It had been a long wait—since 2006. But on December 11, those soaring hallelujahs in Handel's *Messiah* resounded once more in the packed Colden Auditorium. Poised to conduct 171 performers, Queens College Choral Society (QCCS) musical director James A. John (Music) was relaxed, centered, smiling.

“There’s a lot of subconscious communication between the podium and the group,” reflects John. “People pick up on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Armstrong Archives: Now Available Around the World

Louis Armstrong, one of America’s jazz greats, lived for almost three decades in a modest house in the working-class neighborhood of Corona, just four miles from Queens College. After the death of his wife, Lucille, in 1983—a dozen years after Louis’ passing in 1971—the house became the property of NYC’s Department of Cultural Affairs. Queens College was given the job of operating it as a museum.

When caretakers entered the house, they discovered a treasure trove of materials left by Armstrong in the attic and closets: photos, home music tape-recordings, scrapbooks, manuscript band parts, and five trumpets—several of them gold-plated.

That collection, along with three other Armstrong-related collections subsequently acquired by the museum, forms the world’s largest archives devoted to a single jazz musician. On Dec. 16 the museum announced that a catalog of its three largest collections had just been put online at: http://www.louisarmstrong-house.org/collections/online_catalog.htm.

The archives include more than 5,000 sound recordings, 15,000 photographs, the 30 films Armstrong appeared in, 100 scrapbooks, and 20 linear feet of letters and papers.

The museum’s holdings offer “an intensely personal look at who he was,” says Michael Cogswell, a one-time professional jazz saxophonist turned archivist who directs the Louis Armstrong House

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
The Armstrong Archives, currently housed at the Rosenthal Library, are slated to be moved to a new visitors center to be built on an empty lot across the street from the Armstrong House. The lot was acquired and donated by the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, a nonprofit entity established by Louis that took over his estate after Lucille’s death.

Nearly four decades after Armstrong’s death, Cogswell says, “the world seems to be more interested than ever in Louis Armstrong.” Visits by the public to the Armstongs’ house have been increasing, going from 10,500 in 2009 to an estimated 12,000 in 2010. The museum has raised $15 million to build a 14,000-square-foot, two-story structure, designed by Caples Jefferson Architects. The visitors center will provide “state-of-the-art exhibition space” for the museum’s collections. It will also have “a little jazz club with a stage for performances, lectures, film screenings, class visits, and many other uses,” says Cogswell. Construction is scheduled to begin this year and be completed in 2013.

Making Do with Less

Like other publicly funded institutions, QC has had to tighten its belt in the current economy. “We had a 2.5 percent overall reduction in our budget, which is a cut close to $3 million,” reports Kathy Cobb (VP Finance & Administration). “We’ve set aside another 1.25 percent—nearly $1.5 million—to cover anticipated midyear cuts. In addition, personnel costs have risen over last year’s.”

Some of these losses may be recouped through increased tuition payments and savings realized from the early retirement of staff and faculty. But these adjustments are not enough to balance the budget. Consequently, bathroom, classroom, and floor upgrades are being deferred; no technological upgrades are in the works apart from changes needed to implement CUNYfirst. In the next fiscal year, starting July 2011, QC will move to zero-based budgeting, in which each expenditure, no matter how small, will have to be justified in terms of the college’s goals. Issues will be discussed this spring in meetings of the budget committee of the P&B and in a town hall session on campus.

“All of public education today is facing the same challenge we are,” explains President James Muyskens. “State governments are depleted, so we get less funding. Even before this latest sharp downturn, things were trending this way.” To compensate, the college has been putting a high emphasis on fundraising and outreach to alums, QC’s best source of philanthropy. The news isn’t entirely grim. Although the college is hiring very few faculty members, private funding is supporting several positions in areas that have been identified as critical to the Strategic Plan. Other outside resources, such as the Mellon Foundation, are helping QC add foreign language professors while many colleges are reducing their offerings. “Given the diversity of this borough, we want to increase our foreign language instruction,” says Muyskens.

The administration also remains committed to providing an affordable education, despite the recession; for full-time undergraduates from relatively affluent households, the tuition increase equals only $115 a semester. With financial aid, many of our students get what is essentially a free ride, the president notes. “QC may be a little better off than other CUNY schools,” he observes. “Our enrollment has grown each year, which brings enhanced revenue. We’re always looking at efficiency and how to deploy our resources in the best way possible. We are trying to follow the objectives in our Strategic Plan. But, given the crunch, some things may have to be deferred to a later time.”
Asian-American Program Launches Community Collaborations

One participant called it “history in the making” as leaders from 13 Asian community organizations gathered recently at the college to launch a partnership with QC’s Asian-American Pacific Islander Community Studies (AAPICS) program. The organizations—including the Queens Museum of Art and the Organization of Chinese Americans—were chosen to collaborate on community research projects with QC faculty and to offer internship opportunities for students.

Among the joint projects planned are Asian-American literary readings and oral histories, children’s and senior citizens’ arts and culture programs, citizenship and crime-prevention workshops, needs-assessment surveys, and roundtables on gender-based violence among domestic workers.

