Taking a Closer Look at the Air that We Breathe

The Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, led by Dr. Steven Markowitz, recently received a four-year, $4.6 million grant to work with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to monitor air quality at street level in the city’s five boroughs. The following is an edited excerpt taken from an interview Markowitz recently did for a new CUNY video project featuring scientists.

Q: Does New York City have an air pollution problem?
A: New York City does have an air pollution problem, as do most major cities in the United States and all the megacities throughout the world. Our problem revolves around particulates, also known as soot, which are most easily respired into the lungs. We are out of compliance with federal regulations concerning soot and ozone, particularly in Manhattan. Both ozone and particulate matter affect the lungs and the heart, and heart disease and lung disease are major killers in New York City.

Q: What is the city doing about this problem?
A: The city has to its great credit, focused on the problem of improving the environment. Mayor Bloomberg put out his sustainability plan two or three years ago, called Plan NYC, which developed a number of ideas to lower air pollution: high occupancy vehicle lanes; congestion pricing; hybrid cars; retrofitting school bus engines so they put out less diesel exhaust; and using cleaner fuel for heating homes and apartments. It didn’t succeed, but I think some variation of it will eventually take effect.

Q: Tell me about the New York City Community Air Survey that recently was launched.
A: We are trying to understand better how much air pollution there is in New York City and how it varies by neighborhood. Right now air-pollution monitoring in New York is done in compliance with federal standards, which means it’s done on rooftops and spread throughout some 15 or 20 different locations. Of course, we don’t live on rooftops. We spend most of our time either in buildings or at street level. So what is in the air that we actually breathe most of the time?

The New York City Community Air Survey will for the first time characterize the major air pollutants at street level at a large number of sites. We began in the fall. Queens College is the major partner in this project. We developed the portable monitors at CUNY and are putting them on street poles about 10 feet off the ground. They will be at 150 locations in New York City for 12 months. We will be in high-traffic areas with a lot of buses and trucks and in the quieter neighborhoods to understand what their pollution levels are. We will use the data to develop a map so we can say what is the level of pollution at any given location in New York.

Q: How will this benefit the people of New York City?
A: It will provide information we haven’t had in the past. There’s been a lot of concern...
Spanish Fulbright Scholar Chooses QC Music School

Tenor Placido Domingo, cellist Pablo Casals, and composer Joaquin Rodrigo are three musical legends that Spain has given the world. And LLUIS CAPDEVILA, a Fulbright music scholar from Catalonia, hopes one day to be counted among them.

When the Fulbright Commission in Madrid awarded Capdevila a scholarship to pursue his music studies in 2007, he chose Queens College because “of the worldwide reputation of its Aaron Copland School of Music jazz program, and the high quality, affordable education it offers,” he says. Capdevila, 27, who is now pursuing his MA degree in jazz performance, says his goal is to become a composer and musician.

“The campus is relaxed and comfortable, which is ideal for focusing and creating music,” Capdevila continues. “It is also close to Manhattan, which is probably the best place in the world for jazz music.”

Survivor of Rwandan Genocide Devotes Himself to Service

For DONAT KUBWIMANA, 43, a Catholic religious brother in the Congregation of Holy Cross, surmounting daunting odds is part of the natural circle of life. After learning that his friends and a family member had been murdered in the Rwandan genocide, he began an eight-year odyssey that eventually brought him to America.

According to Brother Donat, his steadfast faith in God, the support of his order, and dedication to a life of service gave him consolation and the strength to persist.

Building Homes and Hope in Ghana

Terrence Quinn (Educational and Community Programs) recently visited Ghana to take part in a Habitat for Humanity project.

Q: WHAT MADE YOU BECOME INVOLVED WITH HABITAT FOR HUMANITY?
A: Earlier in my career I was a school principal with large numbers of homeless children. Their parents did not come to school, so I held PTA meetings at shelters for the homeless. I remember one parent who registered his child for school and when asked to provide an address, he gave his car license plate number. His car was his home. I learned from all my students the importance of stable housing for school success.

Q: WHAT IS THE COUNTRY LIKE?
A: Ghana is a pro-Western, English-speaking nation known as the Land of Smiles because the people are so pleasant and cheerful. It remains a model for democratic governments and has been largely free of corruption. There have been numerous advances in health, transportation, and education, but there are still numerous pockets of poverty. People have little so they waste little. They wear sandals made from car tires. They use rocks to make music. They continued on page 9
QC’s Maurice Peress Joins Ruby Dee and Sam Waterston at Performance of Rarely Heard Music Celebrating Lincoln

On February 12, the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, the Queens College Orchestra, Choir, and Chorus took part in a concert held at Riverside Church in Morningside Heights. There, along with acclaimed actors Ruby Dee and Sam Waterston, the New York City Labor Chorus, and the Riverside Inspirational Choir, they performed Earl Robinson’s cantata The Lonesome Train, which had not been heard in its entirety for over 50 years.

“To see Riverside filled to capacity for this historic concert, and hear such glorious music fill its soaring Gothic space was a proud experience for me and all the participants,” says Copland School Director Edward Smaldone. “A collaboration involving 250 people is never simple. Our students come from all over the world; for example, the country fiddler part was played by a student from Israel. Seeing and hearing them together with the Labor Chorus and Riverside Chorus, performing a work about the struggles of freedom and brotherhood, was a truly memorable event.”

