Listening to Songbirds to Understand Language

The laboratory of David Lahti (Biology) is a case study in rapid development. Open for less than a year, the 900-square-foot space in the Science Building is filled with computers, audiovisual equipment, spectrophotometers, a molecular lab, and 16 undergraduate and graduate students exploring everything from baboons and botany to changes in human morality. Everyone affiliated with the lab contributes to the Online Bibliography of Environmental Thought, which Lahti has been putting together for the International Society of Environmental Ethics. But most of the projects involve birds.

“Learned behavior is my special interest,” explains the professor, who began teaching at QC in 2009. “The development and evolution of learning is better understood in birds than in any other organism. Songbirds are the only terrestrial animals besides humans that learn how to produce very complex vocalizations. Our studies of bird song have implications for the evolution and diversification of human language.”

One current project tracks and analyzes the songs of house finches, building on the work of Paul Mundinger (Biology), who began recording them in the 1950s. “The house finch was introduced to Brooklyn in 1940,” says Lahti. “We can trace its spread through New York and surrounding states and document changes in its language. We are starting a consortium where anyone who records a house finch anywhere in the United States can send us their recordings.”

Lahti and his students also investigate several species of weavers, a highly social African bird that was the subject of his second dissertation, on ecology and evolutionary biology. He earned his first doctorate in moral philosophy and the philosophy of environmental ethics. Contained in this era is the study of baboons, among the most closely related species to humans, and the role that morality has in animal behavior.

“Songbirds are a good model for studying the evolution of learning in humans,” Lahti said. “We have approached the lab in a different way than most biological laboratories. There are high-dimensional data sets that are hard to analyze using traditional methods. We use computer algorithms and query thedata to help us understand how evolution occurs.”

Lahti and his students are in the process of developing a database of vocal data through a NSF-funded project that will allow for deeper analysis of bird song. They are also in the process of publishing the data in a paper that will be submitted to the journal Nature.

Lahti and his colleagues have also been working on a project that will allow for the analysis of bird song in the wild. They are in the process of developing a new algorithm that will allow for the analysis of bird song in the wild without the need for a lab setting.

Lahti and his colleagues have also been working on a project that will allow for the analysis of bird song in the wild. They are in the process of developing a new algorithm that will allow for the analysis of bird song in the wild without the need for a lab setting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
Renée Kroll Zarin Honored at Homecoming

“Homecoming is wonderful,” remarked Renée Kroll Zarin ’54, as she peered out at an audience of more than 200 who had gathered to pay tribute to her on October 3 as Alumni Hall was officially renamed in her honor.

Sue Henderson (VP Inst. Advancement) thanked Zarin for her vital contributions to the college, such as improving the school’s paralegal program to the point that it gained American Bar Association approval, as well as developing award-winning programs to assist working women and intergenerational caregivers. “And because of her hard work, alumni chapters have started all over the country,” said Henderson.

Roger Sanjek (Anthropology), who taught at QC from 1972 to 2009 and also wrote The Future of Us All, a 1998 book about race and politics in New York City, called Zarin a true “visionary” and praised her for being actively involved in the borough’s newcomer population.

Zarin, who has raised millions of dollars for QC in her various capacities in Corporate and Foundation Relations as well as Alumni Affairs, became increasingly emotional during the ceremony as she spoke passionately about QC and its abiding commitment to diversity.

“Today, Queens is truly one of the most ethnically diverse places in the country and I’m proud to say that we [QC] have always welcomed and encouraged students of varied backgrounds.”

As an additional tribute to Zarin, the college has established the Renée Kroll Zarin Fund for the QC Honors Scholarship Program. The fund will help to recruit some of the city’s brightest students to the college’s honors programs.

Kupferberg Upgrade, Act II

Wearing hard hats and wielding symbolic shovels, a nine-person crew inaugurated the second phase of the Kupferberg Center’s renovations, which will involve new indoor and outdoor lighting, signage, and landscaping. Lending a hand to the November 2 event were (l-r) Staci Cohen (Facilities), Mark Kupferberg, Saul Kupferberg, President Muyskens, Max Kupferberg ’42, VP Sue Henderson, VP Kathy Cobb, CUNY Vice Chancellor Iris Weinshall, and David Gosine (Facilities).
New QC Psychological Center to Serve Community

It can be a frightening and overwhelming experience when you or a loved one has psychological or behavioral problems. Yet with more hospitals closing in New York City—and so many people needing help as they face the stress of continued unemployment—quality, affordable mental health services can be difficult to find.

A new, community-focused psychological center has opened to help fill this need. Under the leadership of clinic director Yvette Caro (Psychology), the Queens College Psychological Center (QCPC) will provide low- or no-cost mental health care to children, adolescents, and adults in the community and on campus. (Students will be referred to the existing QC Counseling & Resource Center.) Under the close supervision of experienced, licensed psychologists on the faculty, students in the college’s clinical psychology: neuropsychology doctoral program will provide treatment to patients.

“I’m excited to work at this clinic, located in one of the most diverse areas of the country,” says Caro, a resident of Jackson Heights. “In some immigrant communities, there is a stigma around seeking psychological help, and by the time patients come to us, they are very ill. We hope that through our community outreach, we will be able to help individuals at an early stage of their difficulties.”

The clinic offers psychological evaluations; individual, group, family, and couples psychotherapy; counseling services; and a variety of group-based interventions including social skills training for children and parent management education for adults. All staff members strive to create a safe and trusting environment in which issues can be shared, explored, and therapeutically addressed.

Among the problems the clinic can address are anxiety, depression, interpersonal/relational issues, grief and bereavement, coping with medical illness or disability, self-esteem and body image concerns, parenting issues, and adjustment to changing life circumstances.

For children, typical difficulties may include separation anxiety, school refusal, social anxiety, fears, phobias, social skills deficits, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), tantrums, aggression, depression, moodiness, impulsivity, defiance, and disobedience.

Located in Razran Hall, Room 141, the QCPC is open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. All new applicants for psychotherapy or counseling services will be charged $25 for the initial consultation, but the fee will be waived for those with serious financial difficulty. Fees for services will be on a sliding scale, taking into account personal and/or family income; no one will be turned away because of inability to pay. Every effort will be made to identify resources for patients who require care outside the scope of the clinic’s practice.

To find out more or to schedule an appointment, call 70500.

A licensed clinical psychologist, Caro is literally a product of New York: She grew up in a Spanish-speaking household in Washington Heights, majored in psychology at New York University, earned her doctorate at the Gordon F. Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University, and completed an internship and fellowship training at NYU-Bellevue Hospital Center. Then she joined the staff at Bellevue.

After working on an in-patient unit for homeless individuals, Caro played a major role in creating the hospital’s Bilingual Treatment Program, which provides care for Hispanic and Asian communities; she went on to serve as the program’s director for 14 years. She also is a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine.

