A Moving Experience

Dancer/choreographer Lynn Brown, a lanky, loose-limbed man, began his mid-morning class in FitzGerald Gym with an easy combination of moves. Imitating him, a dozen giggling three-year-olds stood in a row in their stocking feet, sat on the wooden floor of the dance studio, and scooted forward on their butts. Brown, a teaching artist with the Lincoln Center Institute, had brought his material down to his students’ level, to the evident delight of all.

“QC has partnered with the Lincoln Center Institute for many years now,” reports Dean Penny Hammrich (Education), who says the goal is to integrate aesthetic education into teacher-preparation programs. “Our partnership with the institute is one of the most comprehensive of any school in...”

Visiting Students Give Exchange Program Top Marks

QC experienced a significant geographic shift this semester: 16 out-of-towners enrolled in the school’s first undergraduate exchange programs. As the sole CUNY institution currently involved in the National Student Exchange—a network of about 200 schools in the United States and Canada—the college attracted 14 young adults from across the continent.

The remainder traveled across several continents. Under an agreement with Rikkyo University in Tokyo, two Japanese students are spending the fall in Queens; in return, eight QC students will go to Rikkyo for four weeks of classes in January. This arrangement makes QC the first—and to date, only—branch of CUNY with a Japanese exchange program.

Wherever participants come from, for many of them, QC’s urban location was a major selling point. “This was the program closest to New York City,” says Samantha Jane Liddil, a serial exchange student from the University of Nevada–Las Vegas; her previous academic destinations have included England and Thailand. “I loved the public transit system in London, and wanted to be in a place with subways,” she explains. She got her wish: At the moment, she commutes via F train from a short-term sublet in the East Village, where her mother lived in the late 1960s and 1970s. “My mom said, ‘Samantha, be careful!’ It was a different place then,” says the upper-classman, who enjoys immersing herself in unfamiliar environments—she’s a sociology major.

Predictably, one of her favorite pastimes is walking around, getting to know the city’s ethnic enclaves. “The changes are drastic,” says Samantha. “It’s like going from country to country: Ukraine, (continued on page 4)
Conference of Evolutionary Biologists Attracts 180

“It went so well,” says Stephane Boissinot (Biology) of the 18th annual meeting of the New England Molecular Evolutionary Biologists. “Usually,” he says of the event, which he organized and which was being held for the first time at the college, “we have 70 or 80 people, but this year we had 180 from 41 different institutions. “There was a poster session, 20 contributed presentations, and four invited talks,” he continues, describing the daylong conference held November 3 in the Science Building. “We invited big names in the field to speak and they said yes, which I think contributed to the success of the conference.” Those big names included John Wakely and David Haig of Harvard, Paul Turner of Yale, and Rob DeSalle of the American Museum of Natural History.

Hosting the conference, says Boissinot, gave the college a boost in the field of evolutionary biology: “People are coming here from all over and they are realizing: ‘Wow, there is all this research going on at Queens College.’ It helps put us back on the map, as Queens College used to be very prestigious in the field of evolution in the 60s and the 70s. “We have three new faculty in the area of evolutionary biology,” Boissinot continues, referring to Else Fjerdingsstad, Michael Hickerson, and John Dennehy, who all participated in the conference. “It is good for people to know that they are here and things are happening at Queens in this area because this helps to attract students. If you are interested in evolution or evolutionary genetics, the place to come to is Queens College.”

Having the conference in New York contributed to the large number of grad students in attendance, who came from NYU, Columbia, and other CUNY schools. “There were also people from the American Museum and a lot of post-docs,” Boissinot notes. “For the longest time,” he continues, “people have seen the field of evolution as something old-fashioned, something for museums. But with all the progress in genetics, it is now one of the hottest sciences. We have a lot of data and that’s one of the goals of genetics: to make sense of all this genetics data.”
Faculty Profile: Charles Repole: Song and Dance Man Directs the Drama Department

Charles Repole accumulated Broadway credits and honors in classic musicals. Then he moved to the other side of the footlights, directing shows at many of the nation’s top stages. But his most enduring role is the one he landed at QC, where he has taught since 1999 and now serves as chair of the Drama, Theatre, and Dance Department. “Teaching is very gratifying,” says the professor, whose resume is illustrated on his office walls: They’re decorated with several Al Hirschfeld cartoons and an ever-growing collection of posters for campus productions.

