QC’s 85th Commencement to Honor Civil Rights Giant John Lewis

The historic relationship of Queens College students to the Civil Rights Movement has been a theme celebrated in a number of events on campus this year, which witnessed the inauguration of the nation’s first African-American president. Standing only feet away from Barack Obama on January 20 as he took the oath of office was Georgia Congressman John Lewis, one of the architects of the Movement who will be honored this year’s Commencement celebration on Thursday, May 28.

Lewis, who will receive an honorary doctorate in humane letters at Commencement, will address the crowd in the shadow of the campus clock tower named for James Cheney, Michael Schwerner, and QC student Andrew Goodman, the three young Civil Rights workers whose brutal murder by members of the Ku Klux Klan during the Freedom Summer of 1964 forced the nation to confront the savagery of the struggle for racial justice in the American South. Lewis, observes Executive Director of Events Joe Brostek, is known to often make reference to the three when he addresses student groups, so this occasion should have particular resonance. “When the honorary degree is presented,” says Brostek, “the bells will ring in the clock tower.”

Brostek also notes that invitations to attend Commencement have been extended to many QC alumni and former faculty members who are veterans of the Civil Rights Movement. Plans call for them to march in the procession wearing special sashes and to be seated together in the VIP section and recognized by President Muyskens from the stage for their contribution to the struggle. This group will include alumni Mark Levy ’64, who recently donated his personal collection of Civil Rights Movement memorabilia to the Rosenthal Library.

Commencement will also see the presentation of the President’s Medal to Harold Holzer ’69, the author, co-author, or editor of 33 books and over 400 articles on Lincoln and the Civil War era. He also lectures widely and appears frequently on C-SPAN and the History Channel. Senior VP for External Affairs at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Holzer is co-chairman of the U.S. Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. In 2008 he was awarded the National Endowment Medal by President George W. Bush. A former journalist, Holzer served as press secretary for both Bella Abzug and Mario Cuomo.

A QC journalist, Steven M. Appel, a double major in political science and anthropology, will be this year’s student speaker. Under his stewardship as editor in chief, the Knight News staff has garnered a significant number of journalism awards in recent years. (Aaron Mark Muller, an English major, will be the student speaker for the Baccalaureate ceremony.)

There will be a large contingent from the classes of ’49 and ’59, the sixtieth and fiftieth anniversary groups. In a change from past Commencements, Brostek says he’s planning a musical treat: “Leading the President’s processional, instead of the high school bands I’ve had in the past, we’ll have the Jazz Ensemble and the Percussion Ensemble from the Aaron Copland School of Music. So things should be really spirited coming down the aisle.”
College’s First Residence Hall Nears Completion

With construction of The Summit on schedule to meet its target completion date of August 1, the focus is on filling the residence hall’s 500 beds. Two of those beds are already accounted for as Vice President for Student Affairs Joe Bertolino and incoming Provost Jim Stellar have both announced they will live in The Summit for the 2009–10 academic year.

According to Bertolino, all indications are that the remaining 498 beds will be filled as well. “The process has been a little bit slower,” he notes, “because CUNY students don’t get their acceptances until later than other schools and don’t have to make their decisions until later. The bulk of our first-year students are just making their decisions and will be making them throughout the month of May.

“I also think,” he says, “that we’ll have a large number of athletes, national student exchange folks, international students, all of whom are in the transition phase of still being accepted and making decisions.”

As of late April, QC has responded to more than 400 requests for applications. Bertolino is also heartened by the overwhelming response received to the call for residence assistants: “We have 11 spots and we’ve received over 100 applications.”

Director of Marketing Steve Whalen has been mounting an aggressive campaign to get the word out about The Summit. This has included newspaper and Internet advertising, highway billboards, subway ads, and more. “News Services has also worked with the media to achieve the same goals,” says Maria Terrone, Assistant VP for Communications. “This month, NY1 broadcast a very positive feature on The Summit, which can be viewed on the QC home page.”

In addition, Capstone, the residence hall developer, has contracted a media company to create a promotional video that will highlight, among other things, The Summit’s environment-friendly construction and other “green” features that will qualify it for Silver certification under the standards of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

Explains Carol McCann, co-owner and director of Grandview Island, the company producing the video, it will serve both as a marketing and educational tool. “The LEED process allows someone who’s doing this sort of construction to gain a point towards their rating by doing a little education,” she says, mentioning their work documenting the Audubon Society’s construction of its new national headquarters to LEED Platinum certification standards. “We really like going behind the scenes and being able to showcase innovations that are not quite so evident.”

The idea of doing a video about a campus residence hall appealed to McCann and her colleagues, and “we wanted to find ways right from the beginning to involve students if we possibly could.”

To this end Grandview has collaborated with Susan Macmillan (Media Studies) to tap some student videographers and cinematographers to flesh out their crew. “It makes sense to have people we can quickly deploy on campus to make sure we don’t miss anything during construction,” says McCann.

Grandview has also been in touch with QC’s Drama, Theatre & Dance Department. “We are going to create the film so that it utilizes a couple of on-camera hosts. We’re hoping in the end it has a bit of that MTV video jock kind of energy to it. We’re going to be casting right out of the student body there at Queens College.”

Provost Evangelos Gizis to Retire

From the ancient port of Piraeus, Evangelos J. Gizis left his homeland in 1960 for graduate school in the United States. After earning his MS and PhD in food science and biochemistry at Oregon State University, he launched a five-decade academic odyssey that took him from West Coast to East Coast, from being a researcher in four top labs to senior-level administrative posts at four CUNY campuses.

