President James Muyskens to Retire December 31

Why did you want to become president of Queens College?
The remarkable diversity of Queens is one of the things that made me want to come here. I started in September 2002, around the same time Roger Sanjek in anthropology published The Future of Us All, which is about how the diversity that was now in Queens would one day be everywhere. So to be here at the beginning of that movement, in the center of educating students, that was a pretty important and impressive place to be.

Also, when I was at Hunter I became really passionate about CUNY’s mission. Then when I was working in Georgia I saw that Queens was in fairly bad shape—a controversial presidency, budget difficulties, people just seemed traumatized—and it kind of appealed to me to take on a challenge, to see if we could take something that was broken and fix it. I was very lucky to come at a time when we were able to hire a lot of faculty, and what terrific faculty we hired. I think that is what I am proudest of accomplishing in my time here.

What was the biggest change you saw in your years at the college?
When I came here I was so frustrated because people were always saying, “Well, this is just Queens” or “If we were a real college….” That bothered me. I remember trying to recruit students in Flushing, and I was told, “Why would our students go to Queens? They are too good for Queens.” There was no pride in Queens, in part because the previous president had been a polarizing figure. But that has all changed. Now the community leaders, the Chamber of Commerce, the outgoing and new borough president all think Queens College is great. A lot of that has to do with the publicity we have been getting.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
such as stories in the New York Times, and the very good rankings we receive from the college guides. The Queens College Foundation Board now is really energized and committed to helping the college advance.

How hard was it to get The Summit built?
One of the first things I was told when I arrived was: “Don’t even think about building a residence hall.” But I really felt that given the campus we have we could have a much more active student life, and to do that we had to have people here 24/7. One of my first hires was Joe Bertolino as VP for student life because I knew he could generate a lot of enthusiasm among the students for a residence hall. And after several false starts and pushbacks, we got the go-ahead to build it. I think The Summit transformed the campus and made people see us differently, it makes people feel better about a college.

What did you enjoy most about being at QC?
Going to the student performances. I just saw South Pacific and it was phenomenal. Seeing students being able to perform so well means so much to me. I love watching the sports teams. I also greatly enjoyed the Presidential Roundtables. I never had to solicit a speaker; the faculty came to me very excited at the opportunity to present their ideas. And I just so much enjoyed all the variety at the college. I got to see what is happening across the whole intellectual landscape.

What is the biggest challenge the college faces?
Our biggest challenge is enrollment. CUNY has certain expectations that, from a business point of view, make a lot of sense, such as increasing enrollment each year to increase revenue. This allows us to keep up with inflation and perhaps have the resources to introduce new programs. But if you look at the demographics, the number of freshmen coming in is decreasing, as is the number of students getting graduate degrees. These are nationwide trends. We are putting all our efforts right now into increasing enrollment for spring and summer and next fall. The new president will need to have a strong senior team to keep our momentum going.

How difficult was it for you to make the decision to resign?
No one thing pushed me to this decision. I hadn’t planned on being here as long as I was. Several years ago I thought about leaving, but that was around the time many members of the senior management team—Vice Presidents Kathy Cobb, Joe Bertolino, and Sue Henderson—all left for better positions, Joe and Sue to their own presidencies. I felt I had to rebuild the team before I could leave, and I believe I have done that. I also wanted more time with my grandkids. I tried to do that while being president, but it didn’t work out. And now I also have the opportunity to do some other things, and to do them I have to start this spring. The decision to resign wasn’t difficult, but leaving is—especially as lately there have been a number of last-time things, and that is hard.

What are your plans for the future?
I have a stack of books in philosophy and higher education that I want to read. I also will be working with some college presidents, offering them advice. And I’m looking forward to teaching next fall as a CUNY University Professor. While serving as president I only was able to teach on and off. I am looking forward to being back in the classroom on a regular basis.

Any chance that you would accept another presidency?
Maybe later, but I’m not yearning for that. I’m very excited about teaching and being able to help other people with my experience as a president.

What advice would you give to your successor?
Do all you can to understand the borough of Queens, find the things that make you proud to be in the borough, and then make sure that Queens College is the best possible college it can be.