His own education was transformational. “I went to Stony Brook University,” he recalls. “I was good in math and science, so I was going to be an engineer, but I hated it.” Next stop was Hofstra. “I took a speech course,” continues the Long Island native, who doesn’t sound like he’s from Guyland, or anywhere else in New Yawk. “I had no idea I had an accent! I had to work at it.”

After appearing in a series of plays for fun, Repole turned pro. His debut in the Jerome Kern musical Very Good Eddie won him a Theater World Award and a Tony nomination; his work in a revival of Whoopee! put him in the running for a Drama Desk Award. “I got lucky,” he says. “I got some breaks: I was the right size, the right shape. And I was fearless. I had a beautiful Broadway career.”

With the advent of darker musicals, he found himself at a crossroads. “I was a song and dance man,” Repole observes. “‘Sweeney Todd? Les Miz? What was I going to do?’ His solution was to become a director. For City Center’s Encores! series, he tackled Du Barry Was a Lady, with Faith Prince and Robert Morse, and Call Me Madam, with Tyne Daly. His directing credits include the Broadway revival of Gentlemen Prefer Blondes, and a slew of gala fund-raisers at Carnegie Hall, the 92nd Street Y, and other locations.

Settled in his new identity, Repole never went back to performing. “It’s a different head,” he says. “When you’re an actor, you want it to be about you. When you’re a director, you want it to be about them.” This insight proved invaluable at QC, where, as a professor, his perspective changed once again. “As a performer, you push it all in,” Repole says. “When you teach, you let it all out.” He began chairing the drama department in September 2006.

The department schedules a play each semester and, in collaboration with the Aaron Copland School, plans an opera one year and a musical the next. The lineup also includes at least two student-directed shows a year. Repole prefers scripts that use as many people as possible, on stage and off. In 2007’s Cinderella, 40 students held acting roles and 15 worked behind the scenes; there was also a 24-piece orchestra. The recent presentation of Our Town boasted a cast of 30, plus 15 in technical jobs.

Each show has its quirks. “In Cinderella, some scenes were only 10 sentences long,” says Repole. “Actors had to invest in gestures like dropping a slipper. In Pajama Game, everything had to be louder, faster, funnier. The kids were exhausted. Basically, if you can do a musical, you can do Shakespeare.” For the record, QC thespians will, sooner or later, get to do Shakespeare period-style, with men in tights and women in big dresses. “I want them to have that experience,” Repole insists.