The Lonesome Train is the story of the funeral train carrying Lincoln’s body to its final resting place. It featured Ruby Dee as the narrator, Sam Waterston as the voice of Lincoln, a barn-dance caller played by composer and musician David Amram, and banjo soloist Eric Weissberg (known for his “Dueling Banjos” in the film Deliverance). The QC Choir and Chorus were directed by James John and Flora Metrick. The entire performance was conducted by Maurice Peress, director of the QC Orchestra.

The composition was premiered in Seattle in 1942 under the title Abe Lincoln Comes Home Again. With the country at war, this patriotic work caught on quickly. A radio broadcast and its subsequent recording (1944) with Pete Seeger, who was then a private in the army, was produced by Norman Corwin, who wrote the text for a new introduction and gave the work its final title.

Peress was a good friend of the composer of The Lonesome Train. “Earl and I met on a beach on Shelter Island during the summer of 1961,” Peress noted in the program notes for the concert. “Alan Arkin introduced us, and we made an instant musician-to-musician bond. He told me about studying with Copland and Hans Eisler, and his Banjo Concerto, How Can I Keep from Singing?, soon to be premiered by the Boston Pops.

I later learned he was the composer of the poignant labor folk ballad ‘Joe Hill’ (sung by Joan Baez at Woodstock) [as well as] the ‘Ballad for Americans’ championed by the amazing Paul Robeson, and ‘The House I Live In,’ Frank Sinatra’s ode to America.”

The performance at Riverside Church used an orchestration transcribed by Peress from a 1950 recording, with support from a PSC-CUNY grant. Also on the program were Copland’s Appalachian Spring and Duke Ellington’s Black, Brown and Beige. A new take by Bruce Saylor on “Amazing Grace” (Copland) rounded out the evening.

Dee and Peress

ALICE ARTZT (SEYS) was quoted in a Nov. 27 Queens Tribune article about the TIME 2000 program . . . A feature article about RIKKI ASHER (SEYS) and her international collaborative “Peace Quilts” project that produced the colorful quilts featured in the recent Godwin-Ternbach Museum exhibition Power to the Peaceful, appeared Dec. 20 in the Epoch Times. It was also the subject of a Jan. 8 New York-1 News feature . . . A Jan. 11 story in the New York Times concerning demographic changes since 2000 in New York City neighborhoods was based on an analysis of census figures provided by ANDY BEVERIDGE (Sociology) . . . The Dec. 28 broadcast of “Study With the Best!” on CUNY-TV Channel 75 featured an interview with KATHARINE COBB (VP, Finance & Admin.) and several QC students concerning QC’s sustainability efforts, including the Zipcar rental program . . . A recent feature on Hungarian National Television devoted to Joe Muranyi, the Hungarian-American clarinet player who performed with Louis Armstrong in his later years, included a segment showing Muranyi visiting the Louis Armstrong House Museum and reminiscing with Lahm director MICHAEL COGSWELL about visiting Armstrong there in his final days. It can be viewed at www.dunavtv.hu/felsomenu/nettv?video=148390 . . . MARA EINSTEIN (Media Studies) was heard Feb. 10 on public radio’s Marketplace, contributing her thoughts to a story about advertisements appearing on public transit to recruit young men into the priesthood . . . JOSHUA FREEMAN (History) was quoted in a Jan. 10 Associated Press story about the impact of Mayor Bloomberg’s proposed budget cuts on the city’s labor force . . . A federal study of adult food and beverage consumption led by ASHIMA KANT (FNES) was cited in stories appearing Nov. 7 in US News & continued on page 8
eventually transferred to Queens, where Queensborough Community College, and a religious visa. To bring him to the U.S. in 2003 with a deportation by the Kenyan government, documents, which left him vulnerable to catechism. Unfortunately, Brother Donat had fled Rwanda without any his life back together, attending a French high school and taking construction and computer programming classes. The rest of the time he worked in various parishes doing social work and teaching catechism. Unfortunately, Brother Donat had fled Rwanda without any deportation by the Kenyan government. His Congregation finally managed to bring him to the U.S. in 2003 with a religious visa.

Brother Donat quickly learned English and earned his GED, was accepted into Queensborough Community College, and eventually transferred to Queens, where he majored in French and minored in education. When he received special recognition for his French tutoring service from the college’s European Languages Department at his graduation last May, he simply said, “I studied in order to work and serve.”

On January 8, Brother Donat took the oath to become a U.S. citizen. Today he is working toward a master’s degree in French at QC, with the hope of becoming a high school teacher.

Two Students to Enter Elite Medical School Program

When Nick Copeli graduates this spring, he’ll embark on a medical career by way of Mount Sinai School of Medicine’s Humanities and Medicine program. He is one of two trailblazing QC graduates to be admitted to this new program, which has accepted few public university students. He and Temitope Ademuwagun, a native of Nigeria, will attend in fall 2009.