Any final thoughts for faculty and staff?
In my years here I have come to see what a very special place Queens College is. We, better than most, provide our students with real opportunities for upward mobility, offering a Tiffany education at a Walmart price. We transform lives and allow students to achieve goals they couldn’t even dream of when they were freshmen. Every one of us — whether we are maintaining the grounds, helping students register for classes and receive financial aid, prepping the labs, or teaching courses — should take immense pride in our work.
New Honors Program Targets Top Transfer Students

To the Macaulay Honors College and its departmental and divisional honors programs, Queens College can now add another enticement for high achieving students: a Transfer Honors Program. It was an idea, explains program director BARBARA SIMERKA (Hispanic Languages), brought to QC by Vice President Bill Keller.

“Bill came from Kingsborough Community College, where they had a transfer honors program. He had heard from some students that when they transferred to the senior colleges, they felt lost because their honors programs are for students who enter as freshmen.”

Keller suggested creating a program that would provide many of the services of students had at community colleges. “This,” Simerka says, “would encourage the best and the brightest community college graduates to come to Queens.

“At Queens, some departments have an honors major: English, accounting, chemistry,” Simerka notes. “There are also honors programs in the Social Sciences, Math and the Natural Sciences, and the Arts and Humanities. Transfer honors students will, for the most part, be completing a divisional honors program, but they will be with Macaulay students.”

Simerka has been actively recruiting students for the program: “There’s an honors fraternity system for community college students, Phi Theta Kappa, and we’ve let advisors in CUNY and SUNY community colleges know about this. We’ve also been visiting community colleges, meeting with honors advisors, vice presidents, and students.”

Part of her pitch involves explaining why the QC program is an attractive alternative to offers that students may receive from private liberal arts colleges. “Private colleges have packages that may seem ginormous: $15,000 scholarships. But when you see that the total cost for the year is $50,000, that $15,000 may look a lot less impressive than our $1,500.”

The new program is one of the ways Queens hopes to address an anticipated drop in college enrollment nationwide, says Simerka. “The pool of applicants for the class of 2018 and beyond may decrease because there was a drop in the birthrate beginning in 1996.”

When it was determined that a faculty member should direct the new program, Simerka volunteered. She comes to her new assignment with a significant amount of advising experience. “I served a couple of years as the undergraduate advisor for our majors and was also acting chair for a year,” she says.

She also has another qualification that makes her particularly well suited to her new role: a considerable amount of experience doing interdisciplinary work. “I’ve been finding that most honors students want to double major and do interdisciplinary work. So I think it’s a good fit.”

To Simerka’s knowledge, no other CUNY senior college has a similar program. “My guess would be when students see this, we will have followers.”

Rockman Named Vice President; Aloha to Boettner and Others

ADAM ROCKMAN, QC’s acting VP for student affairs since June 2012, now has the permanent role: He emerged as the top candidate in a national search, and was approved by the CUNY Board of Trustees on November 4, replacing Joe Bertolino. Rockman came to Queens in 2005 with more than 25 years’ experience in student affairs and student services at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Princeton University, and LaSalle University, among other schools. He holds a BA in psychology and Spanish from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a MSW from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He expects to complete an EdD in Executive Leadership from St. John Fisher College next year.

In a second administrative development, DOUG BOETTNER, executive director of the Division of Innovative, International & Professional Studies, has left QC to become vice chancellor for administrative services at Honolulu Community College, University of Hawai‘i. He began working at Queens in 2007 as assistant director of the Continuing Education Program.

The Communications Office recently lost two members to retirement, each of whom had been at the college for over 30 years: Creative Services Director DYANNE MAUE and Deputy Director STEPHANIE GOLDSON ’76. It is expected that a new director of Communications will be appointed soon, replacing the retired Maria Terrone.

In other news, POLINE PAPOULIS has been appointed director of the QC Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. She had been acting as interim director since July, following the retirement of Mike Prasad.