This August QC’s provost and senior VP for academic affairs, whose career on campus spans 18 years, sails into retirement. It may be hard to discern his docking: Now age 75, he plans to work part-time on policy initiatives at CUNY’s Central Office, with shore leave for his annual visit to Greece with his wife. He will have more time to spend with their three sons, John, Alexander, and Robby, and two grandchildren, Anya and Adam.

Ronald Spalter, CUNY’s deputy chief operating officer, notes, “On the CUNY FIRST Steering Committee, Van represents the voice of academic administration on the campuses, and he does that splendidly.” Spalter values Gizis’ “incredible memory,” scientific approach, “superb set” of business skills, “incredibly broad background,” and “subtle but wicked sense of humor.”

President James Muysken notes that, “Van is extremely thoughtful, very analytical. He looks carefully at a problem, he looks at alternatives, and he very methodically gives me the pros and cons so that we can make informed decisions. Everyone at QC is certainly in his debt—I more than others. These last few years have been especially good for hiring high-quality faculty, and the provost certainly took the leader—continued on page 10

Sleepwalkers? Not quite . . .

Vice Pres. Sue Henderson, Athletics Dir. Rick Wetten and Pres. James Muysken are surrounded by students in bedtime wear who were participating in the overnight (May 2-3) Relay for Life event on the QC track. The American Cancer Society’s signature fundraising event annually brings millions of people together to raise funds by forming teams to run or walk through the evening. QC teams raised over $15,000 for the cause.
Rise in Number of Donors Brightens the College’s Fund-Raising Outlook

Contrary to the daily tide of grim economic news, Vice President for Institutional Advancement Sue Henderson is happy to report that “This has been an exceptional year for our fundraising.”

While the size of individual gifts to QC has been smaller this year, she observes, this has been offset by a significant increase in the number of donors.

“We’ve also been pleasantly surprised to learn there are some alums and friends of the college who really haven’t been affected by this downturn,” says Henderson, citing the example of an alumnus whose investment firm specializes in taking over distressed businesses and turning them around.

“We’re also reaching out to more foundations than we’ve done in the past,” she says, specifically mentioning the Mellon Foundation. And, with the Obama administration’s determination to make education a fundamental element in rebuilding the nation’s economy, QC has received grant money from the economic stimulus package.

“We’re also much more active in reaching out to our affinity groups,” she says. “For example, this year we’ve had separate events for lawyers, accountants, and doctors, as well as the usual alumni events we hold around the country.

“In January, when things were really tough, a QC Foundation board member said to us ‘This year is a friend-making year.’ It’s a year when we won’t get large gifts, but we will strengthen the relationship we have with many of our alumni. And a number of them have told us that when things get better, they would like to give us a sizable amount of money.”

The building of QC’s first residence hall has also been spurring increased interest in the college, she says. And QC’s growing enrollments and higher academic standards are also helping: “As we become a more selective institution, our alumni are more interested in giving to a winning cause.”

“Our strategic plan has also been helpful,” she continues. Referencing the plan’s Asian Initiative, “We just got a gift from a Korean donor to start a Korean Studies program; that has strengthened our relationship with Korea and will help encourage some study abroad experiences for our students.”

She also mentions a collaboration with a Flushing business engaged in building a world trade center in Nanjing, China. “There are possibilities for business collaborations there. So not only do we have donors who are helping make things happen,” she says, “we have business partners.

“There’s a lot more energy in our fundraising, now,” Henderson affirms. “Our annual fund, for instance: instead of one or two, we’re doing many. We’ll also do more selective mailings from departments to get more of what we call unrestricted funds.

“Looking ahead,” she says, “this has been a year to put some things into place so that we can begin plowing it up. Overall, it’s been a promising year for next year. And, actually, it’s been a pretty good year for this year.”

