Veteran New York Sportscaster Rose to Speak at 88th Commencement

For Howie Rose ’77, his invitation to speak at Queens College’s 2012 Commencement offers a chance to wrap up some unfinished business.

“Obviously, I look at this as a tremendous honor, but I’m also using this as a serendipitous opportunity to have the college graduation that I never had,” says the sportscaster. Known throughout the region as the radio voice of the New York Mets and the TV voice of the New York Islanders, Rose explains that he was a no-show for his own commencement ceremony because “I was already in the workforce by then.”

Freely admitting that the most important lessons he learned at QC were not in the classroom but at the campus radio station, Rose says when his mid-year graduation date rolled around, he had already landed a job in his chosen profession as the voice of Sportsphone, a pre-Internet, pre-all-sports radio service that the sports-addicted of the day could call to hear continuously updated recordings of the latest scores and sports news.

Sacrificing personal events for the sake of his profession has apparently been a frequent feature of Rose’s life. “I never had an actual honeymoon,” he remarks. “I’m kind of used to this. Speaking at commencement allows me the honor of addressing today’s graduates, and at the same time I feel like I’m finally enjoying my college graduation some 35 years later.”

While not encouraging missing personal events, his message to graduating students will advocate the kind of focus that propelled his career: “I want to impress upon these kids that, although they hear from every angle and from every quarter what a bad time it is to be graduating and trying to get into the workforce, my message to them is: Nonsense! Whether you want to be a broadcaster, a writer, an actor, or an accountant, just be the best you can be at whatever it is you want to do and opportunities will present themselves.”

Also at Commencement, Sara Miller McCune ’61 will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree for her accomplishments in the worlds of publishing and philanthropy.

Students will also hear from one of their own, Yakov Yakubov, who was selected to be this year’s student speaker. The ceremony will see a few changes from previous ceremonies. Wendy Lee (Events) and John Andrejack (Student Life) say they have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2
Justin Apperson works hard at what he does—whether it’s fighting war or studying. After serving four years as an infantry paratrooper, he returned home and enrolled in LaGuardia Community College, later transferring to Queens, where he has a stellar GPA of 3.85. He will graduate this spring with a double major in history and classics.

 Raised by a single mother in Las Vegas, Apperson joined the army in 2002 and did two tours of duty, in which he participated in daily combat patrols. He was stationed in Iraq's violent Anbar province in 2003-04, and then in Afghanistan in 2005-06. “It’s an experience I wouldn’t trade for anything,” he says. “I learned a lot of discipline and drive and confidence. It made me who I am, and I am proud of it.”

Today Apperson is a scholar who loves ancient history. He first read Homer’s Iliad when he was about 12. His love of the classic has not faded, even as he has gained a deeper understanding of the work. Today he spends long hours studying. “I find history fascinating so it’s not a hardship for me.”

As part of his studies, Apperson is learning to translate the literature of ancient Greece and Rome. He is also beginning to study two modern languages: French and German. In this he is helped by his fortuitous marriage to a woman from Switzerland, whose three official languages include those two plus Italian.

Classical Greek and Latin are “very challenging,” remarks Apperson. So much so, that in some ways mastering them feels a little like being in war. “I have experienced a similar type of heavy anxiety before taking important exams as I have before going on operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan,” he says.

Apperson will be applying to several graduate programs. His goal is to earn a PhD and teach history.

Mirela Cengher

Reaching Through Autism’s Barriers

In recent years, the focus of Mirela Cengher’s life has been working with children with autism. There is no cure for autism, but diagnosis and treatment have progressed greatly in the last few decades, and therapists—working often with approaches based on behavior modification—are able to make a real difference in the
ERICA LEONG

Finding the Music in Language Learning

Erica Leong already has plans for July 4, and they don’t include attending a picnic and watching fireworks. Instead, she’ll be flying that evening to South Korea, where she’ll spend the next year teaching English through the prestigious Fulbright Student Program. Her exact destination hasn’t been determined yet. “I’ll be assigned after six weeks of training in Goesan, Chuncheongbuk-do,” explains the Massapequa Park native, who to date hasn’t traveled farther than Canada.

A career in international education wasn’t part of her future when she matriculated at QC as a music ed major, a reason-able choice for someone who played piano and violin. She rethought her path largely in response to a required course. “Dictation made me miserable,” says Leong. Changing her major to English improved her mood, but left her in a quandary. “For a year, I had no idea what I was going to do—perhaps go into publishing,” she recalls. Then David Leventhal, her professor in BALA, encour-aged her to consider teaching English as a second language, an idea that held enor-mous appeal.