QC PEOPLE

MAGNUS O. BASSEY (SEYS) recently published “The Place of Group Consciousness in Black Autobiographical Narratives” in the Journal of African American Studies, Vol. 11, Nos. 3-4, 2007 . . . RADDY RAMOS (Psychology) was recently informed that his co-written article “Utility and Versatility of Extracellular Recordings from the Cockroach for Neurophysiological Instruction and Demonstration,” published in Vol. 5, Issue 2 of Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience Education, won the journal’s 2007 Editor’s Choice award as the best article in the laboratory submission category . . . KENNETH RYESKY (Accounting) recently published two scholarly articles: “Part-Time Soldiers: Deploying Adjunct Faculty in the War Against Student Plagiarism,” 2007 Brigham Young University Education & Law Journal, No. 1, and “On Solid Legal Ground: Bringing Information Literacy to Undergraduate-Level Law Courses,” Journal of Effective Teaching, Vol. 7, No. 2, www.uncw.edu/cte/et/articles/Vol_2/Ryesky.pdf . . . ALAN ROSENBERG (Philosophy) was recently informed that the Otto Monsted Fund has granted money for the establishment of his chair as visiting professor in the Department of Management, Politics, and Philosophy at the Copenhagen Business School for the fall 2008 semester. This grant is being awarded to allow him to continue research on his project on self-fashioning. He will also give lectures related to his research on the Holocaust, Heidegger, Foucault, and Nietzsche. Additional funding for Rosenberg was secured by Dean Elizabeth Hendrey (Social Sciences) . . . MORRIS ROSSABI (History) gave the keynote speech on “The Impact of the Mongol Empire on Central Asia” at the Nov. 17 meeting of the Association of Central Asian Studies in Almaty, Kazakhstan . . . At an award ceremony on Nov. 18 at the VIP Country Club in New Rochelle, Dean ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI (Calandra Institute) received the Italian American Museum’s Ambassador Award. The award recognizes Italian American organizations in New York State and their members who preserve and enhance the Italian American heritage. The award was presented to Tamburri by JOSEPH SCELSA (VP, Outreach and Cultural Affairs), who is also the president of the Italian American Museum.
The Twin Cities Daily Planet in Minneapolis featured a story Nov. 13 about a study co-authored by Clive Belfield (Economics) and Henry Levin (Columbia) clearly demonstrating the cost benefits to the public purse of programs designed to prevent students from dropping out of school. The growing incidence of women earning more than their male partners was reported in a Nov. 12 Daily News story that quoted Andy Beveridge (Sociology) . . . Armstrong House Director Michael Cogswell was interviewed about Satchmo’s life and music by Irish TV and radio station RTE on Nov. 15. Assistant Director Deslyn Downes was interviewed about the Armstrong House on Nov. 18 for the “Z Travel & Leisure Hour” on radio station WVOX . . . A story Nov. 14 in the New York Times reporting growing numbers of suburbanites shopping in New York City’s ethnic markets quoted Madhulika Khandelwal (Urban Studies, A/AC) . . . The Oct. 24 conference at QC, which was part of a statewide observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Day, was the subject of a Nov. 1 story in the Queens Courier, and included a picture of Carmella Marrone (Women & Work) . . . Stephen Steinberg’s (Urban Studies) views on assimilation in America were the subject of an interview in the Nov. 16 Chronicle of Higher Education . . . The recent BioBlitz of Jamaica Bay organized by Gillian Stewart (SEES) was the centerpiece story in November’s edition of CUNY Matters . . . Father Paul Wood (Campus Ministries) was quoted Nov. 3 in a story in the Tablet about a meeting of ministers from several New York campuses at St. James Cathedral-Basilica . . . A photo of Queens Borough President Helen Marshall addressing attendees of October’s all-day conference celebrating the history of Queens and the 70th anniversary of Queens College appeared Oct. 25 in the Queens Times . . . The exhibit of photos by Sid Kerner at the QC Arts Center, Face to Face: From See to Shining See, was listed Oct. 25 in the Queens Chronicle . . . Brush with Nature, the installation art exhibition by Barbara Roux now on display at the QC Art Center, was included as part of the TIAA-CREF-sponsored Winter Cultural Calendar that appeared in October in the New Yorker. It was also listed Nov. 8 in the Queens Chronicle and the Queens Examiner . . . The November edition of Queensborough, the publication of the Queens Chamber of Commerce, included a story about the appearance of U. S. Tennis Association Managing Director Daniel Zausner at the Sept. 26 QC Business Forum . . . The Nov. 1 Queens News section of the Daily News led with a story about plans to build a $10 million visitors center at the Louis Armstrong House Museum. Stories also appeared that day in the Queens Chronicle and Metro New York. The New York Times City Room blog (http://cityroom.blogs.nytimes.com) carried the story on Nov. 6, as did Nov. 8 editions of the Times Ledger and Queens Examiner . . . The Oct. 30 QC Business Forum featuring Steve Chen of Crystal Window & Door Systems was reported in the Nov. 7 Queens Gazette and the Nov. 8 Queens Courier . . . The Godwin-Ternbach’s current exhibition, Spirit and Power in African Art, was reviewed Nov. 8 in the Queens Chronicle.

(Exchange Program from page 1) Poland, Korea.”

New York’s mix of cultures also appeals to Clay Rockwood, a senior from the University of Utah. “At home, everyone is pretty much the same: white, middle-class, a member of the Latter-Day Saints,” observes Clay, who is majoring in behavioral science and health. “At QC, I meet people from all walks of life and from all over the world; it’s awesome.”

A Mormon who recently spent two years in Brazil as a missionary, he adds to the diversity on campus. “People ask me how many wives I have,” says the unmarried 25-year-old, who lives with his sister and brother-in-law in their Harlem apartment. “Questions like that come with the territory. Being in the minority is great.”

Japanese students Yui Kato and Yurie Notomi faced some of their biggest challenges immediately after they left the airport. “We got lost on the subway in Jamaica—it was not like we imagined,” reports Yurie. “We didn’t know how to use the phone booth.” Nonetheless, they arrived safely in Long Island City, where they’re sharing housing with a Japanese woman they contacted on the Internet.

Transformed into casual straphangers, the two sophomore business majors remain slightly culture-shocked when they compare their classes and classmates to what they know at home. “In Japan, there are more people in a class, and students don’t speak out as much,” says Yui. “Students here seem more independent and hardworking. They talk about politics all the time.”

Of course, this kind of outside perspective is valuable to the entire college community. “These students add to classroom discussions,” notes Education Abroad Director Gary Braglia, who oversees QC’s exchange programs. But he also hopes that each semester’s visitors will inspire their peers in Queens to venture off campus themselves. “Knowing someone from another state—or country—makes it easier,” he concludes.