Education Faculty to Collaborate on New High School in Queens

Queens College is teaming up with the Institute of Student Achievement (a division of Educational Testing Services) and the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) to launch the New Benjamin Franklin High School of Finance & Information Technology in Cambria Heights. An NYCDOE public high school with a career-oriented focus—TD Bank is its community partner—New Benjamin Franklin will admit ninth graders when it opens next fall, adding one successive grade in each of the next three years.

Division of Education faculty will work closely with the school, developing its curriculum, serving on its advisory board, and recruiting and identifying candidates for teaching, administrative, and staff positions. QC professors in financial and business disciplines will also provide their input.

Ideally, Benjamin Franklin graduates will continue their education at QC and other CUNY schools and become leaders in their communities. This collaboration represents what Franklin would have described as a sound investment in our collective future, as he believed that “An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.” at QC.
Political progress and its limitations were on the agenda when SEEK held the panel discussion 50 Years of Civil Rights: Are We There Yet? at Rosenthal Library on November 12. “SEEK was born out of the Civil Rights Movement,” noted SEEK Director FRANK FRANKLIN in a brief welcome, followed by a video excerpt from President Barack Obama’s speech on the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington. “The arc of the moral universe may bend to justice, but it doesn’t bend on its own,” Obama said in the film, referencing the murdered activists Cheney, Goodman, and Schwerner, namesakes of the QC Clocktower.

The afternoon’s speakers—who were introduced by NORKA BLACKMAN-RICHARDS (SEEK)—picked up on that theme. “Change has come to America,” said MAUREEN PIERCE-ANYAN (Minority Student Affairs), adding, “for whom?” She reported encouraging trends in the black community: increased college enrollment, reduced poverty, increased home ownership, and the election of more black legislators. But these developments are occurring in an era marked by..

New Grant for Deaf–Blind Collaborative

One round of federal funding doesn’t guarantee another. So, at the end of its first five-year grant for the New York Deaf–Blind Collaborative, QC was delighted to be awarded $2.875 million from the U.S. Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs for the next five years. “It was a new competition but encompassed a few similar priorities from the last go-around,” says PAT RACHAL (Political Science). The project works to enhance the provision of services throughout the state for children and youth who are deaf–blind, and their families.

Winning the second grant involved some quick work on QC’s part; the request for proposals came out on July 1, 2013, and was due August 15. “I give tremendous credit to our grants office,” says Rachal. “We also had great support from campus colleagues, including ANDY BEVERIDGE (Sociology).” Once the grant was announced, the Department of Education moved fast, too. “We learned that we were approved on Friday, September 27, and the money was transferred to us on September 30, one day before the government shutdown,” Rachal continues. “They did well by us.” Plans for the next five years include developing new models of service delivery—using webinars, social media, and other forms of distance education—as well as increasing engagement with Spanish-speaking clients. “New York is a large state that is culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse, which makes it a challenge,” notes Rachal. Eventually, project staffers hope to use their expertise to write a white paper illustrating what can be done differently to bring about lasting, fundamental, systemic changes.
50-YEAR STRUGGLE – from page 4

hypersegregation, low participation of black males in the workforce, increased extrajudicial killings, and a high rate of black male incarceration.

MARK LEVY ’64, who taught in New York City public schools and QC SEEK before becoming a labor union organizer, educator, and administrator, presented a slide show about his work with Freedom Schools in Meridian, Mississippi, 50 years ago. “We achieved some things, but the job’s not done,” he said. “Those who have privilege don’t want to give up that privilege.”

An attorney, CYNTHIA ROUNTREE (Compliance and Diversity), talked about the protections provided by legislation that prohibits discrimination and supports equal opportunity and equal pay. But, she cautioned, “Laws change behavior, not thought.” She urged the audience to adopt a revised Serenity Prayer: “Give me the strength to change the things I cannot accept.”

DEAN SAVAGE (Sociology), who spent the summer of 1965 working on voter registration in Orangeburg, South Carolina, highlighted QC’s record of student engagement. Like Levy, he has donated materials to the college’s Civil Rights Archive, which documents an important era in American history. “If there’s a cause you believe in, you should get involved; you will benefit from it, and others will, as well,” he concluded.