QC IN THE MEDIA

SALMAN AHMAD’s (Music) op-ed article “Rescuing Pakistan from the Taliban” appeared Feb. 2 in the Washington Post. . . BEN ALEXANDER (GSUS) was quoted in a March 5 story in the Queens Tribune concerning the donation of alumn Mark Levy’s Freedom Summer archives to the Library. The March 10 Daily News also ran an article . . . An April 10 story in the Daily News about a proposal to build a manmade island for liquid natural gas storage off the coast of the Rockaways quoted NICK COCH (SEES) . . . A March 5 story in the Times Ledger concerning the two poetry reading events produced at QC by the MFA Program and the Poetry Society of America quoted NICOLE COOLEY (English). . . The new exhibit at Louis Armstrong House Museum featuring Satchmo’s collages received coverage April 2 on NY1, featuring an interview with LAHM Assistant Director DESLYN DYER, and April 7 on WCBS News Radio 880, in addition to appearing on its website. Director MICHAEL COGSWELL was quoted April 7 in the Daily News announcing the exhibit. LAHM was also featured in an article about jazz in New York in the April Luthansa Magazine, as well as in a new Swiss travel guide to sites in New York. . . A March 19 story in the Queens Tribune about the Virginia Frese Palmer Conference, featuring QC alumnus who participated in the Civil Rights Movement, included remarks from CAROL GIARDINA (History). . . Stories appearing March 19 in the Queens Tribune and April 2 in the Times Ledger about QC’s new Center for Ethnic and Racial Understanding quoted BILL HELMREICH (Jewish Studies) . . . EISL HOLGER (CBNS) was quoted in a story appearing March 11 in the Whitestone Times (also appearing at YourNabe.com) about the Center’s citywide study of air quality . . . A Feb. 18 story in Crain’s New York Business concerning the growing strength of local Korean businesses quoted PYONG GAP MIN (Sociology). . . The celebration of Lunar New Year hosted by PRES. JAMES MUYSKENS was the subject of a photo spread March 12 in the Queens Courier. . . PREMILLA NADASEN (History) wrote a review of the book Boycotts, Buses, and Passes for the January edition of Ms. . . . The Feb. 19 Times Ledger featured a photo of MAURICE PERESS (Music) conducting the Feb. 12 performance of Lonesome Train at Manhattan’s Riverside Church . . . JAMES STELLAR’s selection as QC’s new provost was covered April 9 in the Queens Chronicle and April 16 in the Queens Courier. . . A review of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum exhibition Working Through the Great Depression appeared March 12 in the Times Ledger and at YourNabe.com; it included quotes from GTM Director AMY WINTER. The exhibit also was covered Feb. 19 in the Queens Tribune and Queens Chronicle . . . KRISTINA RICHARDSON’s lecture on jihad was featured April 28 on NY1. . . Stories concerning the launch, under the direction of BOBBY WINTERMUTE (History), of a website devoted to QC students who served in World War II appeared Feb. 12 in the Queens Times and Feb. 19 in the Queens Courier and Queens Tribune. . . The ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the opening of a branch of New York Community Bank in the Student Union was covered Feb. 10 in the Daily News, Feb. 11 in the Queens Gazette, and Feb. 12 in the Queens Courier and Times Ledger. . . The Feb. 27 Business Forum at QC was covered March 5 in the Queens Courier and Times Ledger. . . The Queens Courier offered a story March 19 on the opening of continued on page 9
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at the United Nations Population Fund and the New York City Global Partners, Inc. This summer she will intern at the Conference Board.

Her most memorable accomplishment, however, was organizing The 2009 Afghan Peace and Development Conference: Innovative Recommendations of Conflict Resolution and Development for Post-War Afghanistan—An Exchange of Intellectual Dialogue Through Public Discourse, convened on April 27 and 28. This unprecedented meeting featured remarks by M. Ishaq Nadiri, former senior economic advisor to Afghan President Karzai, and Ahmad Dawer Nadi, president of the Afghan Peace Association (and a 1988 alumnus). Panelists and attendees included students, academics, diplomats, journalists, policy makers, and international media including the BBC and Voice of America.

JONATHAN BEARAK

Full Scholarship for PhD in Sociology

After graduating from QC as a political science major in Spring 2008, Jonathan Bearak used the past year to better define his academic interests and apply for graduate programs. But he didn’t stray far. He continued his part-time job in the QC Sociology Department, where he helps faculty design research projects.

Bearak assisted the department in devising statistical analyses of such issues as student evaluations of faculty members and faculty pay differentials. He recently started a new project helping a faculty member analyze the effects of various interventions on educational outcomes in public schools.

And Bearak won full scholarship offers from Yale, the University of Chicago and NYU. He decided to begin a PhD program at NYU in the sociology of education in the fall.

“Our goal shouldn’t be to increase average test scores,” he says of American public education, “but to help each student reach his or her potential. People are going through school uninspired!” Andrew Beveridge (Sociology) says Bearak’s combined strengths in sociology and computer-aided quantitative analysis make him a particularly strong candidate for graduate study. “He’s really good empirically and theoretically. I don’t think everyone should become an academic, but it fits him quite well.”

Bearak, who was a member of the Macaulay Honors College during his undergraduate studies, likes visiting museums and recently started practicing yoga. As he excels academically, he’s keeping an eye on the street. “I’ve learned how to dress and be less of a nerd,” he says.

AMANDA SHAFRAN

A Rare Talent for Costume Design

Amanda Shafran entered QC thinking she would be an English major. Then she took an introductory course in theatre design. “It really opened my eyes to costume design,” says the graduating senior. It is a discipline, she says, that combines the humanities with visual expression.

After being offered scholarships to continue her studies at three top-ranking universities, she chose NYU, where she will begin the MFA program in costume design in the fall. “The teachers are all working New York [theatre] designers and the location is wonderful,” she says.

Costume design is a somewhat rare specialty, concedes Charles Repole (Drama, Theatre & Dance), “I cast her in a QC production of Cinderella, as one of the step-sisters. She was fabulous. I thought: ‘Great; she’s going to be an actress.’”

But he wasn’t disappointed with the direction she chose. “She’s very intuitive. She puts costumes on characters that reflect the text and point to how their characters will develop. That’s quite unusual in such a young person.” Shafran designed the costumes for the current QC production of Suzan-Lori Parks’ In the Blood.

Shafran’s goal is to work in New York theatre, especially on plays “that mean something.” Heather Hendershot, a media studies professor at QC since 1997, has been recognized with a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship. Recipients are selected for either their “exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts.”

Hendershot will use the award to complete her book, What’s Fair on the Air? Cold War Right-Wing Broadcasting and the Public Interest (University of Chicago Press), which focuses on the explosion of right-wing programming on local television and radio stations after Barry Goldwater’s presidential defeat in 1964. It will touch on four influential conservative figures: wealthy entrepreneur and supporter of conservative broadcasting H.L. Hunt; political activist Dan Smoot; and fundamentalist Christian ministers Billy James Hargis and Carl McIntire.