Such rich and varied experience made her the ideal candidate to lead the QCPC. “This was a unique opportunity for me to start a clinic from the ground up,” observes Caro, who sees tremendous demand in Queens for a facility that offers affordable, high-quality services for the community. She’s equally excited at the prospect of contributing to quality graduate education and professional preparation in psychology, facilitating growth from doctoral student to practitioner, and including undergraduates as volunteers in clinic projects that involve community education and outreach and the destigmatization of mental illness.

STAFF PROFILE:

Yvette Caro
DIRECTOR, PSYCHOLOGICAL CENTER

In her office desk in Razran Hall, Yvette Caro (Psychology) keeps a relic from a more primitive era in mental health. “The only treatment we used to be able to offer was to lock people up to keep them safe,” says Caro, pulling out a key once used for that purpose at Bellevue Hospital. “Now we have evidence-based treatments. We have the science to know what works.”

As director of the newly founded Queens College Psychological Center (QCPC), Caro wants to extend professional help to those who need it, regardless of their ability to pay.

Voices & Vision: Memories Made in Northern Ireland

In 2008 a group of Catholics and Protestants spent months collaborating on an oral history and visual art project; their efforts represent steps on the path to reconciliation. (At QC Art Center through Dec. 23.)
On the day that Queens College was struck by a tornado, Flushing resident Susan Jeng, an office assistant for the English Language Institute in Professional & Continuing Studies, was caught up in a vortex that frequently sweeps across the world stage: former President Bill Clinton.

Jeng had this opportunity thanks to winning a lottery held by the Clinton Foundation in which a day with the 42nd president was top prize. As co-founder (with Rev. Dr. Conrad R. Richards) of the Flushing-based Rivers in the Desert Advocacy Center—an organization that aids victims of human trafficking and domestic violence—Jeng has always been interested in the wide-ranging social policy objectives of the foundation.

When notified last May that she’d won their lottery, she requested that Richards be allowed to accompany her.

As Jeng and Richards tell it, their “day”—September 16—began at 2:45 pm when a car arrived to bring them to the Hell’s Kitchen studios of “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart,” where Clinton was taping a segment.

“But first, to show you how busy he is, he sat down for a 30-minute interview with YouTube,” said Jeng, who watched while Clinton deftly fielded questions from around the world in a webcast at a separate facility in the same building.

Following the webcast, they accompanied Clinton downstairs, where he conversed with Stewart for 10 minutes prior to “The Daily Show” taping, which they viewed from the side of the set. “We were not in the audience,” explained Jeng, “because we had to be ready to leave as soon as he leaves.”

Richards noted that Clinton was very accommodating, frequently asking, “Are you okay? Are you enjoying the routine?” and signaling, “Okay, put your skates on. We’re off again,” as they rushed to their next stop—in a separate car that was challenged with keeping pace with Clinton’s fast-moving, Secret Service-chauffeured SUV.

As per Secret Service restrictions, Jeng and Richards were not allowed to know Clinton’s schedule. “We had to chase all over the city to keep up with him,” Jeng noted.

The next thing they knew they were at the Marriott Hotel, being rushed by one of Clinton’s young aides through several corridors (“I felt like I was in a spy movie!”). Then they abruptly stopped and a curtain parted to show Clinton addressing a black tie event for a law association. “He gave us this quick look,” Jeng said, “as if to say ‘Where did you come from?’”

Later as they left the Marriott, Clinton asked, “Are you guys having fun? Come over here and let me talk to you.”

“He’s so tall,” Jeng recalled. “He’s very loving and down to earth. He makes you feel that you’re important to him when he speaks with you.”

Then they were off to a beautiful apartment in lower Manhattan for a private fundraiser for the Clinton Foundation. “We saw some familiar faces,” said Jeng, “senators, a former secretary of state, and there was Deepak [Chopra].”

The “main event,” says Jeng, came next: a celebrity-studded fundraiser in Williamsburg at the Brooklyn Bowl, the world’s first LEED-certified bowling alley, which also features a performance space. As at the previous appearances, Clinton received an enthusiastic response, especially from young people. And, as previously, he spoke about the need to improve education and train people for the kinds of jobs available in today’s challenging economy. He also affirmed his support for President Obama, imploring: “Don’t make a U-turn!”

Jeng was impressed by Clinton’s ability to tailor his remarks to his audience and by the fact that he never used notes. “He’s so energetic,” she said. “We were only with him for half a day, but we were exhausted.”
Art That Works

“Art can be socially useful,” observes Maureen Connor (Art). “There are so many problems that exist in the culture; why shouldn’t artists be part of the solution?”

Apparently, the Rockefeller Foundation shares that sentiment. Earlier this fall, Rockefeller awarded a two-year, $200,000 grant to QC and the Queens Museum of Art (QMA) to develop a pilot that could prepare the college to offer a master of fine arts degree in social practice.

A new, publicly oriented field of artistic exploration, social practice includes strategies as diverse as urban interventions, utopian structures, guerrilla architecture, green sustainable projects, and street performance. Connor, Debra Priestly, and Gregory Sholette (Art) will lead the pilot at QC, which is one of a handful of colleges to have—or consider having—a social practice program. As part of the pilot, QC and QMA will solicit proposals for yearlong projects for the Corona neighborhood; both graduate and undergraduate students will have the opportunity to participate as interns, apprentices, researchers, and assistants.

The collaboration was initiated by the museum, which has been working in Corona for six or seven years. “It’s important to be a responsible partner in your own community,” says QMA Executive Director Tom Finkelpearl, who wanted his institution to partner with QC because “it has an excellent, respected MFA program.” Among the museum’s social efforts to date: Healthy Taste of Corona, a bilingual cookbook featuring recipes that were contributed by local politicians and restaurants and then adjusted by nutritionists at Elmhurst Hospital.

At QC, the pilot got off to a great start with a presentation by InCUBATE and The Yes Men, two groups that are active in social practice. InCUBATE—an acronym for Institute for Community Understanding Between Art and The Everyday—is a Chicago-based research organization that experiments with alternate methods of arts administration and funding; its initiatives include hosting a monthly meal that costs $10 apiece, awarding the proceeds to a project chosen by the people in attendance. The Yes Men are performance artists whose work involves impersonating, and thereby publicly humiliating, corporate executives who put profits ahead of everything else. The event played to a standing-room-only crowd in Klapper Hall—proof that social practice holds plenty of interest for QC students and faculty.

The Business Breakfast Club

Young executives at five New York companies shared their strategies for thriving in a tough economy at the QC Business Forum on October 15. Panelists at the early morning event included (l-r) Steve Chen of Crystal Window & Door Systems, Patricia Flores of Publimax Printing, Benjamin Levine of Douglaston Development, and Jerry Pi of Pi Capital Partners LLC.