“At an info session for certification in TESOL [Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages], I met another Chinese-American woman who told me about AmeriCorps,” the national community service organization, Leong says. She got her TESOL certification in April 2011 and began teaching English to Chinese immigrants at a Chinatown YMCA through a program run by Pace University’s AmeriCorps

That program ended in December, but the YMCA picked it up and Leong con-tinued teaching. Interested in learning about other Asian cultures, she accepted an internship at South Asian Youth Action, a nonprofit in Elmhurst. She also took a semester of Korean at QC. Presumably, her varied background and commitment to ESL helped her stand out amid the thousands of Fulbright applicants. “Erica is extremely enthusiastic, hard-working, and responsible,” says Leventhal. “She will be a wonderful ambassador for QC.”

“I’m really excited, but a little scared about the language barrier,” admits Leong, who contends, somewhat surprisingly, that she isn’t good at languages—she’s less than fluent in Cantonese, her parents’ tongue. Nonetheless, her Korean skills are likely to improve: Under the terms of her Fulbright, she will stay with a host family wherever she’s assigned, so she’ll be immersed in the language and culture around the clock.

NELSON GIL

A Queens Immigrant Success Story

Four years ago when he was 16, Nelson Gil fled his native Dominican Republic along with his parents and infant sister. The family had led a comfortable life there—both parents were physicians running a private clinic—but when criminals started extorting money from them and they had no confi-dence the police could protect them, they decided to flee.

Language was not an issue for Gil, since he had graduated from a private English-language high school just before the family left. They settled in Corona, Queens, and Gil was accepted at Queens College. He entered an accelerated BA/MA pilot pro-gram in chemistry, and will graduate this spring with a 4.0 GPA.

Life has not been easy for the family; his mother, unable to practice medicine, has had to take on childcare jobs while caring for the family, while his father has gone through the arduous process of getting his American medical license. At times the family had to use food stamps to get by. Through it all, Gil has been an outstanding student.

“The most important thing is the support from my family,” he says. “Knowing [every evening] that you’re going back to a stable and united family makes me want to try harder for them.”

Gil has been accepted at three medical schools—Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Stony Brook, and Penn State—and will probably choose the first because of his familiarity with the research environ-ment and the opportuni-ties at Einstein, which he learned about when taking part in a summer research program at that school.

He would like to go into a research or aca-demic career in medicine. “There is a shortage of people with an Hispanic background in medical fields,” Gil says. “I’d like to be a role model.”
Plans for the College’s 75th Anniversary Taking Shape

When Queens College opened for classes in October 1937, the country was in the grips of the Great Depression and the Supreme Court had just ruled that the minimum wage law applied to women. This October the college will celebrate its 75th anniversary with the nation emerging from what many call the Great Recession and women generally enjoying better employment prospects than men.

Economic realities aside, the anniversary will be a festive occasion, assures Dale Nussbaum, Director of Special Events for the Office of Institutional Advancement, as she runs through a growing list of activities either planned or in the planning stages.

While the beginning of the celebration will coincide with Homecoming weekend, October 12-14, the actual kickoff took place May 1 at QC’s annual gala with the presentation of a promotional video.

Institutional Advancement has also begun doing fundraising, notes Assistant VP Laurie Dorf, including a special program spearheaded by her office’s David D’Amato: “We’re asking people to become Angel Investors, contributing money toward student support in honor of the anniversary. We have 75 Angel Investors and hope to reach a minimum of $1 million over the next few years. Alumni, faculty, and staff have supported this program.”

All of the college’s departments have been asked to contribute suggestions for the celebration. Some have offered new ideas, while others will recast events and performances they might normally be presenting with a 75th anniversary theme.

Academic departments also may try to incorporate aspects of the 75th anniversary into classes. “Social Sciences is exploring a program about the borough of Queens with a tie-in to Queens College,” Nussbaum says. “And some of the college’s centers are considering having reunions.”

There will also be a photo contest and exhibit in conjunction with Study Abroad, showing where QC students have studied around the world.

Among the new events, Nussbaum notes that Athletics will be staging its first awards dinner to salute QC alumni the Saturday of Homecoming weekend. “Also, at Homecoming the Library’s Archives Department will be presenting a 75th anniversary exhibit,” she says, adding that Ben Alexander (GSLIS) has proposed producing a “commemorative volume.”