“The Guggenheim Foundation has long supported both filmmakers and film studies scholars, and it is wonderful to see them also support work on television and radio history,” Hendershot says.

Hendershot earned an undergraduate degree from Yale University, with a double major in French and Film Studies, and a PhD from the University of Rochester. In addition to being an associate professor at QC, she is coordinator of the Film Studies Certificate program at the CUNY Graduate Center. Hendershot’s books include Saturday Morning Censors: Television Regulation Before the V-Chip and Shaking the World for Jesus: Media and Conservative Evangelical Culture. She is the editor of Nickelodeon Nation: The History, Politics and Economics of America’s Only TV Channel for Kids and Cinema Journal. Hendershot has held fellowships at Vassar College, Princeton University, and New York University.

Hendershot Named Guggenheim Fellow
Students from page 4 something . . . that cause audiences to think.” Her greatest satisfaction is “sitting in an audience on opening day and watching people react to something you’ve worked on for several months. There’s no experience like it.”

KATE SCHNUR
A Passion for Literature
At Commencement, Kate Schnur, an English major, will receive the highest honors in the English Department and departmental honors in history. A graduate of the Macaulay Honors College, she will soon begin a PhD program in English at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Schnur says she found the quality of Queens College students to be “inspiring.” What convinced her to enroll in the Honors College was the small cohort in the program, the potential for study abroad scholarships, and the English seminars offered.

The decision to continue her education in a doctoral English program was made after numerous conversations with Pamela Degotardi, her advisor, and the three scholars who directed the Honors College while she was a student there: Janice Peritz, Patricia O’Connor, and Ross Wheeler. Schnur enjoyed the experience of attending a prestigious institution outside New York City when she spent three months at Oxford University in England, where she read Virginia Woolf and explored women’s history.

Tempted by a career in journalism, Schnur minored in the subject. As a freshman she started working at the Knight News. By her junior and senior years, she was literature editor and managing editor. The redesign of Knight News she and her journalistic colleagues developed made it to the finals in a national competition for student media. “All of the work,” she exults, “had paid off.”

ALEX PINHAS
Future MD Bound for Mt. Sinai
Alex Pinhas, a Macaulay Honors College student who majored in biology and minored in anthropology, has been accepted to the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Born in Tashkent, in Uzbekistan, Pinhas came to this country in the mid-1990s. Drawn to the Honors College primarily by financial considerations—it’s tuition-free—and he knew he would need to fund his graduate studies—he enrolled at Queens because of its strong Biology Department.

Pinhas assesses his education as being top-notch: “All together, it created a person who can create knowledge in an original way.” Faculty members were “very friendly and approachable.” His courses gave him “fundamental knowledge and laboratory techniques,” while lab work provided him with “teamwork and leadership skills.” But what he appreciates the most is “the advice and mentorship; every step you have advice.”

He worked with Joshua Brumberg (Psychology) as a Stuyvesant High School student, and in his freshman year at the college, he started conducting research under Richard Bodnar (Psychology). After Pinhas demonstrated his expertise, Bodnar rewarded him by assigning him his own research project in which Pinhas recruited a team and organized the study. In addition, using his Macaulay Opportunity Grant, he enjoyed a three-week journey to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, where a boat let him island hop and “made you feel like you were Darwin.”

As he graduates, he looks at all the Honors College has provided him, and declares, “It’s really an amazing program, and an amazing experience.”

MFA Authors Graduate into Literary World
Novelists, poets, and translators will collect their master’s degrees at commencement and then discover whether their talent will enable them to be working writers.

Many graduates of the MFA program in creative writing and literary translation, such as Todd Sullivan, had already published when they were first admitted. His book, One Hour; featured short stories, poems, and a novella. In the MFA program he began and completed Trespasses, a novel written in the form of an urban fantasy, and is now at work on a second project begun during his time at Queens.

A Southerner—his undergraduate studies were at Georgia State University in Atlanta, and he grew up and attended high school in New Orleans—Sullivan followed in the tradition of many writers by moving to New York, where he spent a year working in the city. He joined the MFA program after much contemplation and conversations with faculty member Kimiko Hahn (English) at a summer writing workshop. She introduced him to John Weir (English), and he also spoke extensively with Nicole Cooley, the MFA program director.

Among the experiences the MFA program provided was enabling him to attend Bread Loaf, a 10-day writing workshop at Middlebury College in Vermont. In Richard Schotter’s (English) playwriting course, he had a revelatory moment when the words he had written were read out loud and received immediate feedback.

He advises anyone who’s thinking about joining the MFA program “to have a lot of writing done” before they start their coursework.

A Tree Grows in Flushing . . .
thanks to some vigorous shovelwork provided for this year’s May 1 MillionTreesNYC event by (l to r) Vice Pres. Kathy Cobb, Gus Rosario, Charles Siebert, Tim Gibbons, Carlos Zegarra (Buildings & Grounds), Jacob McCommons (Pres., QC Environmental Club), and Pres. James Muyskens. (And, yes, the folks in the suits really did some digging.) Begun in 2007, the campaign aims to plant one millions trees in NYC by 2017.
Mapping Earthquakes Under the Sea

During the spring break Cecilia McHugh (SEES) attended the annual Congress of the Turkish Geological Association (April 13–17) in Ankara, Turkey. There she presented her work on sabbatical, to train local specialists in marine geology. McHugh, who specializes in marine geology, has made three summer scientific cruises on the Sea of Marmara since 2001 as part of an international project to study the part of the North Anatolia Fault that runs under that small body of water. The Marmara, located just west of the Bosporus Straits, connects the Black Sea to the Aegean Sea. The North Anatolia is a very active fault; a 1999 earthquake killed 17,000 people in Turkey.

