As one of the world’s top exponents of Mongolian culture, Morris Rossabi has forged a career that spans academia and contemporary politics. In the process, the college’s latest Distinguished Professor of History has made some history of his own.

Born in one multicultural city—Alexandria, Egypt—Rossabi easily adapted to another in his early teens, when his family moved to Manhattan. Already fluent in English, French, Arabic, and Farsi, he seems to have been pre-equipped for scholarly pursuits. “I was always interested in foreign languages,” he reports. But finding the Mideast too close to his own background to study, he looked farther afield, immersing himself in Chinese and Japanese and getting a bachelor’s degree in general history at New York University.

Rossabi was in graduate school at Columbia University, looking for a dissertation topic connected to Central Asia, when, like Archimedes, he had his eureka moment in the bathtub. “I realized that no one had done Khubilai Khan,” he recalls. His research into the Mongolian emperor earned him a PhD and laid the foundation for his life’s work, which would help change perceptions of a regime that once dominated much of Asia.

Contrary to popular belief, history isn’t always written by the victor. “The Mongolians didn’t develop a written (continued on page 7)
LeFrak Hall Pipe Organ Undergoes Major Renovation

It would make for one heckuva TV commercial.

As part of the recent renovation of LeFrak Hall’s enormous pipe organ, the instrument’s entire console—the part comprised of keyboards and pedals—was FedExed to the Netherlands.

This was one of many steps in a months-long overhaul of the Maynard-Walker Memorial Organ that required the expertise of a talented group of Dutch technicians who literally lived in the Music School building throughout the process.

The work was necessary, according to organist-in-residence Jan-Piet Knijff (Music), because since its installation in 1991 when LeFrak Hall first opened, “performers became increasingly aware that certain technical concerns needed to be addressed if the instrument was to fully realize its artistic potential.”

So Knijff began researching companies and found all that he needed, and more, in the Dutch firm Flentrop Orgelbouw. The company from Zaandam is the world’s most experienced builder of this particular type of organ, with over 80 organs to its credit in the United States alone. Knijff, himself a native of the Netherlands, acted as consultant, identifying the features that needed enhancement, selecting the organ builder, and guiding the actual work.

The main job, he explains, was to make the route from the organ’s air reservoir—the “windchest”—to the pipes as airtight as possible, taking into account the changes in humidity in the environment. In order to give the pipes all the air they need, the keys (which open the “pallets” that regulate airflow into the pipes) of two major divisions were lengthened, so that they opened the pallets more efficiently than before.

“The Maynard-Walker Memorial Organ can now take its place as one of the eminent organs for music of the North German School in the New York area,” says Music Chair Ed Smaldone. “The work exceeded everyone’s expectations. The organ now speaks with color and clarity. We look forward to showcasing this wonderful instrument in the coming season.”

While staying at the college, Flentrop Orgelbouw employees used campus and off-campus facilities for breakfast and lunch, and often dined in downtown Flushing.

Conceived in Times of Turmoil, QC Is Thriving in its 70th Anniversary Year

On October 11, 1937, the front page of the New York Times reported that the city was paying record amounts of home relief to mitigate the effects of the still-raging Great Depression; 200,000 Japanese troops were inflicting a heavy toll on Chinese forces in China’s Southern Hopeh Province; the AFL was aggressively fighting the CIO to sign up new union members; and Special Prosecutor Thomas E. Dewey, campaigning to become district attorney, was touting his success defeating Schultz’s gang.

Meanwhile, under partly cloudy skies and seasonable temperatures, 400 young men and women gathered in Flushing and tried to put the events of a troubled world out of their minds as they embarked on an ambitious new chapter in their lives as members of the freshman class of New York City’s newest college. Typical of those times, Queens College’s first day of classes had been delayed several weeks by a painters’ strike.

Of course, more than paint was required to renovate buildings constructed early in the century to house the New York Parental Home for Boys into an institution of higher learning. (A grand jury investigation directed by District Attorney Charles S. Colden into charges of brutality closed the Parental Home in 1935.) As work on the campus continued, some classes were held at nearby Newtown High School or in the auditorium in Jefferson Hall. There were few desks, so students often sat in ordinary chairs and wrote on lapboards while instructors used portable blackboards. There was no cafeteria and no regular bus line within the vicinity of the campus.