LISTENING TO SONGBIRDS - from page 1

of biology. As his CV suggests, Lahti isn’t limited to avian topics. On a QC-funded trip to Ethiopia last summer, he collected data on many organisms for a natural history guide. Another Africa-based project looks at the relationship between a people’s ecology and social organization and their evolving views of right and wrong.

Lahti’s academic evolution has taken him from Gordon College in Massachusetts, where he majored in biology and history, to Oxford University and the University of Michigan for his PhDs, and then to post-docs at the University of Massachusetts and with the National Institutes of Health. He came to QC, he says, “because I wanted to do research at a place friendly to someone with interests as broad as mine. Our department has a wide-ranging faculty, and the diversity of my interests is encouraged.”

Rüppell’s weaver is known for its elaborately woven nests; here, Lahti checks one for eggs.

The Business Breakfast Club

Young executives at five New York companies shared their strategies for thriving in a tough economy at the QC Business Forum on October 15. Panelists at the early morning event included (l-r) Steve Chen of Crystal Window & Door Systems, Patricia Flores of Publimax Printing, Benjamin Levine of Douglaston Development, and Jerry Pi of Pi Capital Partners LLC.
Library Project Collects Memories of Queens

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that over two million people live in Queens, the most ethnically diverse county in the nation. A collaboration of the Queens College Libraries’ Department of Special Collections and Archives and the Archives at Queens Library aims to tell their stories, one conversation at a time.

The Queens Memory Project began in June when Natalie Milbrodt—then a Special Collections and Archives Fellow in the QC Libraries and a master’s degree candidate in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies—conducted oral history interviews with 20 residents of the Waldheim section of Flushing. Her subjects ranged from a 92-year-old woman whose parents built their home on parceled farmland to members of the largely South Indian Ganesha Temple.

After winning a $25,000 grant from the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO), Milbrodt set up the collaboration between QC and the Queens Library, which will digitize the oral histories and related materials. The combined interviews, images, and papers will form the first electronic archive documenting life in the borough.

“This project will allow us to enhance public access to existing records of historical and contemporary life in Queens neighborhoods,” says Milbrodt, now project manager for the inter-library effort. While the current funding pertains only to Flushing, the Queens Memory Project lays the groundwork for a website that may eventually allow individuals and community organizations from all over the borough to contribute to the archive. (For an example of what the project’s future website will look like, visit http://www.philaplace.org/, developed by software firm Whirl-i-Gig, another partner on the Queens Memory Project.)

“Like Queens itself, this project is complex and dynamic,” says Benjamin Alexander (GSLIS), head of Special Collections and Archives at QC. “We want to engage the historical process of Queens in real time and create a website that captures the borough’s democratic, pluralistic history. There has never been a project like this, which aims to capture ethnographic change on such a huge scale.”

John Hyslop, digital assets manager of the Archives at Queens Library, is equally enthralled with the project. “This collaboration will give the citizens of Queens the ability to document their neighborhoods through digital sound, photographs, moving images, and more,” he says. “Researchers from around the world will have access to this documentation. This is a grand opportunity to demonstrate how the people of Queens make it one of the most dynamic places in the world.”

GTM Open “Windows” on Afghanistan

Afghan civilian casualties are commemorated in a unique traveling exhibition at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum. Windows and Mirrors: Reflections on the War in Afghanistan comprises about three dozen panels by muralists from all over the United States. The show was brought here by Rikki Asher (SEYS), who combined parachute cloth and traditional Afghan elements in her panel, Bamiyan Buddha and Weeping Women—a representation of the countless mothers, sisters, daughters, wives, aunts, and grandmothers who have lost loved ones to the war.

Above: Natalie Milbrodt interviews longtime resident John Tsavalos for the Queens Memory Project. Left: The archive also captures a ritual observed by members of the South Indian Ganesha Temple.
Yasemin Jones
SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO PROVOST

As special assistant to the provost, Yasemin Jones helps to develop innovative programs to give students a broader and more holistic educational experience. Her aim, she says, is to get undergraduates to “see themselves not just as students in the classroom, but as mentors and leaders in the community.”

Although on the job only since June, Jones has been working on a number of initiatives to expand opportunities in such areas as internships, study abroad, undergraduate research, and mentoring. One particularly fruitful idea, she says, is tapping alumni to provide paid internships in their organizations. This has resulted in placements in businesses overseas. Another initiative is likely to lead next year to the start of an exchange program with a business school in Germany.

Jones is particularly interested in developing opportunities that integrate several activities, such as study abroad combined with an internship and an undergraduate research component. She’s at the right place. Queens already does more study abroad than most other CUNY institutions, says Jones, although QC students most often do short overseas stints—between semesters or in the summer.

Jones’s interest in study abroad is perhaps not surprising. She was born and raised in Izmir, a major Turkish city on the Aegean Sea, and immigrated to the United States at age 9 with her mother. They first lived in the Dallas suburb of Grand Prairie. “My first years were wonderful and terrifying,” she recalls. “Texas is such a strange and different place”—and the suburbs too isolated for someone who grew up “in a city where one knew one’s neighbors.”

Jones, who speaks fluent Turkish in addition to English, went on to experience other distinctive parts of the country. After several years in Texas, the family, including Jones’s American stepfather, moved to Honolulu, where she completed middle and high school. Next Jones did an undergraduate degree at the University of California at Irvine, before moving to New York, where she eventually earned a doctorate in educational philosophy at the CUNY Graduate School.

Jones’s first years of work helped inform her subsequent career path. For several years she taught math and helped develop curricula in two alternative public high schools, one in Harlem for children with psychiatric and drug abuse problems.

Jones is currently trying to develop “experiential learning spaces” to more fully engage students and “promote the confidence of young people that can come out of these experiences.”

“Students and faculty have been incredibly responsive,” says Jones. “I’ve never felt the sense of passion and energy that I have seen here.”

STAFF PROFILE:

The Knight Is Strung

Settling in Little Italy, a clan of puppeteers perpetuated their century-old genre: reenacting the exploits of the legendary knight Roland. Eventually, the puppeteers became legendary themselves. That’s the story told in It’s One Family: Knock on Wood, a movie about the Papa Manteo Sicilian Marionette Theater. In a November 16 presentation sponsored by the New York State Humanities Council and QC’s Italian American Studies Program, filmmaker Tony De Nonno put his stiff-limbed star through his paces before screening the documentary.

Students Rank Class Acts

For decades, QC students have been asked to assess their courses at the end of every semester. The evaluations, which give instructors insight into the impact of their work, can be used when faculty apply for reappointment, tenure, and promotion.

Last spring, the Academic Senate’s Committee on Teaching Excellence and Evaluation debuted a revised online evaluation form; although it’s shorter, the 10 questions cover everything from readings and exams to the instructor’s presentation of material. The results, recently tabulated by Dean Savage (Sociology), chair of the committee, attest to the importance of a professor’s intelligibility and responsiveness.