“We are very excited about this collaboration,” says Madhulika Khandelwal (Urban Studies), the director of QC’s Asian/American Center, which is administering this program. “This is the beginning of a larger initiative as we work closely with our partners in the months to come, drawing on their expertise and experience to better serve the needs of Asian-American populations in Queens and the rest of New York City.”

Nearly a quarter of QC students are first- or second-generation Asian Americans.

The involvement of community-based advocacy groups is the most innovative aspect of the AAPICS program, which was established in November 2009 through a $1.2 million U.S. Department of Education grant awarded to the Asian/American Center. A minor in AAPICS is expected to be available to students this fall.

That 1961 concert was one of 25 consecutive Messiah conducted by John Castellini, the society’s founding director. QC now presents the oratorio approximately every four years.

In their two concerts annually, members beautifully blend voices that range from 16 years to 80-plus. Community residents, many of them QC alumni, sing side-by-side with QC students, faculty, and staff and a small number of talented high school students that participate in the Choral Society’s high school outreach program.

These polished singers are amateur in one sense only: They receive no pay. Members (students excepted) pay $85 annual dues. Last fall’s two-for-one dues deal, along with excitement about the Society’s 70th anniversary season, boosted membership from 100 to 147. What inspires John is “the joy that comes forward in that amateur spirit.”

QC sponsors his position as director and provides rehearsal space. However, the community organization must raise about $10,000 a year to cover expenses, including hiring an orchestra for the Winter concert.

As a conductor, John “wants the music to be authentic,” explains Bob Braine, including making sure that their 17th-century Latin has a Germanic accent where appropriate. “Professor John is very good. He teaches. He has patience;” he observes, and the music director was a wonderful counselor for Messiah. “A complicated four-part fugue like that is difficult to execute,” Braine notes.

For its 70th annual Spring Concert on May 14, the QC takes on Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis. The Queens College Choir and Chorus will amplify vocal power to 200, accompanied by the QC Orchestra.

“Tore that has never been performed before at Queens College, like Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis,” John explains. His mentor, Maurice Peress (Music), “encouraged me to program some of the greatest, most demanding works in the repertoire, like Britten’s War Requiem, because of the significant artistic and spiritual rewards for everyone involved,” John says. “I took his advice. The War Requiem was an exceptional challenge, and turned out to be one of our best concerts. On this occasion of our anniversary, to have another monumental project like Missa Solemnis is very exciting for everybody.”

That confidence and joy, and I really felt that was present. They were singing new energy into the piece.”

John, who has guest-conducted Messiah sing-alongs at Avery Fisher Hall, has directed the QC since 2002. He also is director of QC’s choral activities and director of the Manhattan-based chamber choir Cerddorion.

Handel’s 1741 masterwork launched QC’s 70th anniversary season. The oratorio had been its inaugural offering in December 1941, a dozen days after Pearl Harbor and four years after QC opened its doors. “Born in World War II, the Choral Society gave significant support to community morale,” wrote Bob Braine ’57 in the society’s website history (www.qcchoral.org), and that still holds true.

John based the anniversary Messiah on the version inaugurating Colden Center.

SOMETHING TO SING - from page 1

James John conducts a rehearsal of the QC Choral Society.
A Global Look For College’s Winning Women’s Tennis Team

As asked to explain why his team has so many foreign-born players, QC women’s tennis coach Alan Nagel doesn’t hesitate to concede that it doesn’t hurt to be located in one of the world’s great cities.

“In many cases, such as with Maria Perevezentseva who’s from Moscow, coming to New York is their prime objective,” says Nagel, whose powerhouse nine-member team currently boasts four foreign-born players.

That, combined with QC’s high academic standing and willingness to provide scholarship assistance, makes for an unbeatable recruitment package, he boasts.

“If you want to play tennis in New York, there are only three schools: NYU, Columbia, and Queens. And NYU and Columbia don’t give scholarships to tennis players.”

Some players, notes Nagel, will even forgo scholarship offers for the opportunity to play in New York. “Take Andrea Salvetova,” he says of the Czech junior who has impressive academic credentials (4.0 GPA) in addition to being an accomplished flutist and painter. “She had a full scholarship at Texas-Pan Am, which is a Division I school. Yet, she wanted to come to New York, and when she looked us up and saw we had a strong academic program and good tennis team, she got a release to come play here.”

Senior Maria Mendes from Sao Paolo, Brazil, who had a full scholarship at University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, also chose to transfer to Queens, says Nagel.

With both players, he notes, the Knights’ reputation as a perennial contender was a significant draw. “Every year, when you look at the rankings—and these kids do—they see that we’re either number one or number two in the East. And right now we’re also ranked 35th in the country. So the players see we’re not only in New York, we’re also ranked in the country. And last year we made it into the final 16 in the country.”

Somadi Drucker, a South African and one of the players who helped get the Knights to last year’s Sweet 16, forged such strong ties to the people and the place that she has stayed on with the team as a coach while doing graduate work, says Nagel.

For one native-born player, junior Taylor Barber of Salt Lake City, coming to Queens was initially like coming to a foreign country as it was her first experience living in a place where everyone wasn’t a Mormon. But Nagel is happy to report that “Now, she’s like a native New Yorker all the way.”