“FNES will be presenting a fashion exhibit,” she continues, “and the students will be putting together a time capsule.”

For folks who would like to mark the time until QC’s 100th anniversary, Nussbaum notes that Institutional Advancement is working with BALA students who are collaborating with a former CEO of Tourneau to produce a 75th anniversary watch.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS - from page 3

HADAS FRUCHTER

A Passion for Justice

Hadas Fruchter is deeply involved in campus life, promoting Jewish social justice activities and dialogue between Jewish and Muslim students. Yet she says her biggest challenge has been figuring out where she fits in at Queens.

“I don’t quite fit in with the Queens College Orthodox community,” says Fruchter, who grew up in an Orthodox family but is sometimes reproached for a lack of loyalty to her faith group. Yet in progressive circles, “I’m often considered too conservative and ready to work within the system.”

Fruchter, whose friends and family know her by her nickname “Dasi,” is graduating with a double major of urban studies and media studies and a GPA of 3.98. She plans to do graduate work at NYU’s Wagner School of Public Service, where she has been awarded a Wexner Graduate Fellowship. She will do a dual master’s program in public policy and non-profit management, and Jewish studies.

Fruchter’s Orthodox Jewish identity is a central part of her life. But in the best Talmudic tradition, she has appropriated that heritage through questioning and reflection. After high school, she spent a year studying biblical and Talmudic texts at a Jewish seminary in Jerusalem. After returning home, enrolling at Queens, and studying for a year, she found the connection she was seeking between Judaism and social justice in Uri L’Tzedek, a NYC-based group founded by Orthodox rabbinical students, where she has been a compliance officer monitoring how kosher restaurants treat their workers.

Fruchter works with the college’s Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding. She also started a QC chapter of the organization Challah for Hunger, whose members sell the traditional holiday bread they have baked and donate the proceeds to global disaster relief.

When Fruchter is rebuked by a fellow student for raising money to help non-Jews, she takes out a sheet she carries for such occasions with excerpts from biblical and Talmudic texts on social justice. The scriptures are deeply concerned “with teaching us how to construct a just society,” she says. It is a concern Fruchter holds close to her heart.

Cultural Fabric

One of the last of QC’s Year of Turkey events, the exhibit Interwoven Worlds: Domestic and Nomadic Life in Turkey afforded visitors to Flushing Town Hall an opportunity to experience uniquely Turkic aesthetic elements in a variety of textiles and carpets, as well as ceramics, glassware, and metalware. The exhibit was organized by the Godwin-Ternbach Museum.
QC’s Winter Wander Lands

Studying abroad—where 370 Queens College students headed in 2011—expands the comfort zone to around the world. “Our goal is to teach students to be more independent and to become global citizens,” observes Mohamed Tabrani, acting director of QC’s Education Abroad office. Mindful that “a lot of our students want to go abroad, but can’t afford it,” the staff strives to keep costs low and to expand aid.

One third of QC’s 15 upcoming summer study abroad programs are new, including Bosnia/Herzegovina and Russia. A six-week, three-country offering focuses on conflict resolution in the Middle East and Northern Ireland. Two music options debut in Perugia and Florence, Italy. QC’s study abroad programs are open to CUNY undergraduates, and about 85 percent are available to graduate students. More internships and volunteer opportunities are being added into the mix.

During Winter Session, 130 QC students chose an international program. The six interviewed here were pioneers in three new offerings, enriched with field trips and cultural excursions.

Havana, Cuba: A year ago, the United States eliminated the requirement for a college or university to have a license for undergraduates to study in this Communist country 90 miles from Florida. This winter, when QC inaugurated “Cuba: A Literary Adventure,” Arielle Shimko, a senior majoring in Hebrew, signed up right away to fulfill a childhood dream. The only QC student among the inaugural six, she especially enjoyed Cuba’s small but vibrant Jewish community.

Muscat, Oman: Umussahar “Sahar” Khatri, a Macaulay Honors College senior whose family emigrated from Pakistan, was one of three QC students (plus a fourth from Baruch) who studied in this low-rise, modern capital. She was surprised by the beautiful beaches, lush greenery, and almost-10,000-foot peaks. The secondary school mathematics major was glad that the group’s language immersion classes at the World Learning Oman Center offered “a really great experience being forced to speak Arabic.”

“Oman opened up my mind,” sums up Daniel Kong, a junior psychology major who grew up in Argentina and is of Korean heritage. “The trip itself was a huge epiphany. I thought I already understood how the world worked, but it was like, wow, there’s so much more to learn, to explore! It was almost magical—that’s the best description.”