“The program is literally an experiment,” says the Macaulay Honors College student and anthropology major. “They wanted to see if students with no pre-med background can go to medical school and perform just as well as students who are entrenched in the sciences during college.

“I told them I want to do public health abroad,” says Copeli, who has significant overseas experience. A Gilman International Scholarship allowed him to travel this past summer to Russia, where he worked at St. Petersburg State University. A proficient Russian speaker raised in a Bukharian family, Copeli served as an English teacher and did continued on page 6

Air that We Breathe from page 1 among city residents about air pollution in their neighborhoods. For instance, heavily trafficked neighborhoods—Williamsburg, Brooklyn, the South Bronx, East Harlem—are high-asthma neighborhoods. People have made that association between air pollution and asthma, but we haven’t had real data to be able to say, yes, this pollutant is worse in this particular neighborhood. We will soon have that information for the first time.

We will not only get that information, we will make it readily available by putting it on the web and giving it to community boards, environmental justice groups, and neighborhood groups. This should stimulate discussion and help us develop policy options on how to lower air pollution.

Q: HOW WILL THE SURVEY INFORMATION BENEFIT RESEARCHERS?
A: We know where asthma occurs in New York City and we know to a lesser extent where people with emphysema are. When we develop a more precise understanding of how air pollutants differ from one neighborhood to the next and match that up with certain health outcomes, we will have a better understanding of the degree to which, if we can lower these pollutants, we can improve people’s health.

Q: WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE SURVEY?
A: The principal agency is the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, supported by the Mayor’s Office on Sustainability, which has helped in terms of funding. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has helped us develop our techniques of monitoring. The New York City Department of Transportation has been very helpful by allowing us to put our monitors on their street poles.

Q: WHAT IS QUEENS COLLEGE’S ROLE?
A: People at Queens College developed the basic plan of the survey and the air-monitoring unit we’re putting in the field. Queens College field teams put these units up, harvest them after two weeks, and send the filters to labs for measurement. We move our units every two weeks to different locations. During a 12-month period, we will go back to any specific site four times, so we will have our units there for two weeks in the spring, summer, winter, and fall. At certain sites we will do continuous monitoring so we can state with some confidence what the air pollution level is at any particular site throughout that 12-month period. We quality control the data, which then go to the Health Department, where much of the statistical analysis is done.

Q: HOW MANY UNITS ARE THERE?
A: There are 30 units: 25 are at neighborhood sites and five others are at what we call reference sites, the sites where we’ll be doing continuous monitoring throughout the year. Our sites lean toward more heavily trafficked areas, but we certainly cover quiet areas in the outer boroughs where there’s more tree cover and less traffic. If you divide the city into 300-meter-square grids as we did, there are 7,000 of them. We picked 150. We have good coverage and we’re confident we’ll be able to say something about the entire city.

Q: WHY WAS THE CENTER FOR THE BIOLOGY OF NATURAL SYSTEMS ASKED BY THE CITY TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?
A: We had a track record in air pollution and in developing a transportable way of measuring air pollutants. Also, I think the Department of Health understood that we at Queens College take a public health approach to this issue. We value answering health questions that arise from people’s concerns.

Q: YOU BELIEVE THIS IS AN UNPRECEDEDENT PROJECT IN THE UNITED STATES.
A: Work like this has been done in Montreal, in Toronto, and to some extent in southern California. However, this is the largest such project. We have more monitors in the field than any other city. If this works in New York, we’ll then see if this technique can be useful in other parts of the world.
During the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) created jobs for millions of Americans. Some 5,000 artists were employed by the WPA, which nurtured a distinctly modern American art expressed via murals, sculptures, and prints. Focusing on the last category, Working Through the Great Depression displays 75 works, now part of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum collection, that were created through the New York Regional Graphics Division of the Federal Art Project between 1935 and 1941. Many of these prints have never been on public view. The exhibition is co-curated by museum director Amy Winter and Marilyn L. Simon, an independent curator and scholar who teaches in the college’s Art Department.

The prints depict people at work and play on sidewalks and rooftops, at the Automat, the beach, the parks, and the cultural institutions of New York. Exhibited alongside these works are iconic scenes of New York City and its environs. But next to such buoyant images are those of economic hardship and deprivation, the inevitable consequences of the Great Depression. These works were selected from over 300 WPA prints in the museum’s collection.

The exhibition includes works by celebrated artists like Stuart Davis, Isaac Soyer, and Mabel Dwight, as well as paintings and sculpture by WPA-sponsored artists O. Louis Guglielmi and Chaim Gross that are also part of the Godwin-Ternbach collection.

These works have particular resonance at this moment. “Little did we know when planning this exhibition that we would be facing a new era of economic crisis similar to that of the Great Depression,” say Winter and Simon. “The prints in this exhibition document the response of the government and artists to the challenges of hard times. Our hope is to deepen understanding of the historical, political, and cultural issues evident in WPA art and tie these perspectives to contemporary parallels.”

Working Through the Great Depression will be on view through June 9. For more information call 718-997-4747 or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/godwin_ternbach.

QC Joins Program to Encourage Young Scientists

Next fall Queens College will participate in a unique program that aims to engage freshmen in a national genomics research project as a way of interesting them in the sciences.