Though temporarily lost to storm damage, QC’s impressive indoor tennis facility has also aided recruitment—as has the new residence hall, The Summit. “All our student-athletes room together in a suite that has two bathrooms, a living room, kitchen, and dining area.”

And yes, reports Nagel, the players practice sprints in the halls.
Strategizing Spurs Fund-Raising Growth

Despite the gloomy economic climate, Queens College remains on course to achieve many of its initiatives, thanks to better utilization of donor funds and a more strategic approach to fund-raising.

“We know state budgeting is tighter than ever, that we have no slack,” says Sue Henderson (VP Institutional Advancement). “Consequently, we are looking more carefully at other sources that make up about 30 percent of our funding: the bookstore, food services, entrepreneurial activity, and fund-raising. We’d like to make fund-raising a bigger part of the pie.”

“We have at least 500 well-placed alumni we need to be contacting,” she says, before describing her own success in reaching out to an alum who, along with her husband—another QC alum—founded the Alaska Permanent Fund, which provides annual cash payments to every Alaskan from the state’s oil revenues. “I told her I just happened to be in the neighborhood.”

“Yes,” laughs Dorf. “Our VP just happened to be in Alaska—in January!”

This year each dean received $10,000 from the Queens College Foundation for activities that benefit faculty or provide seed funding for activities that attract more potential donors, such as events that bring alumni back to campus.

“We’ve brought some very hard-to-reach alums back into the fold,” says Dorf. “The CEO of Maidenform, the executive VP of the Jets, the executive VP of the NFL, the head of the senior council at the NBA. These are people who, once they come back here and have lunch with the students, say: ‘How can I help?’”

A strategy for securing more unrestricted donations has also kept the campus moving forward, says Dorf. She cites as examples a 22 percent increase in funding for scholarships and a gift to the new Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding.

The college is also focusing on planned giving. A particularly significant bequest was recently made by the estate of Virginia Frese Palmer ’42, amounting to some $11 million in unrestricted funds.

“The foundation also would like to get our endowment—currently about $35 million—up to $50 million,” Henderson says, explaining how an endowment of $50 to $75 million spins off enough money every year to allow for things such as a contribution that was made toward construction of The Summit. “The foundation provided $1 million, which I’m sure accounts for why the lobby looks so nice.” Foundation money also has allowed QC to remain on track with its Strategic Plan, funding initiatives such as the MFA in creative writing and Year Of programs.

There also have been increases in both the total amount of money donated by alumni and the number of alumni making donations. “That latter number is really important,” says Dorf. “When the economy sank in ’08–’09, the size of individual donations shrank, but this was offset by the increasing number of donors.”

Growing the fund-raising stream, says Henderson, will require more effective outreach.

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High-Tech Hillel

Made possible with substantial funding provided by Councilman James Gennaro, QC Hillel opened a new media lab Nov. 29. On hand for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony were (l to r) QC Hillel Student President Stephanie Pere, Gennaro, Pres. James Muyskens, QC Hillel Exec. Director Rabbi Moshe Shur, Hillel board members Ellen Koppelman, Jerry Waxman, (Computer Science), and Samuel Heilman (Sociology).
QC Center Hosts a Night of Dialogue on Proposed Park51 Islamic Center

They arrived at Queens College one evening in November from opposing viewpoints: a Muslim leader looking to build an Islamic center in lower Manhattan a few blocks from Ground Zero, and a father whose son died on September 11 and wanted the project moved farther away.

Daisy Khan, executive director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement, and former NYC Fire Department Deputy Chief Jim Riches had come to the Student Union’s fourth floor ballroom in a community-wide dialogue sponsored by QC’s Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding (CERRU).

It’s an issue that vaulted onto the national stage after the Muslim group proposed developing a high-rise Islamic Center called Park51, which would include a community center and prayer space. Many politicians joined the 9/11 families to denounce the project, while others countered that it was wrong to discriminate against a religious group with a right to build there.

Mark Rosenblum (History), who directs CERRU, told the 200 students and community members that the evening was an opportunity to initiate, and sustain, respectful dialogue on this difficult topic. He noted that after Khan and Riches spoke, a panel of six students would question them about the issue as part of the center’s process of finding common ground on tough issues.

“We’re hoping to get something of a win-win here tonight,” Rosenblum said.

Khan, who was born in Kashmir, India, and raised a Muslim, told the audience that she welcomed the dialogue, noting that she has long honored all religions: from her childhood attending Catholic schools in India, to her arrival in Jericho, Long Island, where she lived in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood.

“We’re here to pave the way across the divide,” she told the audience. “When we proposed the project, we didn’t realize it would create such pain. There’s a national conversation we haven’t had yet, and we need to have it.”

A decade after his son’s death, Riches said the pain remains palpable. He asked Khan to consider relocating the project farther away, in recognition of the feelings of some 9/11 families, and his contention that the site two blocks from the World Trade Center towers was “sacred ground.”

“We are the victims too,” Riches said. “We lost our loved ones. They will never come back.”