“If we look at the extent to which ‘Overall Evaluation of the Instructor’ is correlated with other items, what students value most is that the instructor is clear, that he/she interacts well with students, and that he/she provides useful feedback,” says Savage. “I would say this is a very useful result, one that new—and old—instructors might consider to advantage.”
QC Student “Teaches” Professors in Michigan

Alejandra Villanueva, a QC sophomore, traveled to Ypsilanti, MI in October to help “teach” faculty and administrators at Eastern Michigan University, Adrian College, and other institutions. They were learning the Reacting to the Past (RTTP) teaching method by playing a mini-version of The Trial of Galileo, 1616–1633. In Reacting, students play elaborate games, set in the past, their roles informed by classic texts.

Villanueva advised the faction that supported Galileo. “To a group of senior faculty, including myself, Ms. Villanueva outlined and explained complicated astronomical diagrams and principles,” noted Deborah Field, a professor of history and director of honors at Adrian College. “I was struck by the clarity of her explanations, and by her confident and pleasant professionalism.” Mark Whitters, a professor of religion at Eastern Michigan University, said Villanueva was “fearless” in her social and academic interactions with professors, “someone who was not in the least intimidated by any academic maven.” Mark C. Carnes, a professor of history at Barnard College and head of the team that ran the workshop, singled out Villanueva as “an unusually articulate, self-confident and knowledgeable student—an extraordinary exemplar of the excellence in education for which Queens College is famous.”

Villanueva, who took part in The Trial of Galileo when she was a freshman, was nominated to serve as preceptor by Helen Gaudette (History) and Marty Braun (director, Freshman Year Initiative).

“I absolutely enjoyed working with all of the professors,” Villanueva said. “It was nice getting outside of my comfort zone.”

Grant for Innovative Teaching Project
Karen A. Sullivan
Professor of European Languages & Literatures
Francophone Literature: The Twentieth-Century Haitian Novel in French

Excellence in Teaching Awards
Professional & Continuing Studies Faculty
Nancy Mare
Instructor, English Language Institute

Adjunct Teaching Awards
Eric Chernov
Music
Geordan Hull
Economics
Angela Stach
Sociology

Full-Time Teaching Awards
Alicia M. Alvero
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Frances R. Curcio
Professor of Secondary Education & Youth Services
Duncan Faherty
Associate Professor of English

SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS
CUNY Support Staff Excellence Award
Esther (Millie) Snyder
Office of College Now

HEO Excellence Award
Mary Waters
Academic Advising Center

Award Winners Announced at Annual Assembly

At the annual Faculty and Staff Assembly on Wednesday, October 13, President Muyskens announced a number of awards, which were funded by the Queens College Foundation.

President Muyskens (r) congratulates award winners (l-r) Duncan Faherty (English), Alicia Alvero (Psychology), Frances Curcio (SEYS), and Eric Chernov (Music) at the recent Faculty and Staff Assembly.

Chills and Thrills at Armstrong House
Scaring up a crowd isn’t hard for the Louis Armstrong House Museum on Halloween. As it does every year, LAHM celebrated the day by handing out treats, holding hourly costume contests, and inviting visitors to make spooky collages with the help of staffers who dressed for the occasion.

Award Winners  Announced at Annual Assembly

At the annual Faculty and Staff Assembly on Wednesday, October 13, President Muyskens announced a number of awards, which were funded by the Queens College Foundation.

Grant for Innovative Teaching Project
Karen A. Sullivan
Professor of European Languages & Literatures
Francophone Literature: The Twentieth-Century Haitian Novel in French

Excellence in Teaching Awards
Professional & Continuing Studies Faculty
Nancy Mare
Instructor, English Language Institute

Adjunct Teaching Awards
Eric Chernov
Music
Geordan Hull
Economics
Angela Stach
Sociology

Full-Time Teaching Awards
Alicia M. Alvero
Assistant Professor of Psychology
Frances R. Curcio
Professor of Secondary Education & Youth Services
Duncan Faherty
Associate Professor of English

SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS
CUNY Support Staff Excellence Award
Esther (Millie) Snyder
Office of College Now

HEO Excellence Award
Mary Waters
Academic Advising Center

QC Student “Teaches” Professors in Michigan

Alejandra Villanueva, a QC sophomore, traveled to Ypsilanti, MI in October to help “teach” faculty and administrators at Eastern Michigan University, Adrian College, and other institutions. They were learning the Reacting to the Past (RTTP) teaching method by playing a mini-version of The Trial of Galileo, 1616–1633. In Reacting, students play elaborate games, set in the past, their roles informed by classic texts.

Villanueva advised the faction that supported Galileo. “To a group of senior faculty, including myself, Ms. Villanueva outlined and explained complicated astronomical diagrams and principles,” noted Deborah Field, a professor of history and director of honors at Adrian College. “I was struck by the clarity of her explanations, and by her confident and pleasant professionalism.” Mark Whitters, a professor of religion at Eastern Michigan University, said Villanueva was “fearless” in her social and academic interactions with professors, “someone who was not in the least intimidated by any academic maven.” Mark C. Carnes, a professor of history at Barnard College and head of the team that ran the workshop, singled out Villanueva as “an unusually articulate, self-confident and knowledgeable student—an extraordinary exemplar of the excellence in education for which Queens College is famous.”

Villanueva, who took part in The Trial of Galileo when she was a freshman, was nominated to serve as preceptor by Helen Gaudette (History) and Marty Braun (director, Freshman Year Initiative).

“I absolutely enjoyed working with all of the professors,” Villanueva said. “It was nice getting outside of my comfort zone.”

President Muyskens (r) congratulates award winners (l-r) Duncan Faherty (English), Alicia Alvero (Psychology), Frances Curcio (SEYS), and Eric Chernov (Music) at the recent Faculty and Staff Assembly.

Chills and Thrills at Armstrong House
Scaring up a crowd isn’t hard for the Louis Armstrong House Museum on Halloween. As it does every year, LAHM celebrated the day by handing out treats, holding hourly costume contests, and inviting visitors to make spooky collages with the help of staffers who dressed for the occasion.
From her tenth floor office on the west side of Kiely Hall, Kathy Cobb (VP Finance) had a frighteningly good view of the approaching storm that was about to inflict an estimated $4 million in damages to the Queens College campus.

“It was unbelievable,” she said of the September 16 event. “The light changed; it was an odd, off color and very, very dark. The windows were really vibrating. They were being struck by hail and I thought they were going to explode!”

They didn’t, and thanks to insurance and disaster relief, the campus budget may not explode as Cobb oversees the task of assessing the damage wrought by the tornado and securing funding to make repairs.

That process began almost as soon as the storm had passed. “At the same time that we were cleaning up the campus, we were also gathering information and putting it in a database,” noted Cobb. “We’re updating it daily; at first it was just estimates of costs and now it’s actual costs. We also put in any labor costs associated with responding to the tornado.” These include overtime and costs incurred because workers engaged in the cleanup weren’t able to perform their regular duties.