Conceived by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s Science Education Alliance, the National Genomics Research Initiative got underway last fall at 12 colleges and universities across the country. It was so successful that it was opened to additional schools for fall 2009. Thirty-three schools applied to be part of the second cohort and QC was among the 16 selected.

Under the initiative, QC will offer two new courses designed and taught by biologists John Dennehy and Michael Hickerson. “It’s going to be called Genomics Research Experience,” says Dennehy, who will also serve as director of the program.

The medium for this research experience will be soil samples gathered by the students, who will learn to isolate bacte-
Mount Sinai saw Copeli’s potential as a humanities-oriented physician. In his first assignment, he interned with Global Kids, an organization that prepares urban youth for global citizenship, and maintained its website. His next internship found him at DonorsChoose, an organization that links donors to projects that improve public education.

Like many Macaulay students, Copeli had been offered full scholarships to a number of private schools. However, he chose to stay close to home to support his family. “I’ve been working since age 13 or 14,” he says. “I’ve been a stock boy at a pharmacy. I’ve been a tutor for a subsidiary of Kaplan. I’ve done private tutoring jobs. I teach swimming. I lifeguard.” Copeli also benefited from alumni and friends of QC whose generous contributions made possible a scholarship from the Queens College Foundation. Despite his many commitments, Copeli still managed to do volunteer work for a nursing home, a soup kitchen, and the Coalition for the Homeless.

Typically, Watson Fellows spend their last summer abroad. Copeli is thinking of working in Brazil, but first has to learn Portuguese. Characteristically unfazed, he remarks, “It’s decently easy if you know some Spanish.”

**TEMITOPE ADEMUWAGUN,** who was accepted into the Macaulay Honors College in 2004, graduated cum laude from QC in May 2008. She worked diligently to maintain high grades in her Spanish major, while also regularly volunteering at St. John’s Hospital and in the college’s Big Buddy Program.

As a Nigerian immigrant, Ademuwagun had a special interest in health care issues for underserved populations. During her first two summers at QC, she honed her interest in becoming a physician by participating in pre-medicine summer programs at the University of Virginia Medical School and at the University of Connecticut Medical and Dental School.

These experiences were the groundwork for Ademuwagun’s successful application to the Mt. Sinai Humanities and Medicine Program. Early admission to Mt. Sinai allowed her to focus on her interests in Spanish, Africana studies, and sociology, and to participate in two study abroad programs sponsored by the Honors College: one to the Galapagos and the other to the Universidad Antonio de Nebrija in Madrid, Spain.

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**Genome Project from page 5**

own unique “species” of phage.

According to the Science Education Alliance’s website, once students have gathered samples, they prepare each virus for DNA sequencing, then annotate and compare the sequenced genome. “The course builds on themes and techniques from across biology, including microbiology, molecular biology, genomics and bioinformatics,” explains the site.

“We’re targeting freshmen,” says Dennehy, “we’d like to reach them before they declare a major. By offering them a real research experience, they will learn what being a research scientist is all about and possibly consider science as a career.”

According to Dennehy, the new program will provide an important link to two existing QC programs that also try to get students excited about careers in science: the NIH-funded MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) Program under the direction of Zahra Zakeri (Biology) and the NSF-funded URM Program (Undergraduate Research Mentoring in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior) directed by Stéphane Boissinot (Biology). “We’re all working together,” Dennehy explains. “MARC and URM mostly target sophomores, so we’re hoping the Genomics Initiative will encourage students who are interested in research to move into those programs.”

Both MARC and URM target underrepresented minority students, and Dennehy says his program will do the same. He is also exploring with Martin Braun the possibility of offering the Genomics Research Experience as part of the Freshman Year Initiative.

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**Six Students Receive Greek Scholarships**

The Athanasiades Foundation, which is dedicated to the spread of Hellenism, is named for its benefactor, the former publisher of the newspaper Kampana. For the past 16 years it has made these awards to students who submit compositions promoting a positive sense of Greek identity. Costas Athanasiades presented the awards at a Nov. 25 event at the hall of the Athanasiades Cultural Center in Astoria. The recipients hailed from schools in the United States, England, Greece, and Albania.

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Students from page 4

translation work. Previously, the Honors College afforded him the opportunity to travel to Peru, where he taught English at a remote orphanage in San Miguel and mastered Spanish.

Internships made possible by a Watson Fellowship may reveal more about why
QC PEOPLE

AMPARO BARRERA (Campus Facilities) received a national design award at the 29th annual Conference of the Association of University Interior Designers, held in October at Ohio State University. The award was for the design of the Student Lounge in Kiely Hall. Barrera took second place in the Renovation Under $50,000 category.

KEVIN BIRTH (Anthropology) gave a talk at the Guggenheim Museum on Jan. 7 as part of their 24-Hour Event on the Concept of Time, associated with the Any Space Whatever exhibit.

Harold Gomes, an applied mathematics/physics double major working in the laboratory of JOSHUA BRUMBERG (Psychology), was awarded a travel grant to the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Washington, DC in January.

Director of Graduate Admissions MARIO CARUSO has been elected to a two-year term as chair of the Admissions Research & Resource Committee of the wRAP-Up Newsletter, published by NAFAA: National Association of International Educators. He was also elected to serve on the editorial board of the newsletter.