The Queens College students then helped focus the discussion, with questions that got to the heart of the issue. Alexandra Ruiz, a history graduate student, asked the opposing sides how they might find a compromise that wouldn’t compromise our nation’s liberties. Sahar Khatri ’12 asked how society could stop the demonization of Muslims. Charlie Wohlberg ’12 asked Riches just how far away from Ground Zero was far enough.

Riches said that a couple of block farther away would satisfy him. “That would be fine with me, but I know it might not be possible,” he said.

Khan, meanwhile, stressed that it was important for Americans to support moderate Muslims like herself, who are looking for common ground, and want to become more a part of our nation’s fabric.

“It’s important for moderate Muslims to have a platform from which to speak,” she said. “A center like this [Park51] will amplify voices of Muslims involved in peace-building. Otherwise, we’ll be drowned out by the extremists.”

The consensus among the participants at the end of the evening was what Rosenblum had hoped it would be: a win-win situation, with both sides agreeing that they should talk together again.

Honoring African-American Heritage

A noted authority on African-American culinary traditions, the English Department’s Jessica Harris (left, in blue print dress) presides over December’s event in observance of Kwanzaa, the annual weeklong celebration honoring African-American heritage and culture. In addition to traditional foods and giving gifts, the ceremony includes the lighting of seven candles.
About 12 years ago, QC’s geology department found itself under pressure to evolve. Now, its successful transformation into the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES) has been highlighted on the website for the Science Education Resource Center (SERC), an organization funded by the National Science Foundation (http://serc.carleton.edu/departments/makingacase/QC-CUNY.html). “This couldn’t have come at a better time for us,” says SEES Director Allan Ludman, “just before meeting with President Muyskens, Provost Stellar, and Dean Liebovitch to develop an action plan for our self-study.

“We currently rank second on campus in the number of grants received and the external funding we bring to the college, and number one in scholarship measured by peer-reviewed papers per faculty member,” continues Ludman. That wasn’t always the case. “At one point,” he recalls, “Allen Sessoms, then the president, said, ‘What do we need a geology department for? We’re an urban school.’” In a subsequent conversation, Sessoms asked if geology professors were doing anything with the environment. Prompted by these questions, Ludman and his colleagues initiated a makeover.

“We re-intellectualized the foundations of the geology department and turned it into the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences,” he explains. The work involved collaboration with 14 departments, from biology and chemistry to economics, political science, and journalism. Reconstituting some courses and introducing others, SEES began offering undergraduate degrees in geology, environmental science, and environmental studies, as well as master’s programs in geological and environmental sciences, and in applied environmental geosciences—a non-thesis degree providing credentials for environmental careers outside academia.

As a result, SEES more than doubled its majors and increased both the quantity and quality of applicants to its graduate programs. (In addition to offering master’s degrees, SEES participates in a consortial CUNY doctoral program.) SEES also forged enduring alliances with local, state, and federal agencies. These developments attracted new attention last fall when Ludman fielded a questionnaire from SERC about the health of his department. “We responded and agreed to answer further questions,” he says. Now SEES is the first of four case studies serving as how-tos for building stronger geoscience departments; other schools featured on SERC’s website are Rutgers University, Newark; University of Florida; and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. “It’s a recognition that our strategy worked,” says a delighted Ludman.

Rocking the World of Geology

At the end of the semester, three different groups will travel to China for an in-country experience. QC students will go to Szechuan University; some faculty and staff members will visit sites in the provinces of Szechuan and Beijing as part of a professional development seminar; and Morris Rossabi (History) will lead a tour of Silk Roads destinations for QC alums and friends.

Based on the success of the Year of China, QC is already planning similar multidisciplinary programs that focus on other nations. Turkey, India, Brazil, and South Africa—chosen by consensus from a list of nearly 20 countries—will be the subjects of the next four Years to come.
Joining the iTunes University

The online vehicle many students use to enjoy music, movies, TV shows, and other forms of entertainment is now a means for Queens College to offer them content that can be both entertaining and educational.

In January QC joined dozens of colleges and universities around the world—including fellow CUNY colleges Baruch, Lehman, City, and John Jay—in using Apple’s popular online medium iTunes U to make podcasts of lectures, lab demonstrations, musical performances, sports events, guest speakers, and more available free of charge to anyone using Apple’s free proprietary digital media player application. (Mac and Windows versions are available for download at www.apple.com/itunes/download.)

“It’s well known that ‘visual’ and ‘digital’ are the driving forces behind 21st-century communications,” says Maria Terrone (Asst. VP Communications). “iTunes and iTunes U are hugely popular video sites among young people, and so QC is using this opportunity to showcase and market the best of Queens College—from performing arts events to dynamic teaching. By participating in iTunes U, we join the nation’s leading higher education institutions.”

Terrone and QC Marketing Director Steve Whalen have been overseeing efforts to identify existing QC content that can be uploaded to the iTunes site. Additionally, recording for iTunes U will be a consideration for many campus events going forward. QC’s observance of the Year of China, for example, is bringing a number of expert speakers to campus, and recordings of those events will be available at iTunes U.

