College Receives Half Million Dollars for Facelift

Perhaps it was the power of poetry. When President James Muyskens spoke at a Queens borough budget hearing in February to request funding for campus projects, he quoted from Robert Frost:

Something there is that doesn’t love a wall,
That wants it down.

He continued, “That’s how I feel about the entrance to the college. I want it down. Our front door should be inviting, not a cold concrete wall.”

His words reached receptive ears, as Borough President Helen Marshall announced on March 22 that the college would receive $500,000 to improve its exterior fencing and create a pedestrian entrance/walkway up to Jefferson Hall.

Upon hearing news of the funding, Muyskens noted, “We will soon have an entrance that is inviting to our neighbors, an entrance that says come in and get to know us better. A new entrance is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars in advertising, and it improves not only the college – it improves the whole community by making the neighborhood feel 77 acres larger.”

The college already has a plan for the front entrance drawn up by the architectural firm of Thomas Balsey Associates (see illustration). Work is scheduled to begin this summer and be completed within a year.

Profiles of 2004 Graduates
IZETA POBRIC: FROM SARAJEVO TO FLUSHING

Izeta Pobric finished her BA in psychology in February, and is now gearing up for the teacher certification exam. Much has changed in the life of this woman who has always loved to teach.

Just ten years ago Pobric was presented with the 1994 UNICEF Teacher of the Year award, presented by the Children’s Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She’d earned it.

When the schools closed down in war-torn Sarajevo, this experienced teacher organized her own school in the basement of an abandoned apartment building. It lacked heat, electricity, and water but, she explains, “it was secure deep in the basement.” Parents improvised a stove from scrap materials, and the children took turns bringing wood to burn in it.

Pobric and her husband had resisted suggestions that they flee the country, never believing that fighting would break out in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Then they withstood the war for over two years, taking separate routes when they went out so they wouldn’t risk dying together and leaving their three children orphans. It took over an hour just to get across the boulevard to her school every day because of the shooting.

“Every morning I’d look back and see my kids watching,” she recalls. “I’d think, ‘Maybe I’ll never see them again.’ ” When (continued on page 2)
When Mozelle Ductan lost her mother and only parent at age 17, she took charge of supporting her 10-year-old brother by dropping out of Touro College and going to work as a nurse’s aide. She chose Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center, the same hospital where her mother had died. “My mother was dissatisfied with her care there. I wanted to help improve the situation,” she says.

Ductan also became an activist in 1199SEIU, New York’s health care union, and, over nine years, managed to finish her AA and BA at Touro.

Despite past struggles (including dropping out of high school and only later earning a GED), Ductan, 29, has a cheerful outlook. Her brother is attending Touro College and Ductan, a single parent, will graduate magna cum laude in June with a master’s in urban studies. Her field, she says, “involves acknowledging that our society is not a utopia.” But urban studies does offer theory and practical knowledge that “are key to obtaining a more balanced society.”

Ductan now works full time for 1199SEIU, ever since her tremendous success signing up members for the Political Action Fund got her noticed. “You’re a force of nature!” the union — known for its grass-roots organizing — told her, putting her on staff to coordinate political education.

Ductan is immersed in voter registration, the statewide campaign for the minimum wage, and co-chairing the Brooklyn chapter of the Working Families party. At the same time she is working toward a certificate in labor civic participation at Queens College’s Labor Resource Center, where she has studied with the likes of former Manhattan Borough President Ruth Messinger and state Supreme Court Justice and former Assemblyman Frank Barbaro.

“It hasn’t been an easy journey, but it’s been well worth it,” says Ductan, who hopes, in the not-too-distant future, to attend law school.

JOSHUA FRANKEL: COMING FULL CIRCLE

Commencement speaker Joshua Frankel hasn’t just lived: he’s had a journey. He grew up in a strict orthodox household in Far Rockaway, attending a religious school where he was expected to become a rabbi, like his father. But his world changed dramatically when his parents separated.