HELEN GAUDETTE (History), QC’s Director of Preparatory Programs, spoke on behalf of the college at the Dec. 9 installation ceremony for Kenneth Bonamo, Jr., the new principal of Townsend Harris High School.

JEFFREY HALPERIN (Psychology), the director of the QC Preschool Project, is being honored for his work on ADHD with an award from Education Update at the second New York Citywide Special Education Conference.

MICHAEL HICKERSON (Biology) was one of the co-authors of a study appearing Feb. 5 in the journal Science, describing their development of a new way to improve biodiversity prediction and protection in tropical hotspots.

On Nov. 21 PREMILLA NADASEN (History) was called by the NYS Assembly Committee to testify as an expert witness about the Domestic Worker Bill of Rights. On Feb. 5 she gave a lecture on “Black Feminism and the Politics of Welfare” at Sarah Lawrence College.

DANIEL PHILLIPS (Music) recently completed a multi-CD recording of the Beethoven string quartets with his group, the Orion String Quartet.

MIHAELA ROBILA (FNES) received a research fellowship, funded by the U.S. Department of State through the American Councils, to conduct her study on “Parental Economic Migration and Children’s Outcomes in Moldova.”

George Zhao, who translated MORRIS ROSSABI’S (History) book Khubilai Khan into Chinese last year, reports that the book is number 6 on the best-seller list in Humanities and Social Sciences in China.

CATHY SAVAGE-DUNN (Biology) co-organized the first meeting of the New York Area C. elegans Discussion Group at the New York Academy of Sciences on Nov. 19. A bonus at this meeting was a celebration with Dr. Martin Chalfie, a winner of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Savage-Dunn introduced Chalfie, who was her PhD thesis mentor.

GREGORY SHOLETTE (Art) recently completed production of the special issue of the British journal Third Text, entitled Whither Tactical Media?

JOSEPH SUNGOLOWSKY (ELL) is the author of “Joseph Sintzheim, President of Napoleon’s Sanhedrin and First Chief Rabbi of France,” which appeared in Midstream (Winter 2009). He also wrote “Holocaust and Autobiography” in Bloom’s Guides: Wiesel’s Night (Chelsea House) and reviewed Les Trains du souvenir by Victor Brombert in Tsafon, no. 56 (Hiver 2009).

The Third Miracle, a film co-written by RICHARD VETERE (Media Studies) based on his novel, was screened at the Museum of Modern Art in December as part of a retrospective of the work of its director, Agnieszka Holland. Vertere’s new play, Lady MacBeth’s Lover, received its first reading Jan. 23 at the Cherry Lane Theater.

Taskforce Affirms that Inclusion Is Essential to Excellence at the College

It’s been nearly two years since Cynthia Rountree’s arrival at Queens College as Director of Affirmative Action, Compliance and Diversity Programs. Among her responsibilities she chairs QC’s Inclusive Excellence Taskforce, which is part of a CUNY-wide initiative. To date, she says the findings of the group suggest that while much has been accomplished at QC, much remains to be done.

As envisioned by CUNY, Rountree explains, “each campus taskforce consists of representatives from faculty, administration and staff. So we have people from all levels of the campus workforce.

“Each taskforce,” she continues, “was asked to look at all aspects of college operations to determine which areas are ripe for initiatives to increase diversity.

We’re looking at curriculum, recruitment, interaction with community groups and always asking: What can we do to increase diversity while maintaining the excellence CUNY is noted for in all aspects of our work?”

And, as though it cannot be emphasized enough, Rountree firmly asserts, “You cannot have excellence without inclusion.”

As she outlined in a recent memorandum: “The Inclusive Excellence Project, widely promoted by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, is seen by many as the next generation of access and retention efforts for underrepresented minorities in higher education. It recognizes that numerical diversity is necessary but not sufficient in a quest for the positive outcomes of a diverse learning environment. It builds diversity in current and critical ways. IE directly confronts the myth that diversity and access mean ‘dumbing down’ the academic environment. On the contrary, IE maintains that inclusion is fundamental to excellence.”

Rountree notes that the work of the taskforce is consistent with the objectives of the president’s Strategic Plan. President James Mulykens, Rountree says, “has been extremely supportive of our efforts.”

The taskforce has completed three phases of the project and has identified four initiatives to increase diversity at QC by 2012, which will be passed on to the president, provost, and other administrators for review.

QC’s Inclusive Excellence Taskforce: seated (l to r) Frank Franklin, Cynthia Rountree, Thomas Strekas, Mirian Detres-Hickey; standing Ray Rivera, Esthela Arriaga, Gladys Sapigao, Criselda Garcia.
QC in the Media from page 3

*World Report and at the WebMD website, and Nov. 11 in the Washington Post.* The stories concerned a new study that appeared in the November issue in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition concerning breakfast consumption . . . CARMELLA MARRONE (Women and Work) was quoted in a Feb. 5 story about the program in the Queens Tribune . . . CECILIA McHUGH (EES) was one of a number of scientists whose research was cited in a Dec. 29 New York Times article describing evidence from core samples suggesting that, some 2,300 years ago, the New York City/Long Island area may have been swept by a tsunami caused by a meteorite impact . . . VINON MENON’s (Physics) development of a flexible laser was reported Jan. 15 in the Queens Tribune and Jan. 30 in India.