(Moving Experience from page 1) the country. But this was our first program with little kids.” The project, which concluded in early November, featured Brown in several one-hour workshops with small groups and staffers from the Child Development Center.

Adapting the institute’s mission to the pre-kindergarten set posed interesting challenges. “We always model teaching units around a work of art,” says Brown. “The goal is for kids to have a charged experience of the performance, something deeper than ‘I liked it.’” In this case, he was preparing his students to watch the Seán Curran Company, a contemporary troupe, present “Percussion Pieces.”

Instead of explaining the notion of planned, deliberate movements, Brown prompted the children to create their own. Each boy and girl had a chance to come up with a gesture—walking backwards, waving hands, pivoting around—for the others to copy. Next, Brown encouraged everyone to isolate a single part of the body and make it move to the music he’d queued up on his CD player.

Finally, the participants were ready for an improvised show that illustrated the jobs of performers and audience members. Four at a time, the kids jumped, swirled, and twirled, while their peers watched from the floor. After each group bowed to warm applause, Brown led a brief discussion. “Was the dance fast or slow?” he asked. “High or low?” Then, like the cast and ticket holders at a revival of Hair, everyone got to their feet for a few excited wriggles before pulling on their shoes and heading to the door.
Environmental Artwork Explores Power and Struggles of Nature

*Brush with Nature*, an installation by artist Barbara Roux that focuses on habitat changes in New York’s remaining wild landscapes, is on display at the Queens College Art Center through December 21. Co-sponsored by the Department of Biology and School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, the exhibition continues QC’s participation in Focus the Nation, a national educational initiative aimed at raising awareness about climate change and global warming.

Roux is an ecology-based artist and conservationist whose work is influenced by her efforts to protect habitats and record incidents in natural history. Her influences include her father (a pharmacologist who did research in the Amazon), her own stays in wilderness areas around the world, and her interactions with scientists on plant-related research, natural history, and contemporary art.

Roux’s installations combine photographic images of ephemeral sites and events, symbolic assemblages of elements from the native habitat, and texts written on natural site fragments. Her work has appeared in museums, universities, and nonprofit spaces across the country, as well as in Germany, Korea, and England.

For more information, visit [www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/art/calendar.html](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/art/calendar.html).

Holiday Food Drive

The Office of Human Resources is coordinating a City Harvest Holiday Food Drive for faculty and staff through December 19. Nonperishable food items should be dropped off in boxes in the lobbies of Kiely Hall, Powdermaker Hall, the Science Building, Rosenthal Library, FitzGerald Gym, Colden Auditorium, and the Student Union. Information: Ann Morgado or Liza Torres, 74455

Armstrong Visitor Center

Present in the garden of the Louis Armstrong House Museum on Oct. 31 to announce the selection of architectural firm Caples Jefferson to design the museum’s new $10 million visitors center are (standing l to r) Judy Bergtraum (CUNY Facilities, Planning, Construction & Management), architect Everardo Jefferson, Jay Goldstein (DASNY, Chief Project Manager for CUNY), Susan Stern (CUNY Dept. of Design, Construction, & Management), architect Sara Caples, VP Sue Henderson, Deslyn Dawnes Dyer (Armstrong House), Jay Hershenson (Sr. Vice Chancellor, CUNY University Relations), Pres. James Muyskens, Risa Honig (CUNY Design, Construction & Management), Michael Cogswell (Director, Armstrong House); (seated l to r) Iris Weinhall (Vice Chancellor for Facilities, Planning, Construction, & Management), Selma Heraldo (neighbor of Louis Armstrong), and NYS Sen. John Sabini.

QC AUTHOR

In previous nonfiction books, novelist and crime historian Harold Schechter (English) has written about members of an elite and ghoulish club: serial killers. But the subject of his latest effort, *The Devil’s Gentleman: Privilege, Poison, and the Trial That Ushered in the Twentieth Century* (Ballantine Books), was convicted of dispatching merely one woman, and that verdict was overturned.

In 1898 Katherine Adams, a respectable Manhattan widow, died after consuming a tonic prepared with bromo-seltzer that her boarder had received in the mail. The boarder—her cousin—became violently ill after sampling the same powder. Handwriting on the medicine package led detectives to Roland Molineux, a handsome ne’er-do-well who enjoyed considerable social status as the son of a Civil War hero. The young man’s trials, with their scandalous revelations, were major media events that sullied the reputation of a widely admired family.