Today, Queens College is still growing, still renovating, and still experiencing transportation issues. (Ask any student who’s made the two-hour commute by subway and bus from Brooklyn.) But, more than 100,000 graduates later, it has must be to proud of as it makes preparations to celebrate its 70th anniversary.

The official kickoff for the anniversary year will begin at Commencement on May 31 according to Alumni Affairs Director Nancy Rudolph, who is in the early stages of developing ways to mark the occasion.

Two alumni will be selected to represent each decade at the graduation ceremony. In addition, an event is being planned for Thursday, October 11—the college’s first day of classes 70 years ago—at which graduates from that time will be invited back to visit the campus and meet current students.

“We’re going to do things that are simple but that draw attention to the occasion,” she says, explaining that this celebration will serve to prime the campus for a more significant celebration a few years hence: the 75th anniversary of Queens College.

Rudolph, who previously worked in alumni relations at Adelphi University, notes, “We did a centennial celebration while I was there, and you need a lot of time to prepare for an event like that.”
Hong Shaddy, QC’s New Webmaster

Hong Shaddy will get to experience a launch day after all.

Shaddy, the college’s new Webmaster, arrived in Flushing in July along with husband Robert, QC’s new chief librarian. Both previously held positions at the University of Florida, where Hong spent three years as Webmaster for the university’s School of Dentistry Web site.

“I was brought aboard to redesign the Web site and it was finished by the time I left. But they didn’t roll it out until a few weeks after I had gone,” she says, her voice revealing just a hint of regret at not having been there for launch day.

But there will be future launch days as Shaddy’s responsibilities at QC will include implementing the redesign of the campus Web site and the new content management system that will allow departments to design and manage their own sites within the design parameters of the Web site. “The whole point of content management is to give secure access to the users—which is what they want anyway—so they will have control of their own Web site. We’ll just provide a way to make it consistent,” she says. Web design and management, however, would seem a far cry from Shaddy’s original ambitions when she left her native China. “I came to the States to get a doctorate in English at the University of Toledo,” says Shaddy, who already held an MA in English from Guangzhou University of International Studies and a BA in English from Hubei University. She received her PhD in 1998 from Toledo, where she also met her future husband, who was working in the library.

Initially, Shaddy set out to teach literature, but as there were few full-time opportunities, she decided to get an MBA in Information Systems, which she received from Toledo in 2001.

Since arriving on campus, the Shaddys have been spending weekends as tourists, taking in the sights and museums. After years in Toledo and Gainesville, Hong is finding New York a bit of an adjustment. “I had lived in the Midwest and the South for a decade, so I got used to the space. When we got here, everywhere you go there is a long line.”

Asked if her new environs are in any way similar to China, she says, “Yeah, in a lot of regards, especially Flushing!”

Shaddy describes herself as a quiet person who likes to read. “I’ve been reading modern authors,” she says. “That’s my area of interest.”

Not surprisingly, books are an important feature of the Shaddy household. They also pose a challenge: “Our closets in our apartment are filled with books,” she laughs. “We’re running out of space for clothes!”

Waldman is CUNY Point Person for Coastal Ecosystems Study Unit

The conference Why Nature Matters to New Yorkers that Queens College hosted in December 2005 has produced an unexpected research opportunity for the college and CUNY.

As conference moderator John Waldman (Biology) recalls, he was approached midway through the proceedings by Kim Tripp, director of the Jamaica Bay Institute, a part of the National Park Service.

“She was interested in getting some urban expertise,” says Waldman, who, prior to coming to QC, had spent 20 years as an aquatic biologist with the Hudson River Foundation, establishing his credentials as an expert on the environment of New York Harbor and its surrounding waterways.

Tripp asked if he would like to be part of a unit that was creating a catalog of research opportunities for Jamaica Bay. “I was interested,” he notes, “but I couldn’t qualify unless my institution was part of this unit.”

The unit is the North Atlantic Coasts Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (NAC-CESU), part of a national network of regional biogeographic programs that provides research, technical assistance, and education to federal land management, environmental, and research agencies. Waldman had been unaware of the program, “but I immediately realized this was a great opportunity for CUNY in general and Queens College in particular.”