In collaboration with Casey Williams and Bryan Chan of OCT’s digital video/webcast productions department, Terrone and Whalen have established a set of procedures for recording and placing content on iTunes U. Content coordinators have been appointed campuswide to help facilitate this process. Along with Whalen, they include Jennifer Jarvis (Student Union), Wendy Lee (Special Events), Maria Matteo (News Services), Patty Price (Kupferberg Center), and Janice Smith (GSLIS).

“Today’s students demand the ability to tailor the way they search, share, and interact with online information,” notes Whalen. “iTunes U provides a platform for sharing the Queens College experience in ways that today’s students are familiar with—through online streams and downloaded podcasts to laptops, smartphones, and now ebooks.”

Of course the concept of “student” is relative with respect to iTunes U, as content is available to anyone with Internet access using the iTunes media player.

Apple launched iTunes U as part of its popular iTunes digital content delivery service in May 2007. It now hosts more than 75,000 files.

Survey Notes
Diversity at Graduate Level

Queens College’s responses to the 2010 Council of Graduate Schools’ International Graduate Admissions Survey confirm what we all have observed: that even at the graduate level, the college’s student population is exceptionally diverse.

“The CGS sent us comparative data, and they again illustrate how ‘international’ and ‘diverse’ this campus is, in this case, for applications and admissions to graduate schools,” says Richard Bodnar (Dean, Research and Graduate Studies.)

“It appears that the source of this increased application and enrollment is China and India. And in addition to our robust applications in Education, strong gains are shown in Math and Natural Sciences,” he says.

Data compiled for the survey by Graduate Admissions Director Mario Caruso and his staff was compared with data from 229 other CGS members. The survey, the 2010 CGS International Graduate Admissions Survey, Phase III: Final Offers of Admission and Enrollment, shows for all participants that “offers of admission to prospective international graduate students increased 3% between 2009 and 2010, reversing last year’s 1% decline . . . . First-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth. In contrast, first-time graduate enrollment of students from China continued to soar in 2010, with a 20% increase; this is the fifth consecutive year of double-digit growth.

QC’s iTunes U page can be found by clicking Colleges & Universities in the iTunes U section of the iTunes Store. Learn how to get started at www.qc.cuny.edu/itunesu.
Gabriella Berrezueta

Student Association President Gabriella Berrezueta says her job representing the interests of the college’s students has brought her a huge amount of work, and unexpected insight into how much students can affect what goes on at the college.

“I’ve been surprised,” she says. “We have a lot of power on campus.” More than at many other colleges, says Berrezueta, who was elected in April and assumed office in June, students at Queens are on many of the committees that shape academic and campus life; on some committees students are voting members.

Their role is much more than window dressing. Even at the most enlightened campus, students may not always see eye-to-eye with college administrators, says Berrezueta. “I definitely think the administration cares deeply about students. But there are questions where we have different opinions.”

One of the most contentious issues, she says, has been whether—and by how much—to raise tuition fees in response to reductions in support from New York State. Berrezueta brings hard work and an international perspective to her role. She was born and raised in Quito, Ecuador. At age 12 she immigrated to the U.S. with her family. A senior at Queens, she has a double major: political science and Latin American studies, and still finds time to work one day a week as a waitress at the Bistro Citron, a French restaurant in Roslyn, where her family settled.

Her “political career” started in 2009 when Berrezueta was elected as an official of the Student Association from the United People campus party. She liked it and decided to run for president in 2010. Her platform included improving the student printing policy, bringing more healthy food options to campus, and fighting the likely tuition hike.

As Student Association president, Gabby, as she is often known, receives a small stipend, has her own office in the Student Union, and (best of all, she says) has on-campus parking. In exchange for those perks she works more or less full-time representing students’ interests with the administration and working with the other officers of the Student Association, as well as with the presidents of various student organizations. After she graduates this spring, Berrezueta is considering remaining at Queens to earn a bachelor’s degree in French and Spanish, or enrolling at the CUNY Graduate Center for a degree in public affairs. Her goal after that is to establish a nonprofit organization to help disadvantaged children in Brazil. A native Spanish speaker, she learned Portuguese from her boyfriend and from watching Brazilian films.

But for the time being, she is working hard to finish her studies while representing students’ interests. Her job as Student Association president keeps her constantly in the spotlight, says Berrezueta. “People are always looking at what you do.”

CUNYfirst for QC

Late last fall QC became the first senior college in the university—and the second institution, after Queensborough Community College—to handle student registration via Campus Solutions, a component of CUNYfirst. An acronym for “fully integrated resources and services tool,” CUNYfirst is an integrated package designed by the technology firm Oracle to streamline and standardize functions performed by other electronic programs; for registration, Campus Solutions replaced eSIMS.

More than 17,000 QC students used Campus Solutions to sign up for spring courses during a three-week period that began November 22, a week after the rollout at Queensborough. The staggered launch allowed Oracle and a team at CUNY’s central office to give individual students time to get comfortable with their new registration program.

Recalling Rathaus

Now on display at ACSM, this painting of Karol Rathaus was recently donated by his son, Bernt. The early years of music at QC were substantially shaped by Rathaus, a Polish-born composer who immigrated to the United States during WWII. Rathaus joined the faculty as a professor of composition in 1940, a position he occupied until his death in 1954. In 1961 the music department moved into its own building, Karol Rathaus Hall.
attention to the two schools, which are testing the new system for the university.