_Abroad . . . President JAMES MUYSKENS_ offered his views on the college, cosmology, and more for the Nov. 27 Queens Chronicle feature “q&a,” which focuses on borough leaders. In the Jan. 22 Queens Courier Muysskens wrote about how President Barack Obama can improve education in America . . . TheaterMania.com carried a story Feb. 4 about the presentation at the Riverside Church of the cantata honoring Abraham Lincoln, _The Lonesome Train_, a performance being conducted by MAURICE PERESS (ACSM). He was also interviewed for a Feb. 11 segment of National Public Radio’s “News and Notes” that included a concert excerpt performed by two members of the Queens College Orchestra (see story, p. 3) . . . A Dec. 18 New York Times story about “vanity medicine” quoted VICTORIA PITTS-TAYLOR (Sociology) . . . MARK ROSENBLUM (Jewish Studies) was quoted Menon

Nov. 21 in a Long Island Jewish Week story about efforts by Jewish doves to press then President-elect Obama to keep his campaign promise to make Israeli-Palestinian peace a primary foreign policy goal . . . An article about Christmas creches in the Dec. 13 New York Times quoted JOSEPH SCIORRA (Calandra). . . AMY WINTER (Godwin-Ternbach Museum) was quoted in a Nov. 27 Times Ledger feature about the museum’s exhibit _Meditation in Contemporary Chinese Landscape_. . . Queens College was described as a “hidden gem” that has become known for “providing an affordable, quality education to local young people,” particularly those of “various ethnicities who are the first in their families to attend college,” in a feature that appeared in November on America.gov, a sister service to the Voice of America. . . Several Queens papers carried stories about Lluis Capdevila, the Fulbright scholar from Spain who is studying jazz piano at the Copland School. They included the Dec. 18 Queens Tribune and Times Ledger, the Dec. 19 _El Correo de Queens_, and Jan. 1 Queens Courier (see story, p. 2) . . . The photographs of Queens street scenes that decorate the wall of Powdermaker Hall were the subject of stories Dec. 26 and Jan. 4 in “The City” section of the New York Times . . . The Jan. 13 Daily News, Jan. 15 Times Ledger, and Feb. 5 Queens Courier featured stories about Donat Kubwimana being sworn in as a U.S. citizen (see story, p. 2) . . . Queens College’s inclusion in The Princeton Review’s 2009 list of the 50 “Best Value” public colleges merited a Jan. 13 feature on New York-1 News and stories Jan. 15 in the Queens Tribune and Times Ledger, Jan. 22 in the Queens Courier, and Jan. 20 in the Daily News (see story, p. 1) . . . The Godwin-Ternbach Museum exhibition _Working Through the Great Depression_ was featured Feb. 5 in both the Queens Chronicle’s “qboro What’s Happening” and _Time Out New York_. . . _The January 23 Green Business Summit held on campus and co-hosted by the college received coverage from the Queens Courier on Jan. 15 and 29, the Queens Chronicle on Jan. 22 and 29, the Queens Tribune on Jan. 22, the Queens Gazette on Jan. 28, and the Times Ledger on Jan. 29_. . . _New York-1_ carried a feature Feb. 8 about the bright prospects for QC’s women’s basketball team.

**Four QC Graduates Recognized at Grammy Awards**

The Aaron Copland School of Music has many distinguished alumni, and the recent Grammy Awards ceremony recognized no fewer than four of them: Pianist, bandleader, and composer _ARTURO O’FARRILL_ ’00 received the Grammy for Best Latin Jazz Album of the Year for _Song for Chico_, which he performed with the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra. _CONRAD HERWIG_ ’05 was also recognized in this category. Both a bandleader and composer, Herwig was nominated for his album _The Latin Side of Wayne Shorter_, which he performed with the Latin Side Band.

Two Copland School graduates and one CUNY Distinguished Professor were recognized in the Classical Music Awards category: _JOANN FALLETTA_ ’78 is the conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, which performed _Mr. Tambourine Man: Seven Poems of Bob Dylan_, a work that was awarded a Grammy for Best New Classical Composition. The winning composer was Distinguished Professor John Corigliano of Lehman College. (The recording also received a Grammy for Best Vocal Performance by soprano Hila Plitman.) Corigliano beat out Copland School alumnus _GEORGE TSONTAKIS_ (’83–’84), whose Violin Concerto No. 2 was also nominated in the Best New Classical Composition category.

“The Aaron Copland School of Music has a strong, longstanding reputation in classical music performance and composition,” says ACSM Director Edward Smaldone. “George Tsontakis studied composition with Hugo Weisgall, arguably the leading American composer of opera. JoAnn Falletta received an MA degree in guitar performance when her conducting career was just beginning. Our jazz program—whose formative faculty included Jimmy Heath and Sir Roland Hanna—has developed an international reputation. Its graduates are a force within the field and include five recent winners in the prestigious Thelonius Monk Competition.”
Women, Queens College, and the Civil Rights Movement will be the topic of this year’s Virginia Frese Palmer Conference. It will take place on Monday, March 16, on the fourth floor of the Student Union and will run from 9 am to 2:30 pm. Sponsored by the QC Women’s Studies Program, the conference is held each year in celebration of Women’s History Month.