So he initiated the process to become part of the unit: “I had to prepare a formal petition describing all of CUNY’s assets and abilities, and it was floated past the various members, both the government agencies and the universities. They decided that we would be a welcome addition, particularly because we have an urban focus and they didn’t have that among the other partners.

“I’m the point person for all of CUNY,” says Waldman. “There may be some things that come through the door from NAC-CESU that will directly relate to what the CUNY Institute for Sustainable Cities is becoming.” (This institute was previously known as the CUNY Institute for Research on the City Environment.)

“The research catalog I’m preparing,” he continues, “is a thick document that alerts the research world to the interesting questions that can be asked in the Jamaica Bay environment. The most urgent issue these days is the loss of the salt marshes, which appears to be at least partially related to sea-level rise and global warming. People don’t realize that water expands its volume as it gets warmer.” This is particularly significant in urban areas like New York, where development extends to the shoreline, leaving no areas to which the marshes can retreat.

In addition to the contract to create the research catalog, Waldman has received a second contract in conjunction with Gillian Stewart (Earth & Env. Sciences). “Late this summer, probably September, we’re going to hold the first Jamaica Bay BioBlitz,” he says. “It’s going to be a fun event—we’ll have these tents up for visitors and press—but it’s also a scientifically useful event in which you gather a large variety of taxonomic experts and volunteers to go out into the field and identify everything they can in a 24-hour period, a kind of blitzkrieg attack on a location. It generates useful lists of what’s out there.”
An article appearing Nov. 27 in New York magazine about the likelihood in the next five years of unusual weather in the New York City area included NICK COCH’s account of the potential for a devastating hurricane . . . A Dec. 9 article in the Indianapolis Star about the growing influence of Oprah Winfrey featured some observations from MARA EINSTEIN (Media Studies). . . MARIAN FISH (ECP) is quoted in a story in the Feb. edition of Parents magazine about how parents should speak with their children’s teachers . . . A study with implications for understanding and treating addiction disorders, authored in part by JANINE FLORY (Psychology), was the subject of a Dec. 19 article in the San Antonio Express-News included observations from DOMINIC GULLO (ECEE). . . JESSICA HARRIS (SEEK) was quoted in a story about family holiday food traditions that appeared Dec. 19 in USA Today . . . A Jan. 7 story in Newsday about the rapidly growing Indian community in Hicksville quoted YOGIN NARAYANAN. . . A Dec. 7 editorial in the Queens Tribune included observations from MARA EINSTEIN (Media Studies). . . A Dec. 7 editorial in the Queens Tribune about commuting from Manhattan to Queens by bicycle . . . A story Nov. 15 in the Queens Gazette mentioned that an essay on religion in Queens by President JAMES MUYSKENS was among the offerings of a new guide, Queens: What to Do, Where to Go (and How Not to Get Lost) in New York’s Undiscovered Borough by Ellen Freudenheim . . . GREGORY RABASSA’s (Hispanic Lang. & Lit.) recent receipt of the 2006 National Medal of Arts continues to draw media attention, with articles appearing Dec. 11 in the Daily News, Dec. 14 in the Queens Courier and TimesLedger, and Jan. 4 in the Queens Courier. A story about him by the Spanish-language EFE news agency on Jan 6 was picked up by several international papers, including Mira, La Republica, Diario de Noticias, El Universal, and Milenio. A photo of him at the White House wearing his medal and standing between President and Mrs. Bush was featured Dec. 21 in the Queens Courier and Jan. 1 in the Queens Tribune . . . The dedication of the Simon and Roslyn Gold Jewish Studies Library was the subject of a story in the Dec. edition of the North Shore Towers Courier. A photo of the Golds attending the dedication appeared Dec. 7 in the Queens Tribune . . . A photo of Borough President Helen Marshall presenting a check for $35,000 to the QC Women at Work program appeared Dec. 7 in the TimesLedger. The program’s director CARMELLA MARRONE, President JAMES MUYSKENS, and SUE HENDERSON (VP Institutional Advancement) also appear in the photo . . . QC’s immigration symposium held on Nov. 15 — including an interview with Pres. Muyskens — was featured on ITV-TV’s Community News show on successive Sundays, Nov. 19 and Nov. 26, and posted on their Web site, www.ITVontheweb.com for those two weeks. ITV is a Time-Warner cable station that covers East Indian and other Asian news and community events . . . A Dec. 14 article in the TimesLedger on suggestions for holiday gifts to give girlfriends included a couple of QC’s continuing education classes among the suggestions.