McHugh and her international collaborators use two different types of specialized sonar devices. One maps the depth of the seabed, and the other profiles the layers below the seabed. The team also drills beneath the sea bottom to take core samples. The purpose is to determine where along the jagged fault line quakes have recently occurred. This allows scientists to map the sections—as little as 10 or 15 miles from the sites of recent movement—where the next seismic events are most likely to occur. The authorities can then concentrate their preventative planning in those areas, shoring up at-risk structures and educating the population in disaster response.

The science is quite new. “It’s a lot easier to map and date” the sites of earlier earthquakes under water, says McHugh. “On land, you typically have to excavate trenches” to find where earthquakes occurred and dating them is hard.

McHugh presented to the conference a promising new technique she is developing to detect past events. It involves the detection and deciphering of very unusual geological deposits beneath the sea floor called homogenites. McHugh describes them as “stacked layers of sand and silt that become progressively finer-grained.” They are formed when an earthquake sends currents sloshing back and forth along the deep sea floor. McHugh and her associates have found homogenites that closely correlate with the major earthquakes recorded in the region over the last 2,000 years.

Amid the congress’ sumptuous banquets and entertaining musical performances, McHugh found much interest in her expertise. She plans to return to Turkey during the 2010–11 academic year, when she’ll be on sabbatical, to train local specialists in marine geology.

**QC PEOPLE**

**SALMAN AHMAD** (Music) received an honorary doctorate from Claremont Graduate University on May 16 . . . **MAGNUS O. BASSEY** (SEYS) read a paper entitled “Education for Social Justice: A Social Foundations Approach” at the 3rd Annual Equity and Social Justice in Education Conference held at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey on March 28 . . . **STEPHANE BOISSINOT** (Biology) reports that **LAUREN ALVAREZ**, a double biology/anthropology major enrolled in QC’s NSF-funded URM program in Ecology, Evolution and Behavior, received an award from the Society for Molecular Biology and Evolution to attend their June 3 annual meeting at the University of Iowa. This is an international meeting attended by more than 700 scientists worldwide; only 10 of these awards are given each year. Alvarez also received a travel award from the Society for the Study of Evolution to attend their annual meeting at the University of Idaho, June 12–16, an international meeting attended by more than 1,000 evolutionary biologists worldwide. Additionally, Alvarez has been awarded a grant from the Young Explorer Club to return to Ethiopia to continue her research into baboon habitat and social behavior . . . **DUNCAN FAHERTY**’s book Remodeling the Nation: The Architecture of American Identity, 1776–1858 was selected by the editors of Choice as one of the most significant print and electronic works reviewed in its pages during the previous calendar year . . . **ELIZABETH HENDREY** (Dean, Social Sciences), who has been the driving force in producing QC’s series of monthly business forums, was honored April 2 at the Queens Courier’s Seventh Annual Top Women in Business Networking event that recognizes influential women in business whose major achievements and participation in the community have made a difference . . . **GERASIMUS KATSAN** (ELL) was invited to be a guest presenter continued on page 10

**Knight News Wins More Top Awards**

The Knight News, QC’s student newspaper, continues to rack up awards. The most recent were received in April, including the 2008 New York Press Association Award for General Excellence. “Professional looking paper,” the judges commented. “Good photography; well-planned, reader-friendly designs; great mix of stories. Writing is generally great, with excellent use of alternative story forms.”

The American Scholastic Press Association awarded the Knight News First Place with Special Merit in its 2008 honors, and named its cultural pull-out, “Knight Life,” Best Supplement of a college newspaper. The Society for Professional Journalists awarded Knight News cartoonists Deborah Camp and Ari Goldstein Second Place in editorial cartooning in the Association’s 2008 Region 1 Mark of Excellence Awards. Steve M. Appel, Knight News editor in chief, got second place for editorial commentary. “We are all extremely proud of these recent awards,” said Appel who is graduating this year and will be the student speaker at commencement. “They are a testament to the benefits of tenaciously pursuing common goals and would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the staff of the Knight News.”

The latest batch of awards makes a total of 12 the paper has won since Appel took over as top editor in 2006. The Knight News has also been a two-time finalist for the country’s most prestigious college journalism honor, the Associated Collegiate Press Association’s Pacemaker Award, making it the first CUNY paper to get to the finals since the awards began in 1927. Appel said he is still hoping the paper might take home the coveted award, maybe before he moves on.
A QC Collaboration to Help Children

What began as concern for a single child is developing into a program benefiting many children, thanks to a collaboration between QC’s Child Development Center (CDC) and the Speech, Language, Hearing Center (SLHC), a treatment center within the Department of Linguistics and Communications Disorders.

About three years ago Pat McCaul, Clinical Coordinator and Associate Director of QC’s Graduate Program in Speech-Language Pathology, and Clinical Instructor Kerry O’Brien began a screening program to detect speech and language-learning issues or delays among children in CDC’s early childhood and after-school programs.