Among those scheduled to speak are:

Rita Schwerner Bender ’64: She and husband Michael Schwerner went to Mississippi as field workers for the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1964. That June Michael, James Chaney, and Andrew Goodman were murdered in Mississippi.

Lucy Komisar ’64: Spent a year in Mississippi in 1962–1963 as editor of the Mississippi Free Press.

Rosalyn Terborg-Penn ’63: Professor of history emerita at Morgan State University and cofounder of the Association of Black Women Historians.

Dorothy Zellner ’60: Worked with the SNCC in Georgia, Mississippi, and Virginia.

To attend and receive a complimentary lunch, RSVP to 718-997-3098 or joyce.warren@qc.cuny.edu

QC Receives Alum’s Civil Rights Collection

Mark Levy ’64, an activist in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, has donated his personal materials of that era to the college. This donation includes photographs, posters, buttons, letters, Mississippi student writings, and news clippings. They will be used to start the college’s Civil Rights Archive. The library will preserve, catalog, and make these documents available to students, faculty, and other researchers.

“The materials in Mark Levy’s collection help us better understand the role played by students from the college during the Civil Rights Movement, a time of great change and turmoil in our nation’s history,” notes Chief Librarian Robert Shaddy.

Levy, who recently retired as executive director of the medical residents’ union CIR/SEIU, has been in contact with other 1960s alumni who are prepared to donate materials from their collections. “When I retired, I came across big boxes of old photographs and files, many now yellowing and cracking,” he says. “History is useful to pass along.”

Levy believes the history of QC student activism has been overshadowed by the fact that Queens was the college attended by murdered civil rights volunteer Andrew Goodman. The library’s new archival collection aims to give a fuller picture of what students and faculty did during this time. Levy notes that among other things, QC students were involved in civil rights work in several southern states; they picketed in opposition to discrimination at the 1964 World’s Fair and at local department stores; and they tutored in South Jamaica and at community-based educational help programs in Harlem.

Ghana from page 2

Q: WHAT KIND OF HOUSING DID YOUR TEAM BUILD?
A: We lived in the village of Tindonsoblogu in the remote Bolgatanga region near the Burkina Faso northern border. The housing built by Habitat for Humanity is made of cement block, basic 2–3 rooms with a utility block (kitchen, shower area, toilet). No electricity or plumbing. The shower is outdoors and we used scoops of water to bathe. The toilet area is an outdoor latrine. The kitchen is 5 by 10 feet. Each house is a simple one-story about 15 by 30 feet with a life expectancy of about 30 years. Habitat houses are much sturdier than the huts made of mud or mature elephant dung. A person can expect to pay $2500 for a house with a six-year mortgage.

Our job was to assist the local carpenters and masons. There were no bulldozers, no backhoes, no cement mixers. The most sophisticated equipment was a wheelbarrow. I mostly mixed mortar, carried bricks, plastered, and dug a latrine. The work was tough in 90 degree heat, but we all laughed and told stories while working. Laughing became our way of adapting to sleeping on a floor in insecticide-treated nets; eating chicken and goat every day; and learning how to outrun a croc.

Q: WHAT WERE THE HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR TIME IN GHANA?
A: It was especially pleasant to see the completion of the home we built. We attended the dedication ceremony in which a local man, David Msor, took possession of his Habitat house for his wife and children. David worked with us every day on building the house.

We had the great opportunity to chat with the locals each night over dinner. We learned about their schooling, their economy, their religions, their politics, and their customs, like courtship and marriage. When I told the village elder my daughter was engaged, he kept asking how many cows I had received as a dowry. The last time I saw the elder he was still shaking his head that I would give up a prized possession like a daughter and get nothing in return.

Branching Out to QC’s Student Union

When New York Community Bank Chairman, President, and CEO Joseph Ficalora cut the ribbon Feb. 6 officially opening a full-service branch in the QC Student Union, he was joined by elected officials, campus officials, and others including Robert Wann ’82 (fourth from left) and Max Kuperberg ’42 (center, gray suit)—who are both NYCIB officials and graduates of Queens College. Wann is also a member of the Queens College Foundation Board.
QC Authors

Best known for his Oscar-winning dramas The Silence of the Lambs and Philadelphia and popular comedies such as Married to the Mob and Something Wild, director Jonathan Demme has also achieved acclaim for the illuminating documentaries The Agronomist, My Cousin Bobby, and Jimmy Carter: Man from Plains, as well as the successful concert films Stop Making Sense (the Talking Heads) and Neil Young: Heart of Gold. Yet, despite decades of cinematic achievements, Demme’s name is often overlooked when conversation in the popular press turns to the great directors (Scorsese, Eastwood, Demme’s name is often overlooked when conversation in the popular press turns to the great directors (Scorsese, Eastwood, Spielberg, Coppola) of our time.