ISLAMIC EXHIBIT (continued from page 1)

Iran’s cultural heritage.
“The reason that I have worked so hard to put the culture of Islam on the map,” says Khalili, “is because I have always believed that the real weapon of mass destruction is ignorance. Once you tackle that, you have solved a lot of problems.”

The opening reception, which takes place from 4 to 7 pm in LeFrak Hall, will feature a number of elements that reflect Islamic and Jewish cultural traditions. There will be a preview of a program planned for May, “Common Chords,” which will highlight musical traditions of the two cultures, followed by “Search for Common Ground,” a dialogue between a rabbi and a sheikh. Under the banner “Food for Thought,” guests will also have an opportunity to sample food from the Kosher and Halal dietary traditions.

The reception and subsequent events are a continuation of the college’s four-year examination of the often contentious relationship between Muslims and Jews, an examination that began in 2004 with Mark Rosenblum’s (History) groundbreaking project “The Middle East and America: Clash of Civilizations or Meeting of Minds.”

“It is in this spirit of ‘meeting of minds’ rather than ‘clash of civilizations,’” says Rosenblum, “that we’ve organized this exhibition and public programs, which celebrate our mutual achievements and probe our common challenges.”

Rosenblum is currently teaching the second in the project’s series of courses, “Lens on America in the Middle East: Visions of Conflict and Conciliation.” His class, whose primary focus has been upon Israeli-Palestinian relations, recently devoted considerable energy to examining last year’s conflict between Israel and Lebanon. They are also helping to organize the semester-long series of programs.
Although many of the reviews are of original soundtrack recordings for films released during the column’s run, a number of the reviews also cover reissues of earlier recordings, as well as newly recorded versions of classic scores. In certain instances, Brown was even able to include in his column interviews with composers, such as David Raksin (Laura) and Howard Shore (The Silence of the Lambs), concerning new recordings of their music.

JOHN WALDMAN (Biology) and co-editors Karin Limburg and David Strayer offer a comprehensive examination of one of the most scientifically studied rivers in the world in their new book *Hudson River Fishes and Their Environment* (American Fisheries Society, 2006). This volume contains new findings about the ecological and environmental workings of the Hudson and their effects on fishes. Chapter authors present important new findings, including a review of the hydrodynamics and physical and chemical conditions in the estuary; the impact of power plants on pelagic fish; the effects of pollution, climate, and nonnative plants and animals on the Hudson’s fishes; the importance of tributaries for some species; and the impact of human activities, such as angling and changing land use, on fish populations.

A Salute to CUNY Scholars

Chancellor Matthew Goldstein led the CUNY Salute to Scholars, the annual reception honoring faculty and their achievements, last November at the New York Historical Society. One of CUNY’s premiere events, the Salute to Scholars honored over 225 distinguished CUNY faculty who received major competitive awards and fellowships during the past year. Twelve Queens College faculty were honored:

- ROBERT BITTMAN Chemistry and Biochemistry
- AZRIEL GENACK Physics
- RICHARD BODNAR Psychology
- IGOR KUSKOVSKY Physics
- BARRY COMMONER Center for the Biology of Natural Systems
- KUI-LAM KWOK Computer Science
- ANDREA LI Psychology
- STEVEN MARKOWITZ Center for the Biology of Natural Systems
- ROYAL BROWN (European Langs.) wrote under that heading for Fanfare magazine. An expert on film and film music, Brown frequently offers controversial perspectives not just on the music but also on the film for which the music was composed, and in many cases he stresses the interactions between the cinematic action and the score, an aspect generally ignored by most film-music critics.

High School Chemistry Class Visits QC

The Dept. of Chemistry and Biochemistry hosted 34 students from the Advanced Placement chemistry class of Mr. Danny Son of Valley Stream High School on Dec. 19. Son (center, wearing blue shirt) assisted the students in carrying out a three-hour experiment which would have been difficult to carry out in their high school laboratory.

