses QC Forum

New York City Comptroller William Thompson was the guest speaker February 27 at the Labor Resource Center’s monthly Labor Breakfast Forum, held at the college’s 43rd Street extension center in Manhattan. The woman in the foreground is a participant in the Center’s Union Semester, a unique opportunity for students to receive college credit while studying about organized labor.
2 FRI
SPRING RECESS. Classes resume April 13.

3 SAT
CONCERT: Latin Jazz All Stars. LeFrak Hall, 8 pm ($22, $20 with discount).

4 SUN
FAMILY THEATRE: “Sleeping Beauty,” American Family Theater. Colden Auditorium, 2 pm, $12.

13 TUE
CONCERT: “A Celebration of Aaron Copland.” LeFrak Concert Hall, 10 am (for info, call 997-3802).

LECTURE: “Acupuncture: Does It Help? Does It Hurt?” FitzGerald 204, noon & 1 pm.

14 WED

15 THU

18 SUN

CONCERT: “Centennial Celebration of George Balanchine.” LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm.

19 MON
BOOK SALE: Rosenthal Lobby, 3rd flr., 9 am-5 pm (through April 22).

HEALTH SERVICE CENTER: “Women & Heart Disease.” FitzGerald 204, noon & 1 pm.


PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE: “George E. Waring, Jr.: The Free Lance of Gilded Age Sanitary Reform,” Jon Peterson (History). Dining Hall, BYOL Lounge, noon. RSVP to qcres@qc1.qc.edu or 997-5556.

21 WED


22 THU
CONCERT: Queens Royal Symphony Orchestra, Chang Seok Choi, music director, Inalvys Paris-Cabello, violin. LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm. $10 donation to the ACSM Scholarship Fund requested.

24 SAT
CONCERT: Roberta Flack. Colden Auditorium, 8 pm ($36 orch., $32 mezz./$34, $30 with discount).

25 SUN
CONCERT: Horacio Gutiérrez, piano. LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm, $34, $32 with discount.

28 WED
HEALTH FAIR: Information and screening. Student Union, 4th flr., 10 am-3 pm.

29 THU
CONCERT: Queens Philharmonia; Dong Hyun Kim, music director. LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm. $10 donation to the ACSM Scholarship Fund requested.

FYI is published on the first Thursday of the month. Items should be submitted by the 12th of the preceding month to Maria Matteo, Kiely 1310, x 5590. Items longer than one paragraph must be submitted via e-mail to mmatteo@qc.edu