“We met with DASNY [the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York] within days to prioritize things that needed to be done, such as lighting for security purposes,” she said.

“The major problem for us is the loss of revenue from the tennis bubble which is used to fund athletics,” she noted of QC’s signature sports facility that was so severely damaged it was the subject of news stories broadcast nationally on CBS and locally on FOX 5 and WPIX, Channel 11. “It will require about $1.8 million to replace the membrane. We’re putting in an insurance claim for that. There’s a $100,000 deductible.” Cobb noted that $100,000 is also the amount it cost for cleanup and removal of the dozens of trees seriously damaged or felled by the storm.

Other damaged parts of campus include the greenhouse atop the Science Building; two sides of the face of the Rosenthal Library clocktower; water damage to the top floor of Kiely Hall; and furniture struck by flying debris in the plaza near the cafeteria.

“Bleachers from the athletic fields were just picked up and carried away,” Cobb remarked. “FEMA has been here,” she continued. “New York City met the threshold to be declared a natural disaster area. So now there is a process to apply for funding. The DASNY funds would be primary, but if there are expenses that aren’t covered by that, such as the deductible, we might be able to apply to FEMA.”

“But,” she said, “with DASNY doing most of the work, we don’t have to pay up front.”

QC Gets Good Grades from Junior Faculty

Junior faculty are pleased with the environment they find at QC. That’s the conclusion of the latest Tenure-Track Faculty Job Satisfaction Survey released by the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE). The report—based on data from 15,000 tenure-track professors at 127 of the 160 colleges and universities that belong to the collaborative—evaluated the participating schools in eight work-life categories ranging from tenure practices to work and home balance. Thirty-two institutions excelled in at least one area. QC was one of a quartet of schools, including Lehman College, to get top scores in four categories; only one school, the University of Iowa, excelled in five. “The COACHE survey confirms what professors already know: QC strives to offer a supportive workplace to faculty members at every stage of their careers,” says Provost James Stellar.

Saluting a Legend

In a career that has spanned half a century, Andrew Hacker (Pol. Sci.) has influenced countless students. On November 15 some of those students and many colleagues turned out for a reception in his honor in Manhattan. Toasting Hacker, President Muyskens said, “An anonymous wit once said that a professor is a person who talks in someone else’s sleep. But Andrew Hacker is a professor who makes students lose sleep because they continue to hear his voice in their heads, offering new ideas.”
Athletics Department Does Well in Collegiate Power Rankings

Queens College learned in October that it has been ranked 38th among 100 schools in the annual Collegiate Power Rankings of the National Collegiate Scouting Association (NCSA).

“The NCSA staff consists of more than 70 collegiate athletes and college coaches whose focus is to match college coaches with qualified and committed student athletes, maximizing their collegiate recruiting potential,” says NCSA CEO and founder Chris Krause.

The NCSA rankings are calculated for each college/university at the NCAA Division I, II, and III levels by averaging the Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup ranking (Learfield is a sports marketing and communications company), the NCAA student-athlete graduation rate of each college/university, and the U.S. News & World Report ranking.

The collegiate power rankings based on the Learfield rating (Queens is ranked 141 among 221 Division II schools) evaluate the strength of NCAA athletic departments, while the U.S. News & World Report rating recognizes institutions of academic excellence. The student-athlete graduation rates are provided by the NCAA.

According to the NCSA website, “More than 35,000 college coaches and more than 1,700 colleges and universities use NCSA to meet their recruiting needs. NCSA annually tracks more than 100,000 of the top student athletes in 25 sports who will be making their way onto college rosters with the ultimate goal of earning a college degree.”

Research and Mentoring Symposium Showcases Student Work

Less than a year since it was officially re-launched, the UR/ME (Undergraduate Research and Mentoring Education) program held its first symposium to show some of the work QC students have been doing in collaboration with their faculty mentors.

The October 25 event in the Dining Hall included presentations and poster sessions devoted to 10 of the projects that have received funding since UR/ME returned after a six-year hiatus. They ranged from projects in the bench sciences to a survey that examined the impact of the 2008 recession on Queens’s immigrant communities.

Observes Yasemin Jones (Provost’s Office), one of the organizing committee members, “It was the capstone of this great mentoring experience: Students got to discuss, present, and respond to questions about the research they did with their mentors. What’s very exciting is that it was the students who presented, not the mentors. We were all very impressed with their ability to think deeply about their research and to communicate this with their PowerPoints and beautiful posters.”

This event was also, says the symposium’s coordinator Eva Fernandez (Center for Teaching and Learning), an opportunity to get all the faculty and student participants together to share what happened since they embarked on their individual projects. “Many of the students told me: ‘This was so much fun; it was really helpful to see what the other people had been doing.’”

It was helpful for the faculty as well. Faculty mentor Carolyn Pytte (Psychology) says, “It’s exceedingly rare—for me at least—to take part in a cross-disciplinary symposium that includes research not only across an array of scientific disciplines but also in the humanities—which I tend to overlook as an arena for research unless there’s a new finding I hear about through CNN or some media outlet.”

Pytte also notes, “Eva David, one of the undergraduates from my lab, was also impressed by how interesting the non-bench science talks were (about West African populations on Staten Island, for example) and how we otherwise tend not to think about the scientific method in a broader context.”

“It was not only fantastic for the Pis and the students to see the fruits of their labors,” says Fernandez, “but there were people there from all around the campus and they were really impressed. They were saying: ‘They’re only undergraduates. How can they be doing this complex stuff?’”

“We’ve gotten the attention of some of the really good scholars around campus who are interested in sharing their scholarship with their students. That’s really great.”
Bloggers Look at Life at Queens College

What will happen if students are given a public forum in which to reflect upon their experiences at Queens College?

This is the question upon which Writing at Queens has premised QC Voices, its foray into the digital free-fire zone known as the blogosphere. Since last spring, the answer has been emerging week-by-week, blogpost after blogpost, at http://qcvoices.qwriting.org.

A sampling of current posts ranges from J Prime’s account of experiences as a music education major observing grade school music classes (sixth graders pay attention; eighth graders don’t), to vicariousgirl’s anxiety over declaring a major, to Mohammadali Aghanori’s declaration: “I really miss the bell of the clock tower. I hope it gets fixed soon.” Bkuszewski assesses her predicament as a pre-med student whose circumstances require she hold a job: “You begin to mold everything around that job including what classes you take, how many classes you can take per semester, how many days you can be in school. Life becomes more about what you can afford and not what you want.”

“When we originally advertised for bloggers, we received 20 applications for 10 spots. This time we were a little more overt in our efforts and we received 250 applications,” says George.

“Okay, art students, music students, science students. They’re sophomores, juniors, seniors, grad students, men, women. We were looking for diversity in majors and in experience, but not gender. Still we came up with almost 50-50: eight men and seven women.”