Frankel’s father moved to Albany when he decided to change professions and become a physician. At age 14 Frankel followed his father into what seemed at first an intimidating mix of cultures and ethnicities. Upon his return to New York, he was known as the only Jew at 4,500-student Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood, where he was admitted through its Science and Math Institute. However, he learned to make friends and entertain new ideas, and when he applied to colleges, was attracted to the diverse student body attending Queens.

Frankel threw himself into academics and activities at Queens, while working full- and part-time jobs. Despite juggling many responsibilities, he was on the Dean’s List every semester, was a Presidential Achiever, and held a Mitsui International Business Scholarship and a New York Merit Scholarship. He made Phi Beta Kappa, was inducted into the Golden Key International Honor Society, was vice president of Omicron Epsilon Delta (the honor society in economics), and was a member of the Academic Senate and BALA Enterprises.

Frankel combined his quantitative abilities with his talent for practical applications, minorin in math and majoring in economics. While at Queens he worked at the UJA Federation, where he raised over $1 million and increased revenues by 25% in two years. He also held internships at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and at Salomon Smith Barney.

The Knight News was lucky to have this go-getter. As business manager he introduced several innovations, going “a little heads on,” he says, to change to computerized accounting methods and bring in $45,000 in ads in his first year, which supported such changes as moving to color, adding new bins, and buying new computers and cameras.

Queens has also brought Frankel full circle. The college’s diversity gave him the opportunity to reevaluate his Jewish upbringing, and he became active in Hillel. He has traveled twice to Israel and plans to return this summer before beginning law school.

MOZELLE DUCTAN: “A FORCE OF NATURE”

(continued from page 1)

her daughter’s screamed warning helped her narrowly escape a sniper’s bullet, Pobric and her husband decided they must emigrate.

Arriving with just three suitcases among them, almost immediately Pobric started studying English and working first as a messenger, then an accountant. Hoping to become a teacher again, she entered Queens College through the ACE program, and was able to transfer most of her education credits from the University of Sarajevo. Hence her decision to pursue a second degree in psychology. “With all that’s happened I want to discover, what’s going on in people’s minds?” she says. “Why aren’t people turning to education instead of violence?”

Though she has witnessed many painful scenes, Pobric is determined to move on, and hopes to be able to help Bosnian children in this country. She left behind a big house and material comforts but found, she says, “You don’t need anything. You just need your health and dinner every night.”

(continued on page 3)
At the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where Dom Gullo recently taught, he helped found an innovative public school in a low-income community—a project that engaged 10 years of his life.

“I’ve always been interested in children in poverty,” says Gullo. The school emphasized open classrooms, creative problem-solving, and family involvement. Supported largely by the Kellogg Foundation, it began as a preschool and kindergarten but soon added a grade school. Recently funding was secured to develop a middle school. The results are widely studied, with some two to three thousand visitors from around the country coming to observe the school every year.

But last September Gullo accepted an appointment as professor of elementary and early childhood education at Queens. “I like the vibrancy of the East Coast and the kinds of things going on here in early education,” he explains. “And I believe in urban education.”

That’s not surprising for this former Head Start teacher. Gullo earned his BS in speech pathology and audiology at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, and continued on for his MS in educational psychology. He completed his PhD at Indiana University in the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program on Young Children, then taught several years at Kent State before returning to his native Wisconsin. A specialist in language development and early literacy, Gullo is in his third year of a four-year term on the national governing board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

At Queens, Gullo has been appointed liaison to PS 499, which also has a new principal. “You can’t transport things exactly the same way because the context is different,” he cautions, and he is taking time to get his bearings.

Though Gullo is best known for encouraging others, he is quite active himself. He cooks Italian, travels, reads a lot of fiction (including all of Tom Robbins), plays the guitar, sings, and has a lifelong love of theater, in which he minored in college. He is also an avid Green Bay Packers fan. “That’s one of the things I’ve brought with me I’m not going to give up,” he says firmly.