“The staff had some concerns about a particular child and had expressed these to the parents,” McCaul says. “CDC Director Eric Urevich and I started to collaborate to help this one child. What evolved was the idea of a screening process to help more children. Every semester we send out a flyer to advertise to parents that this service is available. In the past we’ve gotten maybe 10 or 12 students, but this semester there’s a considerable jump.” Indeed, this semester 20 out of 70 families requested the screening.

The flyer gives parents a broad explanation of what the screeners will be looking for, including speech, language, and early language-learning issues. Sometimes, says McCaul, it keys in on some concerns parents may already have. Additionally, notes Urevich, he and his staff aren’t reluctant to suggest the screening when they observe children who may be having issues or they are approached by concerned parents.

Depending on the results of the screening, some children may be referred for individual therapy at SLHC in the regular treatment program, says Arlene Kraat, Associate Chair and Director of Communication Sciences Disorders Programs. Children from the first screening who have since aged out of CDC programs have received assistance in finding placements in therapy programs in their own school districts.

Explains McCaul, the program is also yielding valuable experiences for grad students in the Speech, Language, Pathology Program: “It’s a skill to spend time observing the children in their classroom setting, making contact with the teachers and the families to get information about whether this is a process of difficulty from learning English and a new culture, or is suggestive of a speech and language disorder.

“Our students get to assist faculty doing the screening in a very lively, preschool-type atmosphere, which is lovely,” she continues. “So our students are benefiting, the faculty members are doing what they love—teaching and doing clinic work—and, ultimately, the kids benefit.”

Armstrong Collages Exhibited for the First Time at Armstrong House Museum

Through July 12, the Louis Armstrong House Museum will be showing A Little Story of My Own: Louis Armstrong’s Collages. Clipped and assembled from photographs, news stories, postcards, letters, telegrams, and other material, the collages were made in part to pass the time during the thousands of hours Armstrong spent in dressing rooms and hotel rooms during his long career. The result is a body of sometimes sophisticated and sometimes whimsical works of art. Hundreds of these collages also can be found in Satchmo: The Wonderf ul World and Art of Louis Armstrong (Abrams) by Steven Brower, a biography in the form of an art book.

Writers-in-Residence Reflect on Satchmo’s Life and Times

On April 30, three students from QC’s MFA Program in Creative Writing and Literary Translation read from works they created through a new, innovative partnership between the school and the Louis Armstrong House Museum.

Michael Alpiner, John Reid Currie, and Tyler Rivenbark spent three months as writers-in-residence at the museum, immersing themselves in Armstrong’s treasured trove of recordings, films, letters, photographs, and collages. In response, the students explored Armstrong’s life and music in the sociopolitical context of his era—and ours.

“It’s important to this program for our students to develop and hone their craft while they explore ways to incorporate external material into their writing,” says Aracelis Girmay, this year’s visiting professor in the MFA Program. “The work generated by this residency over the last few months is positive proof of the remarkable material that can be borne out of artistic intersections.”

Students applied for the writers-in-residence positions by submitting letters of interest, work samples, and artist statements. Girmay notes that the three winners were chosen for their “commitment to their writing and a clearly expressed articulation on how the interaction with Armstrong’s work and archives would potentially strengthen their own craft.”

Learning Day

Woman and Work Program members spent a “learning day” at QC April 1. Events included an interactive seminar on Self Esteem: Unlocking the Key to Your Inner Strengths and a presentation by Richard Adams, Director of QC’s ACE Program. They also attended a lecture by Godwin-Ternbach Museum Director Amy Winter on the current exhibit of Depression Era prints.

Writers in residence Michael Alpiner, John Currie, and Tyler Rivenbark
Officials from the government of Afghanistan and experts from academia, journalism, and nonprofit organizations discussed the challenges that will face postwar Afghanistan at The 2009 Afghan Peace and Development Conference, held at the Student Union on April 27–28. The conference, the first of its kind to bring together primarily Afghans to produce solutions for Afghans, was sponsored by the college and a variety of student organizations. The college was a fitting site as Queens has the largest Afghan population in New York City.

The conference was organized by Aniqa Islam ’09, an honors student of Bangladeshi heritage who aspires to a career in economic development (see profile p. 1). Through a connection at the Afghanistan Peace Association and with the help of other students and academic organizations at the college, she was able to persuade a number of important Afghan leaders to participate in the conference.

Among the notables on hand was M. Ishaq Nadiri, a former senior economic advisor to Afghan President Hamid Karzai and a key architect of the 2001 Bonn Agreement that created the interim government in Afghanistan. Nadiri is a Jay Gould Professor of Economics at NYU and a longstanding member of the National Bureau of Economic Research and Council of Foreign Relations. Dawer Nadi, a 1988 QC graduate and president of the Afghanistan Peace Association, also spoke to the attendees.
Lockerman and Whaley Win Goldwater Scholarships

Two Queens College students looking toward careers in scientific research were recently awarded Goldwater Scholarships in an annual competition among top college students across the nation. This marks the fourth consecutive year that QC students were named Goldwater Scholars.

The winners are Yitzchak Lockerman, 20, of Jamaica, a computer science major; and Jamar Whaley, 31, of Flushing, who is majoring in psychology and neuroscience with a minor in media studies. The two juniors will receive up to $7,500 to help them pay for tuition, room and board, and books in their senior years. Both young men are among 278 Goldwater Scholars selected in the competition involving many of the nation’s top undergraduates who intend to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, or engineering.

Lockerman, who is conducting research on microwaves, says that computer science has the power to transform society. An excellent math and physics student, he has turned to computer science as a way to put his skills to work in the world. “There are so many ways to benefit society that we are just starting to uncover,” he says. “In computer science, it’s very easy to see the results of your work. It’s a field where you can do something productive and meaningful.”