Noting some of their attributes, George observes, “One is a student from the University of Nebraska participating in the National Student Exchange. He offers a Midwesterner’s impressions of living in New York. We have a graduate student who’s also a New York City tour bus driver. So he’s got a lot of stuff going on. We’ve even got a rock star, a rapper. He has his first song on iTunes.”

Posting guidelines are fairly unrestrictive, explains George, who reads every post and occasionally comments on them. “I don’t edit for content. We ask them to avoid pornography and to avoid mentioning a professor by name because there are libel

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Successful First Months for the Year of China

With talks, concerts, exhibitions, and performance art, QC’s Year of China has gotten off to a memorable start. From top left: As chair of the seminar series devoted to contemporary China, Carl Riskin (Economics) has introduced guest lecturers and participated in a roundtable on Sino-U.S. relations. The Shanghai Quartet gave a concert in LeFrak Hall; a show at the Queens College Art Center featured the work of ceramicist Sin-ying Ho (Art). The most unusual event may have been My New Job, an interactive installation and performance piece presented by multimedia artist Chin Chih Yang, who portrayed a man who supports himself by collecting and redeeming beverage cans.
issues. Other than that, if they’re having a terrible experience at Queens College, they should write about it.”

Word about the QC Voices blog is just starting to get around campus, says George, relating how some classes—mostly in the English department—have begun using the posts to illustrate lessons about different voices. She also foresees how QC Voices could be a useful adjunct to the admissions process, providing prospective students a glimpse of QC student life.

“We have these bloggers for a full year,” she says. “So, hopefully, there’s something to that longevity that can generate a lot more spark.”

Brian Murphy
ASSISTANT VP, BUDGET & PLANNING

A great higher education institution needs more than dedicated faculty and inspired leaders. Especially in the current period of financial belt-tightening, a college needs smart business managers who can help squeeze the most out of shrinking resources.

That’s just what Queens had in mind when it hired Brian Murphy in September as assistant vice president for budget and planning, reporting to Vice President Katharine Cobb. Murphy brings two decades of financial and business management experience in direct mail and book publishing, followed by a year-and-a-half as an accounting and finance executive at Columbia University.

At Columbia, Murphy worked in student and administrative services. But at Queens, for the first time, he is working directly with academic leaders. He helps the provost and deans work out the funding for academic projects and plan their budgets. He has come on “at a challenging time,” acknowledges Murphy, “with CUNY facing significant budget cuts.”

Murphy left his job at Columbia in March. Despite its vast endowment, that private institution had to start cutting back its budget after the 2008 financial meltdown. His experience helping to manage the process there has proved helpful in preparing him for his work at Queens.

His overarching goal now, says Murphy, is “trying to minimize the impact on students.” So far, Queens has managed to avoid firing staff or cutting course offerings.

Murphy grew up in Elmhurst and Long Island. While an undergraduate at the University of Dayton in Ohio, Murphy spent summers working at the family store in Woodhaven stocking shelves and running a cash register.

After earning an MBA at the University of Cincinnati, he started a career that has included 11 years at the Time Warner Book Group in New York. Then came his job at Columbia. After leaving that university last spring, Murphy seized a chance to retrace his roots and went to Ireland, from where his father had emigrated years earlier.

But the country, until recently known as the “Celtic Tiger” for its remarkable growth, was hit harder than most European nations by the global financial crisis of 2008. Unable to find a job commensurate with his experience, he returned to New York after three months and began looking here.

Murphy had been inspired by his time at Columbia. “I knew I didn’t want to work in business,” he says. Working in higher education has “the feel of a higher purpose: helping students get a great education.”

Although at Queens only a short time, Murphy says he is happy with his new job. “I’m impressed that everyone is very focused on what’s best for the students—and that’s the way it should be.”
**Mellon Grant Helps Expand College’s Language Offerings**

The Department of Classical, Middle Eastern, and Asian Languages and Cultures (CMAL) is expanding, thanks to a pair of awards from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Department of Education.

The Mellon grant, $309,000 for three years, supports the appointment of one tenure-track professor in Korean and another in Arabic, as well as the development of a proficiency-based curriculum in those languages. “This grant builds on a $50,000 planning grant from Mellon, which allowed us to do a self-study, talk to people in the field, and determine our needs,” says CMAL Chair William McClure.

The creation of additional sections of Korean will enable the department to offer a minor in the subject, as well as a Korean track in the East Asian Studies major, which currently focuses on Chinese and Japanese. “We’re very much a service department, allowing students to satisfy their language requirement for distributionals,” notes McClure. “There’s a lot of demand for Korean from non-Korean students.”

Arabic instruction is another critical element of the department’s future plans. The appointment of a professor will also promote the division of education’s goal of certifying teachers in Arabic. Additional funding for the new Middle Eastern Studies major comes from the federal Department of Education, which has given QC a two-year, $190,000 award for that purpose.

“All of this is possible because the college is so supportive of us,” says a delighted McClure. “Our grant applications required the president’s authorization.”

**Polar Attractions**

A Korean tradition was introduced on campus when four jangseungs—wooden totem poles erected by villages to mark boundaries and repel bad spirits—were installed near Renée Kroll Zarin Alumni Hall on October 7. Working on site, sculptor Jong-Heung Kim carved the poles out of trees that had been damaged in the tornado three weeks earlier.

**News Services Launches Faculty Experts Database**

To provide background for a story or explain a complicated topic, reporters need sources. As scholars in their fields, QC professors are eminently quotable. Now they will be easier for journalists to find. QC’s News Services—part of the Office of Communications—is compiling a faculty experts list that was recently posted on the News and Media page of the college website (http://www.qc.cuny.edu/communications/Pages/FacultyExperts.aspx).

Faculty members have been asked to submit descriptions of their specialties and research projects; the writeups, searchable by subject, can be linked to departmental or professional pages.

“This database uses the World Wide Web to bring the impressive expertise of our faculty to an even wider audience—the media, as well as faculty at other colleges and the general public,” says Assistant VP for Communications Maria Terrone. “We thank the faculty who have responded so far, and look forward to adding more names and descriptions.”

If you’d like to be a part of the new database, send a 75- to 100-word description of your work to maria.matteo@qc.cuny.edu. Using key words to highlight your research will make it more likely that the paragraph will come up in an online search of your topic. The description should also be in layman’s terms—uncomplicated and straightforward language. Visit the database for good examples.
Math Grad “Makes A Difference”

Although teaching offers many rewards, most of them are intangible. So Milton Chen ’01, a math teacher at Benjamin N. Cardozo, was delighted to receive a plaque and a check for $3000 at a ceremony the New York Times held last summer to recognize him and five of his peers from high schools around the city. Saluted as “Teachers Who Make a Difference,” Chen and his fellow educators shared the spotlight with the people who had selected them: six graduating seniors who had just won four-year grants, including a college fund for their daughters.