The youngest panelist, STEPHANIE LILAVOIS (Events) prefaced her remarks by screening a scene from the TV series “Scandal”: A black female press strategist listens as her father reminds her that “you have to be twice as good as them to get half as much as they have.” Raised in the aftermath of the Civil Rights Movement, Lilavois faced improved opportunities, often complicated by racial slights. Black high school classmates told her she talked like a white person; after she graduated from college, colleagues credited her professional advancement to the fact that she worked under a black man. “Where do I fit in?” she asked.

In 1967, when he first came from Ethiopia to the United States as a high school participant in the World Youth Forum, ALEM HABTU (Sociology) encountered a Virginia restaurant that wouldn’t serve non-whites; while he stayed in Springfield, NJ, with a host family, his host dad drove into Times Square to find a barber who “knew” how to cut his hair. “Apart from voting rights, integration of public spaces, etc., the Civil Rights Movement was a struggle to establish a minimum level of decent existence for each and every American,” commented Habtu. “In important ways, we have gone backwards.”

MARCIA BAYNE-SMITH (Urban Studies), the final panelist, recalled her childhood in Panama, where the United States had recreated the plantation system and its devastating, long-term effects. Due to lack of regular, high-quality health care, her dad, who had hypertension, died at age 52 of a heart attack. Decrying the power of racism to hamstring even the president of the United States, Bayne-Smith ended her segment with two imperatives: “Break down barriers. Fix our schools.”

QUEENS FOR A DAY – from page 4

bachelor has met the needs of Manhattanites, whether they were looking for rest and recreation, manufacturing space, garbage dumps, or quality housing. His fellow historian, Jack Eichenbaum, cited the many businesses and concepts that arose here, from North America’s first botanical nurseries and free kindergartens to the enduring board game Scrabble. Jonathan Bowles, executive director of the Center for an Urban Future, outlined this century’s opportunities for Queens—not only in technology and tourism, but also in its parks and waterfronts.

These areas gave writer Robert Sullivan plenty to explore in his keynote. Inspired by one-time borough resident Jack Kerouac, Sullivan led a stream-of-consciousness tour around local landmarks and landscapes before ending at the artificial marsh that used to be the Ridgewood Reservoir, decommissioned in 1990. Working the unnaturally natural theme, JOHN WALDMAN (Biology)—who proposed and organized the conference—detailed how Queens has been affected by everything from glaciers to imported flora and fauna. “There’s a connection between human immigrants and invasive species,” he observed.

Queens has always been synonymous with ethnic diversity.

MICHAEL COGSWELL, director of the Louis Armstrong House Museum, recounted how African American jazz stars, epitomized by Louis Armstrong, settled here in the 1940s. At that time, Queens was heavily populated by Europeans and their descendants. What has changed? Illustrating his talk with charts, ANDY BEVERIDGE (Sociology) documented the tremendous influx of Asian and Hispanic immigrants in recent decades.

“Each group is ethnocentric in its own way,” he added.

As a result, the borough boasts enclaves with distinct identities. Nicole Steinberg, editor of Forgotten Borough: Writers Come to Terms with Queens, used her time to focus on a few neighborhoods, such as “Old World meets hipster” Astoria and Jackson Heights, home of fictional QC alumna “Ugly” Betty Suarez. Judith Sloan and Warren Lehrer channeled the voices of immigrants they interviewed in a moving excerpt from their multimedia show Crossing the BLVD: Strangers, Neighbors, Aliens in a New America.

Boarding the Q64, 25, or 34—bus lines that serve QC—NICOLE COOLEY (English) made a book lover’s loop around Queens, footnoting Joan Didion’s and Saul Bellow’s derision for the borough and the appearance of the Corona ash dumps in The Great Gatsby before describing today’s active literary scene. The borough’s cultural richness extends to all the arts. In a panel moderated by City Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, Queens Museum of Art Director of Public Events Prerana Reddy, Flushing Town Hall Deputy Director Sami Abu Shamays, and Black Spectrum Theatre founder Carl Clay discussed the challenges and rewards of serving a diverse community. Then Paolo Javier, the fifth poet laureate of Queens, demonstrated benshi—live film narration—by supplying verbal accompaniment for a short video, The Feeling is Actual.