A Rare Performance

The Queens College Opera Studio and Queens College Choir presented Henry Purcell’s rarely-performed Baroque opera, *Dido and Aeneas*, based on Virgil’s epic poem, *The Aeneid*. The Dec. 9 and 10 performances at LeFrak Concert Hall were conducted by James John.
Unexpected Gifts for Louis Armstrong House Museum and Music School

Louis Armstrong was America’s ambassador to the world, so phone calls to the Louis Armstrong House Museum from other countries are not an unusual occurrence. But a call received some years ago from Bermuda has turned out to have much-welcome and timely consequences.

Simon Family’s Memorial Gift of Music

The strains of Mozart, Schubert, Ravel, Mendelssohn, and Poulenc that filled LeFrak Concert Hall on a Tuesday morning early in December certainly would have pleased Elizabeth Simon.

Simon was a dedicated fan of the Aaron Copland School’s Chamber Music Live Series. “It is a sadly comforting thought,” observed her son, Paul Simon, in the program notes for the event, “that on the Tuesday afternoon when she met her untimely death, the strains of the day’s concert were surely echoing in her ears.”

The 79 year-old Simon had attended a Chamber Music Live performance on May 23. Afterwards, she visited her doctor for her annual checkup. Given a clean bill of health, she had just left the doctor’s office

when, while crossing a street in Forest Hills, she was fatally struck by a school bus.

In a gesture celebrating their mother’s passion for chamber music, son Paul and daughter Elaine Krebs offered to fund the Dec. 5 concert—which was just two days shy of their mother’s 80th birthday—as a memorial to her. Both of their immediate families attended the event, as well as a cousin.

As the family observed in the performance’s program notes, “She took great pleasure in attending the concerts and recounted eagerly to her family, in full detail, who performed what and how, what was said from the stage, whether she liked the particular pieces, and whether the audience was attentive and responsive.”

The Simon family is giving another $1,000 to establish a music scholarship in Elizabeth Simon’s name, says Jonathan Irving (Music). “In addition,” he notes, “Paul said that he wanted to have a plaque made up in his mother’s honor” to be displayed in LeFrak Hall.

The memorial concert had an unexpected benefit: it so moved another Chamber Music Live subscriber that she has offered to donate $1,000 to fund a concert in memory of the Holocaust. Irving and Music Chair Ed Smaldone are considering other opportunities for donors.

Recently, the museum received two checks totaling $100,000 from the estate of Peter John Willcocks (1924–2005), a native Londoner whose World War II service saw him stationed in Bermuda, where he settled for the remainder of his life. Willcocks had three abiding passions: bridge (he played competitively), the Boston Red Sox, and music of the big band era, as represented in his collection of over 6,000 records. Louis Armstrong’s recordings figured prominently in that collection and, at his funeral, the order-of-service featured a photo of Armstrong’s trumpet and his song “It’s a Wonderful World.”

“We are honored and humbled by Mr. Willcocks’s generosity,” says Armstrong House Director Michael Cogswell. “Mr. Willcocks originally contacted us several years ago when he was planning his estate. Our projects manager Baltsar Beckeld fielded the call, gave him a good pitch about who we are and what we do, and he seemed interested. But with these sorts of things, you never know.”

The bequest will help fund two of the museum’s more pressing needs. One is the purchase of cataloging software adequate to the needs of the museum’s growing collection of Armstrong artifacts, such as its recent acquisition of the enormous Jack Bradley Collection.

“The way we did things 15 years ago made perfect sense then, but we’ve outgrown it,” says Cogswell. “The time has come to buy some real museum software and convert everything over. It’s a huge step for us.”

The remainder—and the bulk of the bequest—will be used for development. “We have a lot of major fund-raising ahead of us, and we’ll be bringing in an outside consultant,” notes Cogswell.

Members of Elizabeth Simon’s family: rear (l to r) Shlomit Mendilow (niece), Howard Krebs, Elaine Krebs, Paul Simon, and Connie Simon. Seated are granddaughters Gayle Krebs (left) and Jessica Simon

New York Times Ad Leads to International Media Attention

It’s not every day that a faculty member receives the National Medal of Arts, an award bestowed in 2006 to only nine individuals and arts organizations. Distinguished Professor and literary translator Gregory Rabassa was among the honorees. And so Queens College shared its pride with the nation—and beyond—-with this half-page advertisement in the New York Times international section on December 27.