To manage the transition, QC fielded a crew of its own. “Campus Solutions took two years of many people’s lives to complete,” reports Sue Henderson (VP Institutional Advancement). “Those in the Admissions, Registrar’s, Financial Aid, Bursar, OCT, and Degree Works areas are to be commended for the persistence and hard work that got us here. They had to assist in designing the system, decide how the structure should work, and figure out what business processes would change and which ones would remain.” For example, students now put classes in a shopping cart before registering.

CUNYfirst has been introduced in stages. “CUNY implemented a portion of the budget modules two years ago and the finance people have been developing the system,” says Henderson. “Last summer, we implemented the hiring process for Human Resources; all hiring is now done through CUNYfirst.”

In future phases, CUNYfirst will connect HR to the scheduling system to help faculty with their workload. It will also connect HR with Budget, giving the college an easier way to see its complete financial picture. Meanwhile, all students, faculty members, and staffers will be assigned a CUNYfirst number, so Social Security numbers will not be used for identification purposes. “This is much more secure and follows best practices,” notes Henderson.

College Obtains Personal Library of Civil Rights Leader Forman

The announcement in November that Queens College’s Civil Rights Archive had acquired one of the major figures of the Civil Rights Movement marked not only a major coup in efforts to build the collection, but also significant recognition of the commitment the college has made to seeing that materials related to this chapter of the nation’s history are preserved for future study.

James Forman, who died in 2005, is best known for his work as the executive secretary of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He was also involved with the Black Panthers and went on to lead the non-profit Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee. His collection contains roughly 2,000 books, over 2,100 pamphlets, academic journals, and printed ephemera, as well as a variety of audio and moving image material.

“The acquisition was a textbook example of how to build an archive,” says Ben Alexander (GSLIS), explaining how the school’s creation of the archive—which began with acquisitions from alumni who were active in the civil rights movement—along with a related website have generated considerable interest among historians.

“It was a combination of word of mouth and the demonstration on the part of the department and the institution that we’re serious about this,” he continues. “We’re getting these materials made public quickly and democratically, and they’re entering our curriculum from the moment of acquisition, as our graduate students are working with them. And donors really like that. They like their materials being used permanently. They become a living legacy.”

The collection covers subjects ranging from history, biography, and politics to poetry, mathematics, and self-help books. Some volumes are in French and Spanish. And many of the boxes in which they were received, says Alexander, have not been opened since Forman sealed them, himself, over 25 years ago.

Given Forman’s stature as a figure within the movement, interest in the archive will expand considerably with this acquisition, says Alexander. “Until now, we’ve had this tremendous resource, but it was largely from a northeastern liberal perspective. We’ve now advanced to a much more national presence. We can advertise to a much broader audience and a much broader group of scholars. And once you break that ice, it’s really exciting.”

Julian Bond, one of the founders of SNCC, will be speaking at QC on Thursday, February 17, in Rosenthal Library, Room 230, at 5 pm. The event, which celebrates the acquisition of the Forman Collection, is co-sponsored by the Archives and Africana Studies, timed to the observance of Black History Month.

How to Succeed in Show Business

Actor Danny Burstein ’86 (holding wine glass) visited his alma mater in November to break bread with students who aspire to achieve the success he has had on Broadway (The Drowsy Chaperone, South Pacific), in film, and on television, where he can currently be seen in HBO’s “Boardwalk Empire.” He will appear in May with Bernadette Peters at the Kennedy Center in Follies. His father Harvey is a QC philosophy faculty member.
On the day Eddie Shoureck was interviewed at Queens College for the position of building and grounds administrative superintendent, the campus was struck by a tornado. When he returned weeks later for a subsequent interview, the area was under a tornado warning, prompting B&G Director Sidney Grimes to ask, “What is it about you and the weather?”

Actually, weather—more specifically, climate control—is a large part of Shoureck’s resume as he deals with HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning). For the past seven years he has been the director of facilities and operations for the Mid-Hudson Civic Center in Poughkeepsie, a large performance venue that includes the McCann Ice Arena that is affiliated with the New York Rangers hockey team.

Additionally, Shoureck has served as energy manager for the Galleria Crystal Run, a large shopping facility in Middletown, NY. Previous to that he was the director of maintenance at Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx.

Originally from Eastchester, Shoureck resides with his wife and two children in Poughkeepsie. The Shourecks have a vacation home in the Adirondacks, and when he can find the time, Shoureck enjoys hunting.

Asked his assessment of Queens College from the perspective of his new position, he observes, “It’s big, and I’m motivated.”

QC Ad Wins Award

The Office of Communications picked up a bronze at the most recent Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) contest for Mid-Atlantic District II. CASE, a professional association of educational institutions and the people who promote them, issues Accolades Awards every year: QC faces particularly fierce competition in a region that comprises Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ontario, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and West Virginia.

The college took third place in Category 8, for public service announcements and commercial spots. The honored entry, submitted in 30-second and 60-second versions, was “Queens College: From right here . . . .” Targeted at high school juniors and seniors and their parents, the spots advertised the college as a place where people can prepare for their future; by featuring students who live in The Summit, it also highlighted the campus’s residence hall.