(continued from page 2)

ELIJAH KIM: HEALTH CARE FOR THE WORLD

“My paradigm was changed by Queens College,” says Elijah Kim, who in February completed his BA cum laude in biology. Confronted with an internationally diverse study body and a heightened awareness of global differences in medical access and care, his understanding of medicine changed dramatically. “My intention initially was just providing health care, but here I realized what kind of situation globally we’re in,” he explains. “My passion now is health care for everybody.”

Kim is the son of Korean immigrants, a minister and a nurse, who settled in Bushwick, Brooklyn, and pursued a ministry there. Growing up he suffered racial harassment and lost friends to crime and drugs, but graduated from Stuyvesant High School with honors.

With three sons entering college one after the other, the Kims turned to the CUNY and SUNY systems. Elijah Kim was admitted to Queens College with a full scholarship, which he supplemented by working as a manager of the retail and wholesale divisions of an Italian gourmet food supplier in Soho.

Kim admits that he was at first disappointed that he was going to Queens rather than a high-powered private university. Now, he says, “I accomplished far more than I set out to do!” At Queens, Kim revived the Biology Honor Society, of which he was president, and as president of Future Healers of America, he helped the organization grow and find purpose.

He was editor in chief of The Nucleus, the journal of undergraduate scientific research that had been dormant for years, and president of the Korean Christian Fellowship. He secured a clinical internship at Harlem Hospital. He also did well academically and was inducted into the Golden Key Honor Society.

The approachable professors, friendly campus, and activities made Queens the right place for him. “As far as developing as a person, Queens College has given me so much. It encourages student communities. It gave me an opportunity to find out who I was.” After the harsh conflicts of his youth, Kim flourished in the international community here. “There are so many different perspectives at Queens College,” he says. “Your heart becomes more open, and you comprehend so much better what this world is.”

Kim is training as an emergency medical technician while awaiting word on his medical school applications. He hopes to become involved in international or urban public health, and through medicine to contribute to “racial justice, racial reconciliation, opportunities for equal health care for all.”
After the terrorist attacks of 9-11, the cultural and intellectual exchange across borders that has always existed at Queens College has become more important than ever. At the same time, getting across those borders has never been harder.

“International student enrollment and researcher/teacher participation are decreasing nationwide because of new visa and immigration regulations,” says Phyllis Proctor, director of the college’s International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO). As the entry point for international visitors to the campus, Proctor’s office is on the front line of the battle to keep intellectual exchange among countries open.

Established in 1976, ISSO yearly helps 700 to 800 students and scholars come to Queens to study, conduct research, teach, or participate in special academic events. ISSO provides a variety of services, from guiding visitors through the immigration process to providing advice on employment, health care, and housing. In short, the office provides one-stop shopping for anyone coming to QC from abroad.

ISSO’S LARGER MISSION

But that’s just the nuts and bolts. The office, says Proctor, has a much larger mission: “We provide American and international students, researchers, faculty, and administrators with the opportunity to interact academically, professionally, and socially. This broadens perspectives and fosters global understanding and cooperation.”

Proctor knows this from first-hand experience. After obtaining a master’s degree in education, she taught at a teacher training college in Nigeria with expatriates from around the world.

“My experiences with the Nigerian people and those from so many different countries were so fulfilling, I decided to continue to work with international students and educators,” she says.

Ionannis Zikoudis (ELL) is one of the beneficiaries. From Greece, Zikoudis is spending close to two years at the college teaching and researching in his field of Greek twentieth-century literature and working with the Center for Greek and Byzantine Studies.

“ISSO played a very important role for me,” says Zikoudis. “When you come to a foreign country, you feel isolated. The first welcome you get here is from ISSO. You meet people, hear their stories, and socialize.” Many stories relate to the difficult conditions international students and scholars now face. “I had lots of trouble after 9-11,” says Zikoudis. “But Phyllis Proctor played a pivotal role and gave us feedback and encouragement.”