How to describe the food and music available in the borough? This conference didn’t even try. Instead, the day ended in a reception in LeFrak Atrium, where everyone snacked on Asian and Latin specialties while listening to a series of homegrown combos.
Womb Fantasies: Subjective Architectures (Comparative Literature) has parsed the poetics and gendering of modernity. Her newest work, CHARLES MARTIN (Comparative Literature) has brought an appreciative eye to Algeria, a country he first visited in 2009 for the Pan African Cultural Festival. In Because of Algiers (QCC Art Gallery), a book of photographs, brief essays, and a story in English, French, and Arabic, he draws on his sensibilities as an artist, writer, walker, and former journalist to reinterpret material that often has been seen in stereotyped ways. Martin’s photographs offer intimate yet elegant compositions of everyday life in Algiers and Tipaza, Algeria—especially streets, shops, and artisans’ workshops—intertwined with scenes of New York and Brazil. Together they suggest the cosmopolitanism of Africa and the diaspora. As Algeria’s minister of culture, Khalida Touni, writes in the preface, Martin’s photographs “bring into play several registers of expression. He develops in them . . . the beautiful literary capacity that consists of, with a single design, suggesting a whole story and its movements through time. Several of his photographs are still lifes where not a single human being appears. Nonetheless, he manages in them to make us glimpse the human presences linked to places or to objects.”

In previous studies of writing and the arts, CAROLINE RUPPRECHT (Comparative Literature) has explored ways in which texts use spatial metaphors of the womb, and its allegorical evocations, as a means of addressing trauma in the modern and postmodern world. That trauma originates in the experience of extreme physical and spiritual violence, such as war, the Holocaust, and the use of atomic bombs against Japan. She concludes by delving into meanings and uses of womblike imagery in the “post-human” world.

In Two to Tango: Argentine Tango Immigrants in New York City, ANAHÍ VILADRICH (Sociology and Anthropology) invites new understandings of the impact of globalization that challenge widely held stereotypes of the transnational workforce in the arts field. By focusing on the hidden Argentine minority in the United States, she unvels the personal and social trajectories of Argentine artists who have come to New York as tango performers, teachers, and entrepreneurs. On the basis of classed, gendered, and racialized strategies, these artists use personal glamour and argentinidad as selling points, while utilizing their social networks to secure a base in the tango’s cosmopolitan community. Their success is portrayed along with their striving to make a living in New York. As Viladrich points out, the “artists’ participation in the entertainment and service industries . . . goes hand in hand with the social inequalities brought by economic globalization.” She narrates a richly nuanced ethnography that paints the open and veiled ways that transnationalism often perpetuates inequality.

In Running Silver: Restoring Atlantic Rivers and Their Great Fish Migrations (Lyons Press), JOHN WALDMAN tells the story of the enormous environmental losses suffered on the Atlantic coast—both its healthy, free-flowing rivers and the migratory shad, herring, Atlantic salmon, and other native fish that filled them, representing nature’s bounty in both staggering numbers and diversity. As Waldman argues, “these fishes once did play a role . . . in the broader food web as prey, predator, and competitor, one that coevolved with the other organisms that compose that network. And so their absence resonates as holes, or ‘ghosts,’ in the ecological machinery of those environments.” He casts a historical and critical eye on common notions of stewardship and restoration, especially technological fixes that do not work at helping fish migrate and spawn in dammed rivers. Often, he says, we sacrifice river life for the sake of surprisingly small power outputs. Against what seems to be the imminent ecological collapse of eastern rivers, however, Waldman finds hope in the stubborn survival of remnant populations of fish, grassroots concern for nature, and examples of successful restoration. His own proposals range from taking down outdated and nonessential dams to encouraging scientist-citizen cooperation to teaching today’s children the love of nature.