More than a hundred years later, this case has lost none of its lurid appeal. Indeed, the New York Times says, “The book is like a fin-de-siècle version of Court TV, a riveting sequence of appalling events, weird testimony, courtroom theatrics and bungled justice,” and the Wall Street Journal calls it a “well-wrought anatomy of a murder and portrait of an age.”

In a text backed up by 27 pages of footnotes, Schechter recreates a New York City that anticipates the tabloid town of today. What he doesn’t do, deliberately, is rule on Molineux’s innocence or guilt. For that, readers will have to consult his postscript.
December

6–9 **THU–SUN**

**FACULTY DANCE CONCERT:** *Living in 3-D*, directed by Diann Sichel. Thu, 7 pm; Fri & Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm, Goldstein Theatre. Tickets: 718-793-8080, $14/$12 QCID/seniors. Information: X73075.

**PRESIDENT’S CAMPUS HOLIDAY PARTY:** Student Union 4th floor Ballroom, 3 pm.

**ALUMNA RECITAL:** Lauren Zavlunov, flute; LeFrak Hall, 6:45 pm.

**CHEMISTRY COLLOQUIUM:** “Amyloid Formation and Human Disease,” Dan Raleigh (Stony Brook). Remsen Hall, Room 101, 12:15 pm.

**BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM:** “Nucleoprotein function in nuclear transport and beyond,” Hualin Zhong (Hunter). Science Bldg., Room B137, 11:15 am.

**QC ORCHESTRA:** Maurice Peress, director; Berg’s *Wozzeck* (three excerpts); Ligeti’s *Atmospheres*, and Janáček’s Sinfonietta; LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

6 **THU**

**AN EVENING OF CHORAL MUSIC:** QC Chorus, Cindy Bell, conductor, and QC Choir and QC Vocal Ensemble, James John, conductor; LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm.

**QC BRASS ENSEMBLE:** David Jolley, director; LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

7 **FRI**

**CONCERT:** Kyoung-Ki Min, trumpet, and Mee Ryoung Seo, organ; LeFrak Hall, 3 pm.

**QC NEW MUSIC GROUP:** Featuring members of the Second Instrumental Unit; new music for woodwind quintet; LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm.

9 **SUN**


10 **MON**

**CHORAL COFFEE BREAK:** QC Chorus, Cindy Bell, conductor, and QC Choir, James John, conductor; holiday songs and carols; Rosenthal Library, Barham Rotunda, 12:15 pm.

**PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM:** “Optical Aharonov-Bohm Effect in Stacked Type-II Quantum Dots,” Igor Kuskovsky (Physics). Science Bldg., Room 326, 12:15 pm.

12 **WED**

**QC ORCHESTRA:** Maurice Peress, director; Berg’s *Wozzeck* (three excerpts); Ligeti’s *Atmospheres*, and Janáček’s Sinfonietta; LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

13 **THU**

**EVENING READING:** Oliver Sacks will be interviewed by Leonard Lopate. LeFrak Hall, 7 pm.

15 **SAT**

**QC CHORAL SOCIETY:** James John, director; 67th Annual Winter Concert, Bach’s Christmas Oratorio (Part I) and Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G Major, and Haydn’s *Theresienmesse*; Colden Auditorium, 8 pm (Tickets $18, $16, $5 for students with valid QCID).

16 **FRI**

**CONCERT:** QC Chorus, Cindy Bell, conductor, and QC Choir, James John, conductor, with the Young People’s Chorus, Francisco Nuñez, director, and the Cathedral of St. Patrick Choir, Jennifer Pascual, director; holiday program; St. Patrick’s Cathedral, 460 Madison Ave., Manhattan, 7 pm. Free admission.

18 **SAT**

**QC BRASS ENSEMBLE:** David Jolley, director; LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

19 **SUN**


20 **THU**

**A CITY SINGING AT CHRISTMAS:** QC Chorus, Cindy Bell, conductor, and QC Choir, James John, conductor, with the Young People’s Chorus, Francisco Nuñez, director, and the Cathedral of St. Patrick Choir, Jennifer Pascual, director; holiday program; St. Patrick’s Cathedral, 460 Madison Ave., Manhattan, 7 pm. Free admission.

**Exhibits**

**Spirit & Power in African Art.**

Godwin-Ternbach Museum, through Dec. 15. www.qc.cuny.edu/godwin_ternbach/


FYI items should be submitted to Maria Matteo (maria.matteo@qc.cuny.edu), Kiely 1310, x 75593.