POST 9-11 REGULATIONS

Patrick Sebbah (Physics) concurs. He has been going back and forth between QC and France for more than ten years and is now working with Distinguished Professor Azriel Genack on wave propagation.

“ISSO has been very helpful—it’s very convenient to have them right here,” he says.

Since 9-11 ISSO has had to deal with a variety of new duties. All U.S. colleges are now required to implement and maintain the SEVIS (Student Exchange Visitor Information System) database. This is used by U.S. consulates overseas to determine visa entry eligibility, and by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to determine if students are maintaining their legal immigration status while in the States.

“Security background checks by all U.S. consulates overseas are now mandatory for all visa applicants and have resulted in delays and denials,” says Proctor. “Before, prospective students could enter the U.S. on a tourist visa, enroll in college, and change their tourist immigration status to a student immigration status. Now, that’s a violation.”

But for scholars like Sebbah and Zikoudis, the onerous process is well worth the trouble when it comes to their work.

“The ability to teach in a multilingual and multicultural society is so important,” says Zikoudis. “Greece is becoming much more multicultural. Working at Queens College gives me the experience to teach and deal with students from different backgrounds.”

“You can’t just live in your small lab,” says Sebbah. “You must have contact with the world. It helps your research one hundred percent.”
**QC IN THE NEWS**

In an April 5 *Daily News* article about the job prospects for graduating college students, TES ASFAW (Career Development) noted that “There are signs everywhere the economy is picking up, but it’s still not sustained or robust. I think this graduating class may have to wait a couple of months for better job creation” . . . DAVID COHEN (Emeritus, Library) was quoted in many articles about the search for a new Poet Laureate of Queens during March and April: the *New York Post, New York Times* page one story (March 17), a *New York Times* editorial (April 2), and the *Queens Courier*. After the Times article ran, applications for the position jumped from 9 to 75. Cohen was also interviewed April 3 on “The Brian Lehrer Show” on WNYC radio. The *Daily News, Newsday*, most Queens weeklies, and Channel 11 were all on hand April 23 when Borough President Helen Marshall ’72 swore in Ishle Yi Park as the new laureate . . . The April 2 *Chronicle of Higher Education* featured a long article on the Louis Armstrong House, extensively quoting Armstrong House Director MICHAEL COGSWELL . . . The dedication ceremony for FRESE HALL was covered by the April 22 *Queens Chronicle* . . . MADHULIKA KHANDELWAL (Asian/American Center) was quoted in the April 19 edition of littleindia.com in an article about what it is like to be an Indian in America . . . *Newsday* and the *Daily News* noted that Effie Lekas (Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies) was one of eight Greek Americans honored by City Comptroller William Thompson during the 2004 Greek Heritage and Culture celebration March 30 at City Hall . . . The ribbon-cutting ceremony for POWDERMAKER HALL was covered in the April 26 *Daily News* . . . PHYLLIS PROCTOR (International Students and Scholars Office Services—see article page 4) answered readers’ phone calls as a “citizenship expert” for a *Daily News-CUNY* outreach project in late April . . . JOHN TYTTEL (English) was interviewed March 24 on “The Joey Reynolds Show” (WOR-AM) about his writing on the Beats and his recent book *Reading New York*. In relation to Queens’s search for a new poet laureate, Tytell was quoted in the March 17 *Times*, and also in an AP story that ran nationwide, that “the literary life of Queens has been thin.”

**Math Education Gets a Boost from Alum, Foundation**

One of the more intractable problems New York City public schools face each year is the lack of qualified math teachers. But help is on the way.