Produced in spring 2010 by Grand View Island, a commercial video firm, and the Office of Communications’ Maria Terrone (Asst. VP) and Steven Whalen (Marketing Director), the spots ran for two weeks on local cable television stations. Says Terrone: “Our students and campus were the stars of these ads, which aired in such new markets for QC as Connecticut and New Jersey.” Now they can be seen round the clock on YouTube. Click photos above to access both ads.

GTM: Art and Artlessness

This retrospective of over 70 works, organized in conjunction with QC’s Year of China, reveals the inspiration for Mansheng Wang’s serene, contemplative creations in relation to centuries-old Chinese art, which Wang interprets in a modern idiom. The exhibit includes landscapes, botanical studies, iconic Buddhist imagery, and calligraphy, as well as Wang’s ink and color works on paper and canvas.

Eddie Shoureck

B&G Administrative Superintendent

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QC People

GEORGE HENDREY (SEES) was moderator for Is Nuclear Power a Plausible Long-term Option for New York State?, a discussion of the potential future of nuclear power in New York State hosted Jan. 20 by the New York Academy of Sciences. PYONG GAP MIN (Sociology) is the first recipient of the Best Book Award from the Association for the Studies of Overseas Koreans (jae we Han in Hakhe) for Preserving Ethnicity through Religion in America: Korean Protestants and Indian Hindus across Generations. The association is the major professional organization in Korea that maintains networks among scholars studying overseas Koreans. Every two years, the new award selects the best among all books focusing on overseas Koreans published in the previous two years. JIM MOORE (Anthropology) was a discussant for the forum Emancipation Landscapes and Public Space in Early New York, presented Dec. 6 by the Anthropology Section of the New York Academy of Sciences. STEVE PEKAR’S (SEES) recent activities include a keynote address at the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research Conference in Buenos Aires, where he also led a scientific session. He also gave an invited talk at the International Conference on Paleoceanography in La Jolla, CA—a once-in-a-lifetime event, as speakers are asked only once to give a talk at this prestigious conference. Both events were in August. He was invited in September to do his sabbatical at Stanford University, working with one of the world’s leading scientists on climate change, Robert Dunbar. In early October he was invited to give a talk at the International Panel on Climate Change Conference in Seoul, and in early November he was invited to attend two workshops in Brisbane and Sydney, Australia, sponsored by Tipping Point, a UK-based organization that brings climate scientists and artists together to discuss and form collaborations about climate change and sustainability. MIHAELA ROBILA (FNES) has been invited by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and by the United Nations Population Fund in the Republic of Moldova to be a consultant on national family policy at the invitation of the Moldovan Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family. The former Soviet republic is elaborating a National Strategy for Demographic Security, and as part of this process it is also developing a family policy framework. HAROLD SCHECHTER (English) has been appointed editor of the True Crime History series from Kent State University Press. The author of more than 30 books, Schechter was described by the press as “one of the world’s leading true crime historians.” PABLO TINIO (ECEE) has been recognized as an outstanding researcher by the American Psychological Association, Division 10: Society for the Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity and the Arts. He was cited for his research on arts in education, learning and engagement in cultural institutions, and empirical aesthetics. His most recent work looks at students’ and teachers’ experiences within the museum setting.

QC Authors

Second-wave feminism of the 1960s and ’70s is often thought to have emerged as a reaction to sexism in the civil rights and leftist movements. According to this explanation, women began pushing for gender equality at home, at work, and in other spheres after being relegated to the sidelines in male-dominated organizations. In Freedom for Women: Forging the Women’s Liberation Movement, 1953-1970 (University Press of Florida), activist-scholar CAROL GIARDINA (History) turns this theory upside down: She profiles many feminist leaders, including those from the African American community, who developed their skills by holding prominent roles in the campaigns for civil rights and against the Vietnam War. Based on interviews, published writings, and organizational documents, the book also draws on Giardina’s personal experience. A lifelong feminist, she attended the first national meeting of the Women’s Liberation Movement in Sandy Springs, Maryland, in 1968.

Rich in natural resources, from its fertile soil to its beautiful beaches, the southwest Indian state of Kerala has attracted settlers and traders for thousands of years. Today, that diversity is reflected in the multiple options for individuals suffering from mental illness. MURPHY HALLIBURTON (Anthropology) sorts through the therapies in Mudpacks & Prozac: Experiencing Ayurvedic, Biomedical & Religious Healing (Left Coast Press), comparing traditional cures, Western medicine, and Hindu, Islamic, and Christian rituals. Case studies illustrate what patients selected and how they responded. Their decisions depended not only on family preference—in India, a relative typically accompanies a psychiatric patient to his or her appointments—but also on the sensations and aesthetic qualities of the cures themselves. Many of the people in Halliburton’s study found a course of ayurvedic treatment, with its purgatives and applications of medicated oils and other mixtures, to be preferable to the electroshock and medications of Western psychiatry.