A member of the Queens College Scholars program, Lockerman is working closely with Azriel Genack (Physics), analyzing random microwave fields. He works on his project full-time in Genack’s lab in the summer, and during the school year he fits it in between his coursework. “Last night I was there until 1 in the morning,” Lockerman says. “As a night person, I find that I’m more effective working in the lab late.”

Genack is impressed by Lockerman’s work ethic. “Yitzchak is willing to contend with challenging problems and can handle a few at a time,” says Genack. “He remains engaged with me and with members of my group over an extended period, is modest about his own accomplishments, willing to help others, and is thoughtful and creative in considering potential directions for research that can benefit our group.”

Having grown up in Jamaica, Lockerman attended Mestiva Chaim Shlomo High School in Far Rockaway. He considered other colleges, but decided to stay close to home and attend Queens College—an 11-minute commute from his home—where he felt he could obtain a quality education at a much lower cost. Active in campus life, Lockerman is an alternate member of the college’s Academic Senate, a member of the Undergraduate Scholastic Standards Committee, and on the board of the Queens College chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society.

Studying the Reasons for Drug Addiction

A Stuyvesant High School dropout, Jamar Whaley credits his great-grandmother Elizabeth Whaley and support from QC for helping him find his science research niche, drug addiction. His great-grandmother, now 87, raised Whaley since he was an infant.

To win the scholarship, Whaley wrote about the project he’s working on with Robert Ranaldi (Psychology): studying the impact of heroin addiction on impulsivity in rats. “The more we can understand about the syndrome of drug addiction, the better we can treat the addicted individual,” says Whaley.

Ranaldi says Whaley’s dedication and ability to work on a team have been crucial in the research lab. “Jamar has done so well so far because he understands that in addition to being smart, success also requires hard work and perseverance,” he notes. “That brings out the best in people, as does having an open mind in your work and toward the people collaborating with you. By continuing this way, I don’t see why Jamar cannot achieve anything he sets his mind to.”

This summer, Whaley will be conducting research at Yale University’s Biomedical Science Training and Enrichment Program, which provides intensive, short-term research training for undergraduates, especially those from groups underrepresented in biomedical sciences at top universities. He is a participant in the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) program, which helps juniors and seniors in groups underrepresented in the sciences gain entry into graduate biomedical research programs. Whaley is also involved in CUNY’s Black Male Initiative at Queens College, which is helping young black males succeed.
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by the University Seminars Program—Modern Greek Seminar of Columbia University on March 12. His paper was entitled “The Sheep and the Shepherds: Censorship, Morality and Contemporary Social Criticism.” He also presented a paper, “The Way We Live Now: Reflections of Contemporary Culture in Recent Greek Novels,” on April 9 at the 2nd International Conference on Mediterranean Studies in Athens, Greece. . . . Education Week featured an article March 4 about the introduction in New York City school districts of “the first diagnostic test in the country designed solely for English-language learners.” The test was devised by ELAINE C. KLEIN (Linguistics) and GITA MARTOHARDJONO (Linguistics). . . Forty students from RICHARD MCCOY’S and ANDREA WALKDEN’S (English) Shakespeare 1 classes attended the sold-out April 7 performance of Hamlet starring Christian McCoy.

Gizis from page 2
ship in that. There’s probably nothing more important in academic institutions.” Adds Muyskens, “Although he was a scientist, he is interested in advancing the arts and humanities just as much.”

Gizis, musing on Robert Frost’s “The Road Not Taken,” had thought he might combine administration with his early career researching vitamin B-12 binders. But, as he realized, “There are always roads not taken; we cannot have regrets.” Happy with the one he chose, he is also pleased with his successor, James Stellar, a neuropsychologist and former dean of Northeastern University’s College of Arts and Sciences.

Spalter recalls meeting Gizis in 1977, when “We were part of the management team brought in to save the Borough of Manhattan Community College.” As acting president, Gizis was very involved in the building of the new campus in lower Tribeca and the doubling of BMCC’s enrollment. Previously, he served briefly as acting president of Hostos Community College.

Gizis came to QC in 1986 as vice president for college affairs, planning, and information systems. Two years later he chaired the committee for QC’s first five-year plan. He takes pride in all the faculty and staff who implemented its 37 recommendations. The 40-line telephone registration “was the first time a college in the metropolitan area had established such a system,” Gizis notes. The second five-year plan (1994) led to a major improvement in academic advising, among other accomplishments.

Between 1996 and 2001 at Hunter College, Gizis held three senior posts, culminating in a new degree programs such as the BBA. Col-
mates, Italy/U.S. student exchange programs, and global Italian diaspora migration . . . EUGENIA PAULICELLI (ELL) moderated a discussion April 8 at the CUNY Graduate Center about the power of fashion. The panelists were designers Gabi Asfour and Anna Sui and New York Times writer Guy Trebay. . . . MIHAELA ROBILA (FNES) presented a paper, “Family Policy in Eastern Europe: Developments and Recommendation,” to a United Nations Expert Group Meeting in April in Doha, Qatar . . . MORRIS ROSSABI (History) was awarded an honorary doctorate at the National University of Mongolia in Ulan Bator on April 23. The president of the university and the director of the School of Foreign Service presented Rossabi with a spectacular, multicolored robe and hat, a gold medal, a bouquet of flowers, a gold passport (in imitation of the Mongols’ traditional passports), and an inscribed document (in traditional Mongol script and English) with the conferral of the degree . . . SUSAN ROTENBERG (Chemistry & Biochemistry) was recently named to the editorial board (Biochemistry Section) of the Journal of Biomedicine and Biotechnology, an open access journal launched in 2001. . . JOHN TYTELL (English) spoke on the “Quebecois Kerouac” March 14 at the David Turner Foundation in Melrose, Fla. and as part of a panel entitled Jack Kerouac: An Unlikely Franco-American Writer, March 23 at the America’s Society in Manhattan.