Lilo ’48 and Gerry Leeds recently gave $240,000 to TIME 2000, the college’s innovative mathematics teacher preparation program. Their gift will fund four-year scholarships for 15 undergraduate students preparing to become math teachers. “Mrs. Leeds is interested in improving mathematics education, a subject she knows a great deal about since she received a BA in math from the college,” says Alice Artzt (SEYS), director of TIME 2000. “She’s an extraordinary woman who is using the benefits of her own accomplishments to provide opportunities to others in their study of mathematics.”

Refugees from Nazi Germany, Lilo and Gerry Leeds have generously supported a number of educational causes. Before retiring from business, the Leeds were well known for following socially responsible policies at the publishing company they started, CMP Media; it was, for instance, the first employer on Long Island to offer on-site child care.

In another development that promises to put more math teachers in classrooms, the college and the Math for America Foundation (MfA) are collaborating on the recently created Newton Fellowship. The fellowship offers a full scholarship, five-year stipend, and health insurance to competitively selected students with BA degrees who enroll in an intensive teacher-training program that leads to an MS degree in math education. MfA chose Queens College as the first Partner University to train Newton Fellows. The fellowship program is the brainchild of MfA president Jim Simons, and was designed with the help of Alice Artzt who, with Nick Metas (Mathematics), will advise the Newton Fellows at the college.

The Newton Fellowship recognizes the economic realities of teaching, which can cause mathematically talented people to turn to more lucrative careers. Thus, the fellowship combines both long-term financial support and services to help new teachers through their first difficult years. As Artzt explains, “We’re giving them the full student teaching that will provide the best classroom preparation. Graduates not only get jobs but they are also mentored. With this program, the likelihood that they will drop out of teaching is greatly reduced.”
QC RANKS #13 FOR WIRELESS ACCESS

In an Intel survey ranking the top 100 schools for wireless computing access, Queens College places thirteenth—ahead of Tulane (17), Cornell (65), and all other CUNY and SUNY campuses. In fact, the college is the second most wireless college in New York state.

The survey reveals a growing number of schools across the country where students have the freedom to wirelessly access the Internet on notebook PCs—without a traditional wired connection—and stay connected whether they’re in the dorm, library, or on the campus quad. The survey, sponsored by Intel Corporation and conducted by Bert Sperling, can be found at www.intel.com/products/mobiletechnology/unwired-colleges.htm.

President Muyskens has placed a great emphasis on upgrading campus technology since assuming the presidency in July 2002. Previously Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs for the University System of Georgia, Muyskens directed the University’s extensive investigation into instructional technology and distance learning and created a new campus, the Gwinnett University Center, sometimes referred to as the “bricks and clicks” campus. One of Muyskens’ first technological improvements on the Queens campus was the creation of Books & Bytes, an indoor wireless café connected to the library.

KOREAN-AMERICAN NAMED THIRD POET LAUREATE

The borough of Queens has a new poet laureate: 26-year-old Korean American poet Ishle Yi Park was named the third Poet Laureate of Queens in a ceremony held at the college on April 23. She was chosen from among 75 applicants by an independent panel of judges comprised of literary professionals, including George Held (English) and Ali Jimale Ahmed (Comparative Literature).

Yi Park, who lives in Queens where she was born and raised, is the former recipient of a writing grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts. One of her poems, “Queens Min Bi,” was included in the anthology The Best American Poetry of 2003, and her first book of poetry, The Temperature of This Water, has just been published by Kaya Press. Her poems have also been published in such journals as Manoa, Cream City Review, Barrow Street, and Asian Voices.

The new borough bard succeeds Hal Sirowitz, whose term expired in December. The first Poet Laureate of Queens was Stephen Stepanchev (Emeritus, English).

COMMENCEMENT 2004

The college will hold its eightieth Commencement ceremonies on Thursday, June 3. The event, which will be held on the quad, begins with an academic procession at 9 am led by chief marshal Helen Cairns (Linguistics). President James Muyskens will preside at the ceremonies and student Joshua M. Frankel (see profile page 2) will present the commencement address.