Cape Town, South Africa: The 12 CUNY students (eight from QC) could choose between two tracks. Racheli Werberger, a junior neuroscience major in the Macaulay Honors College, learned about Cape Town’s baboon problem during the “Human Primate Interface” course taught by Larissa Swedell (Anthropology). Werberger considered the program so well-organized “that it seemed like it had been going for a long time.”

Mike Strianese, a sophomore English major, and Stephanie Jean-Baptiste, a senior sociology major, delved into “Memoirs of Life in South Africa,” taught by Jason Tougaw (English). With only six students, “It demanded more of you,” she observes.

When not engaged in studies, Study Abroad students who traveled to Muscat, Oman, had opportunities for an excursion to Wabi Shab and to shop at the Muttrah Souk.

The course included opportunities to talk with South Africans who had experienced apartheid. A Haitian native, Jean-Baptiste in her final project wrote about how the perception of racial identity “can shift significantly, depending on where you are geographically.”

Strianese finds it hard to believe that “People make such crazy judgments on something as uncontrollable as skin color.” Post-apartheid, South Africans “are doing a great job in regards to moving on,” he noticed. “If you look for it, you’ll find the leftover marks, but if you just go down there and open yourself up, you’ll find the people have already transcended it.”

Each of the six shares Jean-Baptiste’s new goal: “Now I have to see the world.”
First Graduating Class for Queens School of Inquiry

On June 25, the Queens School of Inquiry (QSI) will hold its first commencement at this partnership school a mile from campus. Of the 62 students who are expected to graduate (out of a possible 65), 80 percent have been accepted into college and plan to attend. About 30 have enrolled at Queens College as transfer students, thanks to the college credits they earned in high school. With its small classes, devoted attention, and intensive support, QSI guides students in earning up to 60 credits tuition-free through QC.

Two clues to the success of this early college secondary school can be found in its name: “Inquiry” and “Queens.” Students in grades 6 through 12 are expected to ask probing questions and then creatively pursue the answers, and research and participation by Queens College faculty infuses the curriculum.

QSI was born of an innovative alliance among New York City’s Department of Education, CUNY’s Early College Initiative, QC, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Since opening six years ago with a 6th grade class, this school at 76th Road in Flushing has been adding a grade a year. President James Muyskens will speak at its commencement—coming full circle from when he addressed QSI’s first assembly.

“The college is so supportive!” observes Meredith Inbal, QSI’s principal. “We have won major projects that have come out of our partnership with the college that involve faculty research.” One is the Career Institute, a career and college readiness program integrated not just into academics but throughout students’ daily activities. The other is TIME 2000, QC’s writing-intense math teaching initiative for undergraduates.

Inbal came to QSI as one of its original teachers; in fall 2010 she succeeded founding principal Elizabeth Ophals ’83. Inbal is pleased to say “We’ve pulled so many of our faculty from QC.” Learning to thrive in a college environment broadens vistas for QSI’s students. “A significant group of them are actually pursuing education as their career,” she says, including in the critical areas of math and special ed.

Notes Education Dean Fran Peterman, “This is a partnership that really exemplifies the best in the ways that we create schools where children learn and our teacher candidates learn how to teach from the best teachers in the country!”

She and former QC colleague Mary Beth Schaefer were instrumental in developing the Career Institute and still consult on its lesson plans.

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Richardson Wins Curie Fellowship

From the advent of Islam in the 7th century, people with blue or green eyes—a rarity among Muslims—were considered unattractive, cursed, or evil. By the 10th century, blue eyes came to be associated with blindness and the supernatural—a physical defect that led to discrimination.

Although negative representations of blue and green eyes have appeared throughout Islamic art, literature, and theology, the significance of this medieval Islamic phenomenon has never been studied. Kristina Richardson (History) will seek to fill this gap when she moves to Germany this summer for a two-year research project at the University of Muenster’s Institute for Islamic and Arabic Studies. While enjoying access to the institute’s extensive library, Richardson will “be geographically well situated” to take advantage of leading university libraries and archives in Berlin and Leiden, The Netherlands.

Richardson’s research, which she plans to expand into a book, will be funded through a Marie Curie Fellowship administered by the Gerda Henkel Foundation, an organization dedicated to academic research. Launched last year with financing from the foundation and the European Union, the Curie fellowship supports work in the historical humanities, particularly in the fields of history, art history, archaeology, and Islamic studies. International scholars submitted 225 proposals for the 2012-2014 cycle; of the 38 that won fellowships, only three were from American applicants.