ANIL CHACKO (Psychology) received a $39,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to support research on Mobile Health Solutions for Behavioral Skill Implementation through Homework . . . NICHOLAS COCH (SEES) gave a lecture on the question, “Is Long Island Ready for the Big One?” to Long Island residents at the Brookhaven Town Auditorium on June 25 . . . EVA FERNÁNDEZ (Linguistics), and her collaborators CLIVE BELFIELD (Economics) and DEAN SAVAGE (Sociology), were granted $150,000 by the CLUNY Office of Academic Affairs for their project, The Freshman Year Initiative at Queens College: Evaluating Impact and Formulating Improvements . . . AZRIEL GENACK (Physics) was awarded $100,000 by the National Science Foundation for his research project, New Perspectives on Wave Propagation in Random Media . . . JEFFREY HALPERIN (Psychology) received two grants from the National Institutes of Health: $559,982 for Neurodevelopmental Perspectives on ADHD, and $189,106 for Training Executive, Attention, and Motor Skills (TEAMS): Preliminary Studies . . . SAMUEL HEILMAN (Sociology) appeared on the May 10 segment of PBS’s “Religion
Joyful Noise

A composer of symphonies and operas as well as choral repertoire, BRUCE SAYLOR (Music) has enjoyed an agreeably eventful career: St. Patrick’s Cathedral engaged him to write choral pieces for the visits of Popes John Paul II and Benedict XVI; soprano Jessye Norman asked him to write the cantata she performed at Bill Clinton’s second inauguration. “Part of my work has involved writing special music for special occasions,” explains Saylor, the second composer to be chosen for the one-year residency, which Manhattan-based Holy Trinity launched in the fall of 2012. His palette will include unison chant, a cappella and accompanied choir, and Greek liturgical words akin to the Latin in Catholic services.

“There’s a lot for me to discover,” continues Saylor, an Episcopalian. “I’m just delighted. I’ve always been in choirs, as have my wife, a pro singer, and my four daughters. So I view this as a natural extension of my own experience.”

He’s also excited by the prospect of writing pieces that enter the general choral repertory, noting that “Rachmaninoff and Tchaikovsky, for example, wrote compositions that are good enough to be used for concerts, so they have a life outside of churches.”

Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

IN MEMORIAM

HOWARD BROFSKY
Howard Brofsky, 86, professor emeritus of music, passed away on October 17. He had been struggling with an illness for a while, but was still teaching 10 days before his death, demonstrating an extraordinary dedication and inner strength.

Brofsky came to Queens College in the late 1960s and served as chair of the music department early in his career. He was an expert on the Italian symphony of the 17th and 18th centuries, co-authored a respected music appreciation textbook, and was a lifelong jazz performer. His love and knowledge of jazz was especially important as Brofsky was the primary architect of the college’s jazz program. He convinced the administration that such a program was a worthy goal for a serious school of music, an opinion not universally shared among academics in the early 1980s. He also brought recognized jazz masters Jimmy Heath and Sir Roland Hanna to the faculty.

Howard Brofsky had enormous intellect, talent, generosity, and, most important, vision. He saw the jazz program before it was there and had the quiet strength to get the job done in a way that quickly established it among the best in New York.

A concert in Brofsky’s memory—with proceeds going to the Howard Brofsky Memorial Scholarship in Jazz—was held on November 26 in LeFrak Concert Hall. If you wish to make a donation, please contact Janice Raskin at Janice.Raskin@qc.cuny.edu.

WILLIAM GREEN
William Green, 87, professor emeritus of English, passed away on November 13. A dedicated member of the college community, he was both an alumnus (class of 1949) and a teacher for 53 years, retiring in 2010.

A specialist in Shakespeare and theatre, Green taught undergraduate and graduate courses in Shakespeare, modern British and American drama, musical theatre, and popular entertainment. Just days before his death, he was at the Columbia University Shakespeare Seminar, asking incisive questions of the speaker. In retirement he was an actively engaged member of the Shakespeare Association of America, past president of the International Federation for Theatre Research, and past secretary-treasurer of the American Society for Theatre Research; he also held an executive position in the Theatre Library Association.