“I was surprised when Sion told me she had nominated me,” says Chen, who plans to spend his $3000 on household expenses, including a college fund for his daughters. “It was very nice and rewarding to see myself in the paper.”

Alice Artzt ’68 (Secondary Education), who taught Chen at QC, was thrilled to see him recognized for his work. Says Artzt, “We take pride in knowing that he is a graduate of our mathematics teacher preparation program.”

Far-Travelling Lecturer

For Joel Spring (EECE), the lecture circuit stretches from the United States to Chengdu, China—where in October he and his wife (front row) dined with students and faculty at Szechuan Normal University. This month, Spring stayed closer to home, giving the keynote at the 30th Annual Bilingual/ESL Conference held by the Department of Languages and Cultures at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey.

QC People


MARY FOOTE (EECE) is one of seven co-principal investigators for a five-year study for which QC has received a grant of more than $350,000 from the National Science Foundation. It’s called “Teachers Empowered to Advance Change in Mathematics (TEACH MATH): Preparing pre-K–8 Teachers to Connect Children’s Mathematical Thinking and Community-based Funds of Knowledge.” The originating institution is Iowa State University …

A play by IRA HAUPTMAN (DTD), Starry Messenger, a new take on Galileo and his family, is being produced Off-Off Broadway at Theater for the New City on July 29. Chen stands literally and figuratively behind Sion Choi, who took his AP calculus class and is now attending New York University.

“I was surprised when Sion told me she had nominated me,” says Chen, who plans to spend his $3000 on household expenses, including a college fund for his daughters. “It was very nice and rewarding to see myself in the paper.”

Alice Artzt ’68 (Secondary Education), who taught Chen at QC, was thrilled to see him recognized for his work. Says Artzt, “We take pride in knowing that he is a graduate of our mathematics teacher preparation program.”
Workshop on Race and Racial Ideologies at the University of Chicago entitled “Civilizing the Primitive: From Robert Ezra Park to William Julius Wilson, From Tuskegee to the Harlem Children’s Zone”... Along with Sorin Solomon of Hebrew University, Jerusalem and Marco Lamieri of Intesa Sanpaolo, Milan, Leanne Ussher (Economics) has been awarded a project grant from the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET) for the simulation of how distress and growth propagate through the real economy via a network of inter-firm trade credit... Richard Vetere (Media Studies) has been made a Current and Lifetime Member of the Writer’s Guild of America, East, the AFL-CIO labor union representing writers in motion pictures, television, cable, digital media, and broadcast news... John Waldman (SEES) was the lead speaker at the University of New Hampshire’s Center for the Humanities Sea Stories for the Future series in October. His topic was “Shifting Baselines and the Decline of Freshwater-Sea Fishes”... Kathryn Weinstein (Art) received a grant from the CUNY Workforce Development Initiative for a graphic design internship program for junior and senior graphic design majors. In partnership with the Queens Economic Development Corporation (QEDC), this program will pair students with small businesses in Queens to create branding and marketing materials.

Electronic technology allows documents to be stored and shared in a manner that would have been unimaginable a generation ago. In Digitization in the Real World: Lessons Learned from Small and Medium-Sized Digitization Projects—the first self-published text sponsored by the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO)—archivists from around the country describe what they have done and how. Co-edited by Kwong Bor Ng (GLIS) and Jason Kucsma, manager of METRO’s digitization grant program, the book presents 34 case studies from institutions large and small; the first chapter, on planning and implementing projects with limited resources, contains an article by GSLIS graduate students Valery Chen, Jing Si Feng, and Kevin Schlottmann (now on the GSLIS faculty) about their efforts to digitize QC’s civil rights archive. In the last five years METRO has provided funding for about 40 digitization projects at 25 institutions in New York City and Westchester County. This tally doesn’t include one of its latest grantees, the Queens oral history archive recently launched by the QC Libraries’ Department of Special Collections and Archives and the Archives at Queens Library (see page 6).

With politicians of every stripe advocating school reform, the demand for gifted teachers has never been greater. But according to Jack Zevin (SEYS), our understanding of the teacher-student relationship is based on archaic notions. “Contrary to the popular dictum about gender, the world’s oldest profession really must be teaching,” he writes in his latest book, Teaching on a Tightrope: The Diverse Roles of a Great Teacher (Rowman & Littlefield Education). Dispensing with authoritarian models, Zevin encourages educators to understand their work in the context of an interactive relationship that involves five interlocking factors: actor and audience, theory and practice, process and content, art and science, and cognition and emotion. Chapters on each of these factors include examples and questions designed to help teachers find the most effective way to promote lasting student learning.

Electronic technology allows documents to be stored and shared in a manner that would have been unimaginable a generation ago. In Digitization in the Real World: Lessons Learned from Small and Medium-Sized Digitization Projects—the first self-published text sponsored by the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO)—archivists from around the country describe what they have done and how. Co-edited by Kwong Bor Ng (GLIS) and Jason Kucsma, manager of METRO’s digitization grant program, the book presents 34 case studies from institutions large and small; the first chapter, on planning and implementing projects with limited resources, contains an article by GSLIS graduate students Valery Chen, Jing Si Feng, and Kevin Schlottmann (now on the GSLIS faculty) about their efforts to digitize QC’s civil rights archive. In the last five years METRO has provided funding for about 40 digitization projects at 25 institutions in New York City and Westchester County. This tally doesn’t include one of its latest grantees, the Queens oral history archive recently launched by the QC Libraries’ Department of Special Collections and Archives and the Archives at Queens Library (see page 6).

With politicians of every stripe advocating school reform, the demand for gifted teachers has never been greater. But according to Jack Zevin (SEYS), our understanding of the teacher-student relationship is based on archaic notions. “Contrary to the popular dictum about gender, the world’s oldest profession really must be teaching,” he writes in his latest book, Teaching on a Tightrope: The Diverse Roles of a Great Teacher (Rowman & Littlefield Education). Dispensing with authoritarian models, Zevin encourages educators to understand their work in the context of an interactive relationship that involves five interlocking factors: actor and audience, theory and practice, process and content, art and science, and cognition and emotion. Chapters on each of these factors include examples and questions designed to help teachers find the most effective way to promote lasting student learning.

Electronic technology allows documents to be stored and shared in a manner that would have been unimaginable a generation ago. In Digitization in the Real World: Lessons Learned from Small and Medium-Sized Digitization Projects—the first self-published text sponsored by the Metropolitan New York Library Council (METRO)—archivists from around the country describe what they have done and how. Co-edited by Kwong Bor Ng (GLIS) and Jason Kucsma, manager of METRO’s digitization grant program, the book presents 34 case studies from institutions large and small; the first chapter, on planning and implementing projects with limited resources, contains an article by GSLIS graduate students Valery Chen, Jing Si Feng, and Kevin Schlottmann (now on the GSLIS faculty) about their efforts to digitize QC’s civil rights archive. In the last five years METRO has provided funding for about 40 digitization projects at 25 institutions in New York City and Westchester County. This tally doesn’t include one of its latest grantees, the Queens oral history archive recently launched by the QC Libraries’ Department of Special Collections and Archives and the Archives at Queens Library (see page 6).