“We knew that important college constituents across the U.S. would see the ad, as well as national media,” says Maria Terrone, Assistant Vice President for Communications. “But we didn’t expect to receive calls from the international media, too, requesting interviews with Professor Rabassa.” The result was coverage throughout Latin America.
HEIDI BENDER, a doctoral student in the college’s neuropsychology program, was awarded an NIH/AHRQ post-doctoral fellowship, a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows. Her research project, Test Biases Limiting Preoperative Evaluation of Hispanic Immigrants with Epilepsy, will be funded $150,000 for three years (beginning Sept. 2007), allowing her to continue her research at the NYU Comprehensive Epilepsy Center. Bender, who works in JOAN BOROD’s lab, has been at QC since 2001 and plans on defending her dissertation in late spring or early fall. . . . ANDY BEVERIDGE (Sociology) will receive the American Sociological Association’s 2007 Public Understanding of Sociology Award at the group’s annual meeting in New York City in August. Beveridge says, “I am very pleased by the recognition of my work by one of the half dozen or so major awards to scholars given by my professional association” . . . The National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition has informed MARTIN BRAUN (Math/FYI) that he will be listed on the honor roll of advocates nominees in the program for their awards ceremony, which will take place this month during the 26th Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience in Addison, Texas . . . FRANK FRANKLIN (SEEK) will be presented the Greater New York Inter-Alumni Council’s Distinguished Alumnus Award by the United Negro College Fund at its annual celebration March 9 in New York City. Also receiving awards that evening will be former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton . . . On Jan. 20 JESSICA HARRIS (SEEK) participated in the William Research Center’s 12th annual symposium, Food for Thought, held in New Orleans. A culinary historian, Harris discussed the use of native and introduced food staples in the area’s cuisine . . . TARRY HUM (Urban Studies) was invited to participate in Closing the Racial Wealth Gap, a Ford Foundation and National Economic Development and Law Center convening of national experts of color at the University of California, Santa Barbara, held last December . . . ROBERT KAPSIS (Sociology) worked with the Film Forum in putting together its recent retrospective of films by director Woody Allen, Essentially Woody. In connection with the event, he was interviewed by the Gothamist. Kapsis collaborated with Kathie Coblenz last year on the book Woody Allen: Interviews . . . STUART LIEBMAN (Media Studies) led a discussion Jan. 28 at the Museum of Jewish Heritage–A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, following a screening of the film Ostatni Etap (The Last Stop). Filmed in 1947 by Auschwitz survivors Wanda Jakubowska and Gerda Schneider, two years after the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the drama concerns the camp’s female inmates . . . RICHARD MCCOY (English) received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant of $40,000 for 2007-08 to work on his fourth book, Faith in Shakespeare’s Theater: Theology and Performance. In his words, the book “will analyze the shift from a metaphysical to a psychological basis for belief in the Reformation as ideas of a Eucharistic presence are replaced by communion with the congregation and what one theologian called ‘a confession of our affections.’” He adds, “Shakespeare’s plays establish a comparable emotional communion with the congregation and what our faith in Shakespeare’s language and theatrical technique” . . . JOHN WALDMAN (Biology) has been appointed to the board of directors of the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Art, Nature, and Dance. According to its Web site (www.ilandart.org), ILAND “investigates the power of dance, in collaboration with other fields, to illuminate our kinetic understanding of the world. ILAND, a dance research organization with a fundamental commitment to environmental sustainability as it relates to art and the urban context, cultivates interdisciplinary research among artists, environmentalists, scientists, urban designers, and other fields.”

ROSSABI (continued from page 1) language until late,” Rossabi explains. “Their history was written by the people they conquered, who exaggerated the destruction and death toll. There was another side to the Mongolians, who appreciated culture and were eager to promote trade.”

After teaching at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland for about 15 years, Rossabi returned to New York in 1986 to accept an appointment at Queens; he also started working at Columbia as an adjunct. His growing reputation as a scholar and his steady release of articles and books, beginning with China and Inner Asia (1975) and Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times (1988)—hailed as one of the best biographies of Khan to be published in the West—attracted the attention of the Soros Foundation, which tapped him to participate in its open society initiatives in Mongolia.

“I interviewed the president, non-governmental organizations, and women’s groups,” says Rossabi, now a member of the advisory board of Soros’ Project on Central Asia. “Promoting democracy is important and very rewarding.” With his repeated trips to the region and his entrée to the nation’s leaders, the professor has been able to develop expertise in the issues facing present-day Mongolia, which is adjusting to the collapse of communism.