True Crimes: An American Anthology (The Library of America) finds Harold Schechter (English) again working in his favorite medium—the evil men (and women) do to each other. This hefty volume (772 pages) offers a collection, edited by Schechter, aptly described as “350 years of brilliant writing about dark deeds.” As he explains in his introduction, from the days of the early colonies to the present, Americans have been fascinated by violent crime, and many of the best writers of their day (Hawthorne, Poe, Twain, Edna Ferber, Mencken, Zora Neale Hurston, Capote—to name a few) have given expression to that fascination. From the hanging in the Massachusetts Bay Colony of John Billington, a Pilgrim father described by Governor William Bradford in a letter as a “miscreant” and “one of the profanest men among us,” to writer Dominick Dunne’s account of the murderous Menendez brothers of latter-day Beverly Hills, True Crimes presents a sometimes grisly chronology of some of the darker chapters of the American Experience as interpreted by some of our best chroniclers.

Continuing Joel Spring’s (Elementary & Early Childhood Ed.) reportage and analysis of the intersection of global forces and education, Globalization of Education (Routledge) offers a comprehensive overview and synthesis of current research, theories, and models related to the topic. Spring introduces readers to the processes, institutions, and forces by which schooling has been globalized, and examines the impact of these forces on schooling in local contexts. Designed for courses on globalization and education, international and comparative education, educational foundations, multicultural education, and educational policy, the text is written in a clear narrative style to engage readers in thoughtful consideration of the topics discussed. Each chapter includes “Key Points” that summarize the content and suggest issues and questions for critical analysis, discussion, and debate.

Print Ads Win Gold Award from Higher Education Organization

A series of print ads created by the Office of Communications has received the 2009 gold Accolades Award from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), a highly respected national organization for higher education professionals. The prize in the “special advertising programs” category was given by CASE District II, the largest of the eight geographic districts. “Your accomplishments in creative planning, production and promotion of programs merit the accolades and admiration of your peers,” noted the CASE co-chair.

The ads employed a common headline “Queens College is a Place for . . .” followed by a different noun: “Achievement,” “Inspiration,” “Discovery,” “Community,” or “Change.” Designed by Georgine Ingber (Design Services) to reflect the theme of the current banners on Kissena Boulevard and other streets bordering the campus, they were photographed by Nancy Bareis, with copy by Bob Suter (Editorial Services). Placements included such publications as U.S. News and World Report, the New York Times Magazine, and Newsweek.

The ad series and individual “Achievement” ad also received a Merit citation from the Annual Admissions Advertising Awards, sponsored by Higher Education Marketing Report.

The ads are on display in the main lobby of Kiely Hall, adjoining the elevators.

A Showing of the Green

The Jan. 23 Queens Green Business Summit at the Student Union was a rousing success. Dozens of local businesses sponsored booths extolling their green efforts. At QC’s booth, student Jennifer Louie offers a display of the many green initiatives undertaken by the college.
Events

1 MARCH
CONCERT: Concertante String Octet. 2 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall. $34. www.kupferbergcenterarts.org

9 MARCH
PRESIDENT’S ROUNDTABLE: Mark Rosenblum (Jewish Studies) and another peace expert will discuss their insights on both the war in Gaza and post-election realities. 12:15 pm, Q-Side Lounge, Dining Hall.

16 MARCH
VIRGINIA FRESE PALMER CONFERENCE: Women, Queens College, and the Civil Rights Movement. Featuring a number of QC alumnae who were active in the Civil Rights Movement. 9 am–2:30 pm, 4th Floor, Student Union. 718-997-3098.

17 MARCH
LECTURE: “Sesame Street in the Middle East: Paving the Road for Coexistence,” by QC alumnus Lewis Bernstein. 6 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall. Buffet dinner of Kosher and Halal food follows lecture. www.qc.cuny.edu/Jewish_Studies

19 APRIL
PERFORMANCE: Cirque USA in Odyssey. 3 pm, Colden Auditorium. $14. www.kupferbergcenterarts.org

27 APRIL
PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE: Roger Sanjek (Anthropology), Age and Youth in Action: The Gray Panthers from 1970 to Today. Q-Side Lounge, Dining Hall, 12:15 pm.

20-29 MARCH
PERFORMANCE: Anything Goes presented by Drama, Theatre & Dance Dept. and Copland School. See events calendar for details. www.qc.cuny.edu/dramadance/

28 APRIL
EVENING READING: 50th Anniversary celebration of the work of Philip Roth with the author and Norman Manea, Greil Marcus, Joyce Carol Oates, and Norman Rush. 7 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall. $20. www.qc.cuny.edu/readings

1-2 MAY
CONCERT: Monteverdi’s opera L’Orfeo. Fully staged production with singers from the QC Opera Studio and QC Choir. 7:30 pm, LeFrak Concert Hall. $15.

Exhibits

SATCHMO’S STUFF: Survey of Louis’s life using artifacts from the Louis Armstrong House Museum’s collections. www.louisarmstronghouse.org/

FYI items should be submitted to Maria Matteo, maria.matteo@qc.cuny.edu, Kielty 1310, x75593.
FYI is now a quarterly. The next issue publishes in late May.