Cerebral Art for a Public Space
Graduate art education students in Rikki Asher’s mural-making class—including Marc Salmin (above)—were assigned to design a work of public art that interpreted through painted visual images the ideas that flow through our minds. Most are New York City public school teachers who will apply the mural-making skills they learned in their own classrooms. The finished mural now graces a wall in the main lobby of Kiely Hall.
Marriage is one of the United States’ most cherished and most vulnerable institutions. Although the majority of our nation’s adults make at least one trip down the aisle, divorce rates here rank among the highest in the world. This trend, which emerged after World War I, inspired the development of an entire industry devoted to keeping people together, or in some cases, preventing them from committing matrimony with each other. Kristin Celello (History) explores that industry, and the assumptions behind it, in Making Marriage Work: A History of Marriage and Divorce in the Twentieth-Century United States (University of North Carolina Press).

The book traces the professionalization of marital counseling through the decades—an early and disturbing pioneer was self-proclaimed expert Paul Bowman Popeneo, a horticulturalist and eugenics advocate who founded the American Institute of Family Relations in 1930. Making Marriage Work also shows how movies, among other popular media, shaped the public’s impression of single women, from the chastened title character of the hit 1930 film The Divorcée to the predatory husband-stealer played by Glenn Close in the 1987 potboiler Fatal Attraction. In the process, Celello illustrates the fact that for much of the last century, women were identified as the primary beneficiaries of marriages—and given the burden of keeping those relationships intact.

At age 65, lifelong activist Maggie Kuhn resolved to keep mature adults out of their rocking chairs. With a name that referenced African-American military and an agenda that embraced universal health care and affordable housing, the group she founded attracted supporters of all ages. In Gray Panthers (University of Pennsylvania Press), Roger Sanjek (Anthropology) tracks the evolution of Kuhn’s movement from 1970 to the present, citing its influence on everything from the elimination of mandatory retirement to the improved public image of the elderly. A participant as well as an observer, Sanjek was involved with the Panthers for three decades on both the east and west coasts; he completed the book as a 63-year-old, which gives the topic extra resonance for him and his audience.

The end of the Cold War improved the climate for academic researchers, who suddenly gained access to archives in the east bloc. Bach scholars are among the beneficiaries. Their recent discoveries include documents and an unknown vocal piece written by the Baroque master. The 10 essays in The Worlds of Johann Sebastian Bach: An Aston Magna Academy Book (Amadeus Press) draw on this new information to set the composer in his social, political, and cultural context. Raymond Erickson (Emeritus, Music), founder and director of Aston Magna and editor of Schubert’s Vienna, reprised his role in this handsomely illustrated companion volume and contributed the introduction, “The Legacies of J.S. Bach.”

An expert on both William James and modern dance, Gerald Myers (Philosophy) was a one-man interdisciplinary department, the intellectual equivalent of a crossover star. Myers left his native Nebraska to earn a bachelor’s degree at Haverford College and a master’s and doctorate at Brown University. He held positions at Smith College, Williams College, Kenyon College, and Long Island University before joining the faculty of QC in 1967, where he would work until 1992. He also taught at the CUNY Graduate Center, serving as acting executive officer of the philosophy PhD program for two years. His books include William James: His Life and Thought, which was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

The scholar’s interests took a turn toward dance after he married Martha Coleman, a Martha Graham alum who taught at the American Dance Festival. Myers put together educational events, wrote and edited dance books, and got behind the wheel of festival tour buses. Formalizing his role in 1990, the ADF appointed him philosopher-in-residence—the first person to hold that title long-term at any performing arts institution in the United States.

“I heard him give a talk to some theater people, and I couldn’t understand half of what he was saying, but I was impressed,” explained the organization’s co-director, Charles L. Reinhart. “I thought: ‘He could legitimize us. He could be our voice to the intellectual community.’” Myers’s reach was broader than that. Under his leadership, the ADF explored African American traditions in American modern dance, efforts that laid the groundwork for PBS’s Emmy Award-winning documentary, “Free to Dance.”

Welfare has been central to a number of significant political debates in modern America, including: What role should the government play in alleviating poverty? What does a government owe its citizens, and who is entitled to receive help? How have race and gender shaped economic opportunities and outcomes? How should Americans respond to increasing rates of single parenthood? With a comprehensive introduction and a well-chosen collection of primary documents, Premilla Nadasen (History) and co-authors Jennifer Mittelstadt (Penn State) and Marisa Chappell (Oregon State University) chronicle the major turning points in the history of the Aid to Families with Dependent Children program in Welfare in the United States: A History with Documents, 1935–1996 (Routledge). Illuminating policy debates, shifting demographics, institutional change, and the impact of social movements, this book serves as an essential guide to the history of the nation’s most controversial welfare program.

IN MEMORIAM: Gerald Myers, 1923–2009

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