In his passion for the performing arts, Green was the consummate New Yorker. His father, a clarinetist in the NBC Symphony under Arturo Toscanini, taught him to play. During World War II, Green was in the U.S. Navy Band and played at many public functions, most notably at the funeral of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Until very recently, he was still performing as a clarinetist with the Queensborough Symphonic Band.

Among his activities, Green volunteered with the Friends of the Queens College Library. Donations in his name may be made to the Queens College Foundation and specified for the library. The college will schedule a memorial event in his honor early in the spring semester.

Legislative Acts a Hit

Twenty-eight elected officials took center stage at LeFrak Concert Hall on November 23 in a good cause: They were participating in Legislative Acts, an original comedy revue that raised funds for QC’s Big Brother and Women and Work programs. The performers played to a sold-out house that included key civic, community, and political leaders.

Above: Assembly Members Michael Den Dekker and Philip Goldfeder joined Council Members Leroy Comrie, Ruben Wills, and Eric Ulrich for the finale: a parody of “We Are the World.” Rewritten in response to the election of Mayor Bill de Blasio, the lyrics declared, “We are the world, we are Bill’s children.”
Books Research Award for Publications, given by the Art Libraries Society of North America. The award honors her essay on “The Credo in Siena: Art, Civil Religion and Politics in Siennese Images of the Christian Creeds,” which was published in New Studies on Old Masters, edited by John Garton and Diane Wolfthal (Toronto: Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, 2011). . . SHIGE SONG (Sociology) continues to attract interest for his research on the effects of famine and malnutrition on China’s sex ratios at birth, published last year in Proceedings of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences and picked up by many media. A more in-depth account appears in the November issue of Discover magazine, which, purely by coincidence, is illustrated with a photograph of Mao Zedong taken by Song’s father, a photographer and journalist . . . AMY WINTER (Godwin-Ternbach Museum) juried and curated Bridging the Gap, an exhibition of work by 40 Queens artists shown at the Flushing Town Hall, LaGuardia Community College, and Queensborough Community College art galleries . . . A project directed by CHANGHE YUAN (Computer Science), CAREER: Explanation, Decision Making, and Learning in Graphical Models, received a $227,617 grant from the National Science Foundation. The award honors her research on sex ratios at birth, published last year in Proceedings of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences and picked up by many media. A more in-depth account appears in the November issue of Discover magazine, which, purely by coincidence, is illustrated with a photograph of Mao Zedong taken by Song’s father, a photographer and journalist. . .

FRIENDS OF QUEENS COLLEGE

Trip to South Africa
April 16–27, 2014*

Join Queens College faculty, friends, and alumni for this exciting trip! Experience South Africa’s natural beauty and rich culture, and learn about its history and society. Visit Johannesburg and Soweto, and go on a safari in Kruger National Park, one of the largest game reserves in Africa. Travel to Cape Town, the Cape Peninsula, Table Mountain National Park, Robben Island, and the country’s fine vineyards. Learn about South Africa from QC faculty experts and knowledgeable guides.

This 11-day tour begins in Johannesburg and ends in Cape Town. The estimated cost of the trip is $3,600.† The tour is capped at 20 people. Actual cost per person depends on the number of travelers and is based on double occupancy; single supplements are available at additional cost. The cost includes some meals, but does not include gratuities, visas, passport fees, or international flights.

We hope you will join us on this extraordinary journey.
For more information, contact: qcfriendstripsouthafrica@qc.cuny.edu

*Dates and itinerary are subject to change.
†The cost of our tour includes both a minimum suggested donation of $400 to the Queens College Foundation to cover Queens College representatives’ travel costs and a nonrefundable fee of $100. Any donations beyond the cost of the tour will be used to fund Study Abroad scholarships for Queens College students.