In an installation for the Coney Island Museum in 2009, ZOE BELOFF (Media Studies) assembled drawings, films, and an architectural model of a Freudian-inspired theme park purportedly designed in the 1930s by members of the Coney Island Amateur Psychoanalytic Society. The Adventures of a Dreamer (published by Christine Burgin), a companion project, represents itself as the work of that fictional society’s founder, Albert Grass. A journal in the form of a hand-drawn comic book, Adventures is a bravura performance—an elaborate production that reveals in period details, such as its stitched binding. Beloff’s mother, a noted psychologist, was among the people who were fooled. “But surely Albert Grass was real,” she said to Beloff.
A program of poetry and dance at QC organized by NICOS ALEXIOU (Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies) and Astoria book publisher Sam Chekwas celebrating the cultural relationship of Greece and Africa was the subject of a story in the Queens Gazette... ANDREW BEVERIDGE (Sociology) was quoted in a New York Times story concerning New York State’s loss of two congressional seats as a consequence of the latest census figures. He was also the source for demographic data used for a Times story about growing immigrant populations in American suburbs... A story in the online magazine Miller-McCune concerning disparities in the quality of health between enlisted men and officers in the military quoted RYAN EDWARDS (Economics)... Research by ANDREW HACKER (Political Science) and Claudia Dreifus was cited in an article in the Economist questioning the value of a PhD degree. A November event celebrating Hacker’s 40 years of teaching at QC was featured in the Queens Gazette... An op-ed by IRA HAUPTMAN and directed by SUSAN EINHORN (Drama)... Findings by INAS RASHAD KELLY (Economics) and Dhaval Dave (Bentley U.) that people who are unemployed eat fewer fruits and vegetables were the subject of stories in the Wall Street Journal and the Freakonomics blog of the New York Times... An article in the Nation concerning the prospects for reforming drug policy and an article in the online magazine CityLimits.org concerning racial disparities in drug arrests cited research by HARRY LEVINE (Sociology)... PETER LIBERMAN’S (Political Science) article in the New York Times concerning gubernatorial candidate Carl Paladino’s use of a foul-smelling substance in a campaign mailing to bolster his message: “Something Stinks in Albany,” was cited in “Carl Paladino’s Smelly Politics” article at HuffingtonPost.com... QC’s Committee for Disabled Students was recognized by NY1 as New Yorkers of the Week in December. One of the committee’s members, student LILIETTE LOPEZ, was the subject of a separate feature on the difficulties encountered by the visually impaired in negotiating subways... The tremendous growth in the Korean population of Palisades Park, NJ, was the subject of a New York Times story that featured observations from PYONG GAP MIN (Sociology)... MICHAEL NEWMAN (Linguistics) was quoted in a New York Times story about Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s distinctly Queens-rooted manner of speaking... STEVE PEKAR (SEES) appeared in a program about climate change on PBS’s science series “Nova”... ROBIN ROGERS’S (Sociology) act of turning her canceled wedding reception into a fundraiser for a soup kitchen in Greenpoint was featured in the Daily News and on television’s “Good Day NY,” as well as the local news broadcasts on Channel 11 and Channel 2... LEANNE USSHER’S (Economics) receipt of the first grant from the George Soros-funded Institute for New Economic Thinking was reported in the Queens Courier.
The display of the AIDS Memorial Quilt at QC for World AIDS Day was the cover story for the Dec. 2 edition of the Queens Tribune. The Dec. 1 alumni roundtable on the business of sports featuring alums Frank Supovitz, Howie Rose, and Matthew Higgins was featured in the TimesLedger. The online YourNabe.com and South Asia Mail featured stories about the QC Asian/American Center initiative “Open City: Blogging Urban Change,” in which students will train city residents in blogging so they can record the oral histories of various Chinese neighborhoods. The December QC Business Forum featuring real estate executive Howard Sipzner was featured in the Queens Courier. The forum sponsored by QC’s Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding presented opposing views on the construction of a mosque near Ground Zero was widely covered, with stories appearing on NY1 and in the TimesLedger, Queens Courier, and Queens Chronicle. QC’s Kristallnacht memorial event, featuring a lecture by holocaust survivor Nechama Tec, was reported at YourNabe.com and in the Queens Tribune. The Queens Tribune and Queens Courier covered the groundbreaking for the second phase of renovations at the Kupferberg Center for the Arts. The Wall Street Journal and the Albany Times Union offered substantial features on the Louis Armstrong House Museum tied to the groundbreaking for the museum’s new visitors center—as did the Daily News, which also reported on the new online catalog of Armstrong recordings, photos, letters, and more. NPR also reported the new catalog on its blog, “A Blog Supreme.” The election of Armstrong pen pal Stephen Maitland-Lewis to the LAHM board of trustees was reported in the Queens Courier. The Queens Memory Project—a collaboration of the QC Library’s Department of Special Collections and Archives and the Archives at Queens Library to record the personal histories of many of the borough’s residents—generated stories from NY1, the Daily News, TimesLedger, Queens Tribune, Queens Courier, and Sing Tao. The Queens Tribune and Queens Courier reported on the opening of the QC Psychological Center. QC’s lunchtime reception for military veterans, sponsored by the CUNY Office of Veterans Affairs, was reported in the Queens Chronicle.