Honorary degrees will be awarded to Jeffrey H. Kordower ’80, in recognition of his groundbreaking research on neurodegenerative diseases, and to jazz great and Professor Emeritus of Music Jimmy Heath. All members of the Queens College graduating class of 1954 have been invited to attend and will be honored in a special ceremony.

Special Events Director Joe Brostek notes that Commencement information can be found at www.qc.cuny.edu/graduation. He encourages anyone holding a Commencement-related event such as a dinner, reception, award ceremony, etc. to send an email about this to events@qc.edu so that it will be listed on the college’s Web calendar.

Q GALA WILL HONOR TWO ALUMNI

The 2004 Q Award Gala will honor two alumni who graduated 40 years apart: philanthropist Virginia Frese Palmer ’42 and Robert Wann ’82, Senior Executive Vice President and COO of New York Community Bancorp. The event will take place on Wednesday, June 23 at 6:30 pm at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Manhattan. For ticket information, call Mario DellaPina at 3920.
At this year’s Baccalaureate ceremony, Dean of Students Burton Backner will be the featured speaker and, at graduation, he will share the platform with other officers and friends of the college. As an alumnus, he will appear in the golden robes of the Golden Jubilee class of 1954. Yet, he looks ahead to the events with mixed feelings as he plans to retire July 1, leaving the college he describes as “a second family for many years.”

This semester, Backner was presented with a pin symbolizing his 35 years of service. “When the president noted that my connection to the college spanned more than half a century, you can imagine how old I felt!” he told the assembled guests. “But the years have allowed me to make great friendships, meet so many challenging students and sometimes even believe that I made a difference.”

Backner plans to maintain the part-time private practice he and his wife have shared for many years – he as a clinical psychologist and psychotherapist, she as a clinical social worker. Stepping down at Queens, though, will make more time for family, travel, and their country home in Connecticut.

Backner’s association with the college began in 1950 when there were only about 2,000 students. After graduating with a BA in psychology, he joined the Army’s Quartermaster Corps. He was scheduled to be sent to Korea when a ceasefire intervened, which led to his being reassigned as a personnel psychologist. After his tour of duty was up, he earned a PhD in clinical psychology at the University of Buffalo, then worked for VA hospitals and clinics.

In 1966 he became a counselor for the fledgling SEEK program at City College, and in 1968 he signed on as SEEK’s director of counseling at Queens. “That was a time of much ferment and racial tension,” he recalls. SEEK students, of whom 80 percent then were black, protested the all-white administration of the program. “They literally put the director out on the street.”

In the midst of that conflict, the new SEEK director, Lloyd Delany (for whom Delany Hall is named), helped Backner stay at Queens as coordinator of the College Discovery Program. Soon after, he survived the dramatic budget cuts of 1972 to become executive officer and faculty secretary to the Undergraduate Scholastic Standards Committee, then director of the Counseling & Advisement Center. Finally, he was appointed Dean of Students by President Shirley Kenny and became chair of the Department of Student Personnel.

Backner feels his tenure as dean has “set a certain tone of student-centered helpfulness. It may sound a little Boy Scoutish, but we really are concerned about students and their welfare.”

Among his own achievements, he is perhaps proudest of the CLIQ program. At the small-scale Queens of the fifties, he (continued on page 9)
Honors Center Opens

On Wednesday, May 5, the new Honors Center held its official ribbon-cutting ceremony in the former Temp 2. The Center has been painted, and roomy new public spaces added.

The new Center is home to all the college’s honors programs: the CUNY Honors College, Office of Honors & Scholarships, Honors in Social Sciences, Honors in Math & Natural Sciences, Honors in the Humanities, the Freshman Honors Experience, and BALA (Business and Liberal Arts). Program directors have already been meeting and working together through the Honors Coordinating Committee. Now students will share in the benefits of the new space.