Sponsored by the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, and the Office of Global Education Initiatives
PEOPLE IN THE MEDIA

A letter by NICHOLAS COCH (SEES) concerning restricting shoreline development appeared in the New York Times under the headline “Learning Lessons from Sandy” . . . The Chronicle of Higher Education published findings by NANCY FOASBERG (Rosenthal Library) indicating that students prefer “print” for serious academic reading . . . ANTONIO HART (ACSM) was the subject of a “Tell Me Something Good” segment on Detroit TV station WLNS . . . The announcement by PRESIDENT JAMES MUYSKENS of his intention to retire at the end of the year was reported by the TimesLedger and WorldJournal. com . . . In reporting on the Kupferberg Center’s staging of Legislative Acts, a musical revue featuring performances by several Queens politicians, the Daily News credited JEFFREY ROSENSTOCK (AVP, External and Governmental Relations) with bringing the event to QC. It had previously appeared at Queens Theater in the Park (formerly run by Rosenstock). According to the TimesLedger, he was also instrumental in convincing Cyndi Lauper to kick off her recent concert tour at Kupferberg Center. Coverage of the event appeared in the Queens Chronicle, Queens Courier, and at theforumnewsgroup.com . . . The TimesLedger and queenslatin.com reported on the event “An Evening of Tango” at the National Arts Club featuring ANAHI VILADRICH (Sociology), EVA FERNÁNDEZ (Linguistics), and DANA WEINBERG (Sociology). It explored the history of the Argentine dance and celebrated the publication of Viladrich’s new book, More than Two to Tango . . . JOHN WALDMAN (Biology) co-authored an op-ed in the New York Times on the negative environmental impact of a Eurasian species of fish called the grass carp. He’s also identified as “the elder statesman of New York City’s marine biology” in a story appearing in the online science magazine Nautilus.

STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

The Bayside edition of AOL’s Patch.com reported on the awarding by QC of a full scholarship to 20-year-old YUT CHIA, a talented musician who has been playing in the subway . . . The appointment of ANDREA ORMENO as director of the Queens Economic Development Corporation’s Women’s Business Center was featured in Fresh Meadows Life. Ormeno has a bachelor’s degree in accounting and is pursuing a master’s in the same area . . . In his Daily News column, Denis Hamill wrote about the remarkable story of NASHWA EL-SAYED. Born in New York, she was abducted as a toddler by her father and taken to Egypt. Years later, with help from the State Department, she was able to escape back to the U.S. annual Holiday Historic House Tour of the borough . . . The Godwin-Ternbach Museum’s exhibition of Masterworks of Traditional and Contemporary Korean Calligraphy was listed on Yelp.com, and its retrospective exhibition of works by Janice Biala, Biala: Vision and Memory, was reported at nysun.com . . . BroadwayWorld.com wrote about Valerie Simpson in advance of her appearance at Kupferberg Center. NY1 also reported on Simpson’s appearance, as well as concerts by Audra McDonald and Cyndi Lauper . . . Events and performances in connection with QC’s Homecoming were reported in the Queens Chronicle.

EVENTS IN THE MEDIA

Washington Monthly’s selection of Queens College as number two nationwide for giving students the “best bang for the buck” led to a number of stories, including a front-page article in the New York Times featuring PRESIDENT JAMES MUYSKENS. Similar stories appeared in the Washington Post, the Christian Science Monitor, the Boston Globe, and on the PBS “News Hour” . . . Coverage of QC’s one-day Quintessential Queens conference appeared in the Queens Chronicle and on NY1 . . . The construction on the Quad of a model of a Brazilian favela (shantytown) by a group of Brazilian artisans as part of QC’s Year of Brazil was the subject of stories in the New York Times and on NY1. Yelp.com also wrote about the Year of Brazil . . . The Daily News reported that the Louis Armstrong House Museum will be included in the Queens Historical Society’s annual Holiday Historic House Tour of the borough . . . The Godwin-Ternbach Museum’s exhibition of Masterworks of Traditional and Contemporary Korean Calligraphy was listed on Yelp.com, and its retrospective exhibition of works by Janice Biala, Biala: Vision and Memory, was reported at nysun.com . . . BroadwayWorld.com wrote about Valerie Simpson in advance of her appearance at Kupferberg Center. NY1 also reported on Simpson’s appearance, as well as concerts by Audra McDonald and Cyndi Lauper . . . Events and performances in connection with QC’s Homecoming were reported in the Queens Chronicle.