Aloha Flushing

The quad morphed into the South Pacific when the Student Association, Student Life Office, Chartwells, and The Summit sponsored a welcome-back luau party on September 22. Ticket holders enjoyed tropical food and beverages, competed in limbo, and watched Aloha Hula NYC perform. The dancer on the left is Anna Carbonell ’97.
Events in the Media

QC’s Year of China initiative generated stories in the Queens Courier, Queens Tribune, and at YOURNABE.com. The YOC exhibit by artist Marlene Tseng Yu at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Nature and Cosmos, was featured in the New York Post and Queens Tribune... The art installation by Chee Wang Ng commemorating the ninth anniversary of 9/11 was the subject of stories in the Queens Courier and the Queens Chronicle... YOURNABE.com reported QC’s inclusion in the Princeton Review’s 2011 guide The Best 373 Colleges... A recent report cited in the Chronicle of Higher Education included Queens College among 32 schools ranked most friendly to junior faculty. The report from the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education ranked QC as exceptional in four categories... The Village Voice selected the Louis Armstrong House Museum as the Best Celebrity Home of 2010. It was also profiled in the Queens Tribune. A short piece about the house also appeared recently at suite101.com. Additionally, vocalist and trombonist Glen David Andrews spoke on a recent NPR program devoted to the music of New Orleans, “The Sounds and Soul of Treme,” of the exhilaration he experienced when he visited LAHM... October’s “Shine the Light on Domestic Violence” event, organized at QC by Carmella Marrone (Women and Work), was the subject of stories in the Queens Chronicle and YOURNABE.com. The CBS News affiliate in Albany, WRGB, also mentioned QC’s month-long observance of the campaign to stop domestic abuse... QC’s annual Homecoming event received coverage in the Queens Tribune... October’s QC Business Forum concerning family-owned businesses was covered by the Queens Courier... The Queens Examiner, TimesLedger, Queens Tribune, and Queens Chronicle were all on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony marking phase two of renovations for the Kupferberg Center... Moogfest, a three-day music festival celebrating one of the leading figures in electronic music, QC alumnus Robert Moog, inventor of the Moog synthesizer, was covered in the New York Times.

Facing Up to Halloween
Rolling up their sleeves for a messy job, residents of The Summit turned pumpkins into jack-o’-lanterns. Below, Letticia Camacho and Laila Elsherief scrape out seeds; in bottom photo, (l-r) Elsherief, William Leverett, Victoria Marreno, Elissa Leventhal, RA Stephen Pun, and Camacho pose with the grinning results of their work.
People in the Media

SALMAN AHMAD’S (Music) collaboration with rock star Peter Gabriel on a song to help raise awareness of the devastation wrought by recent floods in Pakistan was the subject of a story on Canada’s CBC Network. Ahmad was also interviewed by ABC News... A story in Education Week about criticism of President Obama’s education plan quoted CLIVE BELFIELD (Economics)...

ANDREW BEVERIDGE was quoted in a Wall Street Journal story describing how young single women with college degrees are surpassing their male counterparts in income earnings. Beveridge was also a guest for a New Hampshire Public Radio program devoted to multigenerational households... In a JazzTimes interview of Terry Teachout, the culture critic credited MICHAEL COGSWELL (LAHM) with inspiring his decision to write a biography of Louis Armstrong... JOSEPH CUOMO (English) was quoted in a Daily News story celebrating 35 years of QC’s Evening Readings series...

cilive.com, website of the Staten Island Advance, featured a photo of FRAN CURCIO (SEYS) in the company of some of her former school teachers and

President JAMES MUYSKENS and ALICE ARTZT (SEYS) on the occasion of Curcio receiving the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching... A study by RYAN EDWARDS (Economics) was cited in the Economix blog of the New York Times... A letter by NANCY FOLDI (Psychology) appeared in the New York Times in response to an article about Alzheimer’s disease... The book Higher Education: How Colleges Are Wasting Our Money and Failing Our Kids and What We Can Do About It by ANDREW HACKER (Pol. Sci.) and his wife Claudia Dreifus continues to receive coverage, with stories appearing in the Los Angeles Times and on the Washington Post’s Political Bookworm blog. The couple recently authored a piece for Newsweek, “The Trouble with Going Global,” about American universities attempting to recruit foreign students. The recent QC event honoring Hacker’s 40 years of service to the college was featured in the Daily News... The New York Times offered a recent feature about MEGHAN HEALEY’S (DTD) puppet play about life in New York’s subways, Subterraneo: A Cruel Puppet’s Guide to Underground Living... SUSAN JENG’S (PCS) account of her day spent accompanying former President Bill Clinton was featured in the Queens Gazette... Newsday and Modern Medicine featured stories about ASHIMA KANT’S (FNES) study of water consumption by children... The recent midterm elections generated several interview requests for the expertise of MICHAEL KRASNER (Pol. Sci.). These included multiple stories in the Queens Courier and at YourNabe.com, and broadcast interviews with Brazilian TV and KPSI News Radio in Palm Springs, CA. There was also a story at QueensCampaigner.com... A report concerning racial disparities in marijuana possession arrests written by HARRY LEVINE (Sociology) for California’s chapter of the NAACP was the subject of stories in the Pasadena Star News and on National Public Radio. It was cited along with a similar study he did of New York City arrest rates at AlterNet.org... New York gubernatorial candidate Carl Palladino’s use of a mailing impregnated with the smell of rotting garbage prompted PETER LIBERMAN (Pol. Sci.) to co-author with David Pizarro (Cornell) a column for the New York Times about the human capacity for disgust... QC student JEREMIAH LUNGREN was cited as one of the success stories in a Village Voice story about the mixed results of efforts at CUNY colleges to provide support services for students with GEDs... The Queens Courier featured a story about the recent QC Presidential Roundtable devoted to CECILIA MCHUGH’S (SEES) research into causes of January’s earthquake in Haiti... A story in the Daily News about efforts by unemployed individuals to start their own businesses quoted STEVEN SOLIERI (Accounting)... The Chronicle of Higher Education published a feature, “Howl’s Echoes,” by JOHN TYTELL (English) about poet Allen Ginsberg and a new film about the poet... Graduate student Peter Malaty and his faculty adviser JOHN WALDMAN (Biology) were quoted in a Newsday story about Malaty’s project to create an updated snapshot of the species of fish living in local waters. Malaty is using the same methods that were used for a similar study of local waters done in 1938. Also mentioned in the story was QC undergraduate Ezra Frager. An expert on fish, Waldman, author of Heartbeats in the Muck, and food writer Paul Greenberg, discussed NYC seafood with Brian Lehrer on his popular WNYC show.