“This will create a larger and more vital honors community,” says Dean Ann Cohen (Academic Support & Development). “Each honors community has had strength in its own area. Students can now find one another, study together, do projects, and use the computer facility. The space is not only adequate; it’s a great place to study. It is also a social center for the students.”

Among the amenities is a newly created, large lounge for CUNY Honors College students, which they have decorated themselves. The front of the Honors Center has a 500-square-foot reception area for receptions and poster sessions. Also included are two seminar rooms, a wireless environment, three computers in the lounge area for Honors & Scholarships, and 18 computers in the BALA computer lab.

“Students will flow throughout the space,” says Cohen. “There is a lot of overlap in the membership of the Honors programs. For example, some CUNY Honors students are also enrolled in other QC Honors Programs.”

These changes should create a home away from home for honors students. According to Cohen, “National retention studies show that when students find community, a place that is their own, they tend to stay and finish their education.”
The Preservation League of New York State selected the Louis Armstrong House Museum to receive its Excellence in Preservation Award for 2004. This statewide awards program recognizes individuals and organizations who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the preservation of New York’s architectural heritage.

“It is a great honor to win this award,” said Michael Cogswell, director of the Armstrong House. “The dedicated efforts of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, Queens College, Borough President Helen Marshall, Platt Byard Dovell White Architects, and many others made it possible.

“Visitors have told us that they can feel the living presence of Armstrong in the House,” Cogswell continued. “In a manuscript we discovered there, Louis had written, `The House may not be the nicest looking front – but when one visits the interior of the Armstrong home they see a whole lot of comfort, happiness and the nicest things.’ I am delighted that the league has recognized the importance of sharing the home of Louis and Lucille Armstrong, and their generous spirit, with the public for generations to come.”

The award will be presented at the Preservation League’s Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City on Wednesday, May 12 at the Union Club in Manhattan.

(continued from page 7)

says, students enjoyed a campus life much like that at residential colleges. “Only a small percentage of students worked. I was in a fraternity, I was captain of the tennis team, and I was in student government.” But now, he says, “Students are spread thinner and they’re more concerned about the practical aspects of life.” Backner developed CLIQ to encourage students to become involved in campus life outside the classroom.

These last months at Queens are full of good wishes. Backner’s retirement party will be held on May 20, and the Campus Ministries are organizing a named scholarship in his honor.
BIBLICAL STUDIES CONCERT: "Isaiah & the Prophets." LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. Information: 261-1550.

7THU
BIBLICAL STUDIES CONCERT: "Isaiah & the Prophets." LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. Information: 261-1550.

8THU
ACSM CONCERT & AWARD CEREMONY: LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. $10 donation to ACSM Scholarship Fund requested.

9THU
SPRING DANCE CONCERT: Goldstein Theatre, 8 pm ($12, $10 with discount). Information: 997-2788.

13THU
ACSM CONCERT & AWARD CEREMONY: LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. $10 donation to ACSM Scholarship Fund requested.

14THU
SPRING DANCE CONCERT: Goldstein Theatre, 8 pm ($12, $10). Information: 997-2788. Also Saturday at 8 pm and Sunday at 3 pm.

16SUN
SYMPOSIUM: "The American Jewish Experience Through Film." LeFrak Hall, 10:30 am-9:30 pm ($25 advance registration requested - call 718-997-5730).

17MON
FACULTY/ GUEST RECITAL: Percussion and electronics, Michael Lipsey, David Cossin, and David Sheppard. LeFrak Hall, 12 noon.

18MON

19WED

20THU
MA IN PERFORMANCE RECITAL: Mihaella Misner, violin. LeFrak Hall, 3 pm.

23SUN

25TUE

26WED

FYI is published on the first Thursday of the month. Items should be submitted by the 12th of the preceding month to Maria Matteo, Kiely 1310, x 5590. Items longer than one paragraph must be submitted via e-mail to mmatteo@qc.edu. The next issue will publish in September.