An art lover who advised the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco in its first exhibition of Mongolian art, Rossabi has helped plan shows at the Cleveland Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. When he’s not teaching, or traveling, or touring galleries, he can be found at his desk, working on his latest volume: “a big history of China.”
February

1 thu
RECITAL: Elena Rojas, MA ‘03, violin and viola. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

2 fri
RECITAL: Manuela Wunder, violin. LeFrak Hall, 3 pm.

New Shanghai Circus

4 sun
New Shanghai Circus featuring the Incredible Acrobats of China. Golden Auditorium, 2 pm. $12.

5 mon
RECITAL: Morey Ritt, piano, and guest artist Jesse Levine, viola. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

RECITAL: Rachel Devorah Wood-Rome, horn. LeFrak Hall, 4:15 pm.

RECITAL: Young Joo Ko, horn. LeFrak Hall, 6:15 pm.

CONCERT: Nota Bene & QC Percussion Ensembles: Michael Lipsey, director. Music from Stravinsky’s L’Histoire du Soldat and Cage’s The City Wears a Slouch Hat. Player’s Theater, 115 MacDougal St., New York City, 8 pm (Tickets: $15/$10 students; call 212-475-1449; for info call 73807).

Khalili, the Iranian-born entrepreneur, who is also a Research Professor at London University’s School of Oriental and African Studies and a Queens College alumnus. Features photographs taken by Khalili of objects from his collection, along with objects from the Godwin-Ternbach Museum and other private collections.

6 Tue
EXHIBIT: Between: Woven Images by Betty Vera, February 6–March 30, 2007. Gallery talk: Tuesday, February 6, 5–6 pm; Reception, 6–8 pm. QC Art Center Gallery Hours: Mondays–Thursdays, 9 am–8 pm; Fridays, 9 am–5 pm (closed Mondays, Feb. 12 & Feb. 19).

Between: Woven Images by Betty Vera

7 Wed
JAZZ RECITAL: George Colligan, piano. Choral Room (Rm. 264), 2:30 pm.

8 Thu
GUEST CONCERT: University of Maryland, Baltimore Cty., Percussion Ensemble, Tom Goldstein, director. Works by John Cage, Tom Goldstein, Morris Lang, Susan Parenti, Stuart Saunders Smith, and James Tenney. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

9 Fri

10 Sat
Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company. LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. Tickets $12.

13 Tue
EXHIBIT: ISLAMIC ART IN IMAGE AND OBJECT February 13–May 31, 2007 The Khalili collection of more than 25,000 art objects was assembled by Nasser D. Khalili, the Iranian-born entrepreneur, who is also a Research Professor at London University’s School of Oriental and African Studies and a Queens College alumnus. Features photographs taken by Khalili of objects from his collection, along with objects from the Godwin-Ternbach Museum and other private collections.

27 Tue
EVENING READING: E.L. Doctorow will read from his work and be interviewed by Leonard Lopate. LeFrak Hall, 7 pm.

EXHIBITS

Breaking Barriers: Louis Armstrong and Civil Rights, through October 8. Louis Armstrong’s views on civil rights have been a controversial aspect of his legacy since the 1950s, when he was accused of being out of step with the Movement. Did Armstrong’s response to the Little Rock Nine crisis in 1957 and his refusal to represent the United States on a State Department tour of the Soviet Union reflect a change in his attitudes, or had he been quietly breaking down doors all along? The exhibit also celebrates Armstrong’s many contributions—as jazz legend, goodwill ambassador, movie star, and author.

EXHIBIT: ISLAMIC ART IN IMAGE AND OBJECT February 13–May 31, 2007 The Khalili collection of more than 25,000 art objects was assembled by Nasser D. Khalili, the Iranian-born entrepreneur, who is also a Research Professor at London University’s School of Oriental and African Studies and a Queens College alumnus. Features photographs taken by Khalili of objects from his collection, along with objects from the Godwin-Ternbach Museum and other private collections.

Items should be submitted to Maria Matteo (maria.matteo@qc.cuny.edu), Kiely 1310, x 75590. Deadline: Two weeks before first Thursday of each month. FYI will next appear in March.