Fluent in classical Arabic, French, and English and proficient in Persian and modern standard Arabic, Richardson is an expert on medieval Islamic history and Arabic literature. She earned her PhD and master’s degrees in Near Eastern Studies from the University of Michigan and her bachelor’s in history from Princeton University. Her first book, Difference and Disability in the Medieval Islamic World: Blighted Bodies, to be published this July by Edinburgh/Columbia University Press, investigates a generational chain of six male Sunni scholars linked by friendship and academic mentorship in Cairo, Damascus, and Mecca. They produced writings about bodies marked by “blights”—a category that included individuals who were cognitively and physically different, disabled, or ill. Richardson’s study of Islamic attitudes toward eye color is a direct outgrowth of this book.

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College’s Faculty Team Up With CUNY to Help Haiti

“After the earthquake, Line Augustin Saint-Hilaire (EECE) contacted Haitian-American faculty members to see what could be done to help rebuild higher education,” recalls François Pierre-Louis (Political Science), who was eager to get involved. So was CUNY. Under the leadership of William Ebenstein, University Dean for Health and Human Services, CUNY is helping to reconstruct and improve public universities in Haiti in accordance with a paper drafted by Pierre-Louis, a Cap-Haitien-born scholar who worked in the cabinets of President Jean Bertrand Aristide and Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis.

Based on extensive discussions with the country’s officials and educators, his plan applies the community college model to three emerging regional institutions—Public University in the South in Les Cayes (UPSAC), the Public University in the North at Cap-Haitien (UPNCH) and the Public University in Artibonite at Gonaïves (UPAG). At these schools, CUNY is collaborating on programs designed to encourage rapid workforce development: community health/nursing; tourism and hospitality management; environmental sciences; teacher education; and construction management/engineering. The academic mix includes liberal arts and sciences coursework as well as ESL classes taught by visiting CUNY professors.

Although the Haitian universities have a common vision, their distinct identities were intentionally reinforced last summer, when CUNY faculty fanned out to different campuses. UPNCH was the site of a three-week institute in hospitality management. Two-week institutes in nursing and teaching English were held at UPAG and UPSAC, respectively. UPSAC also offered a seminar in social science research methodology, while UPNCH presented a seminar in local governance and decentralization, taught by Pierre-Louis. In the fall, CUNY introduced the Kennedy Fellowship, an annual program that provides a $500 stipend and mentorship to 18 Haitian students, six from each regional school.

In January, UPNCH launched an associate’s degree program in tourism and hospitality. And just last month, faculty from six CUNY schools flew to Haiti to explore future possibilities. Among the delegation were SEES’s Allan Ludman and Peter Schmidt, who went to UPSAC to discuss environmental science and the GLOBE program, relying on Pierre-Louis as a translator.

“After seeing firsthand the remarkable team that François Pierre-Louis and UPSAC President Yves Voltaire assembled, I realized that our Queens College GLOBE Program partnership can make immediate and significant impacts on K-12 education in Les Cayes, creating a template for the rest of the country,” says Ludman. “In addition, in partnership with UPSAC, the Platform Ecologie (an effective local environmental activist group), and Heifer International, we can create a university-community relationship that exemplifies the Queens College motto: We learn in order that we might serve.”

While Ludman was making his presentation, other CUNY faculty members were working to prepare summer programs at UPSAC, UPNCH, UPAG, and a new public university in Jacmel. “This is the first time that public universities in Haiti have received so much support and attention from a university,” reports Pierre-Louis. “This collaboration is unique because many of the faculty members are Haitian-Americans who want to give back to their country with the support of CUNY. Moreover, the support is comprehensive, encompassing everything that a university needs to improve its capacity to serve students and the community.”
Loosely Translated

Getting published for the first time is a struggle for many translators. But Anne Posten—a student in QC’s Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing and Literary Translation—already has a book in print, a year before she receives her degree. She’s the inaugural winner of the Loose Translation Series, an annual publication award co-sponsored by Hanging Loose Press and the QC MFA program.

Open to Queens MFA students or alums, the series encourages literary and cultural exchange by publishing innovative work from around the world. “Our MFA program is producing students and graduates whose work often comes from languages and literary traditions quite dissimilar from our own,” says poet and MFA faculty member Kimiko Hahn (English). “We believe that their translations deserve to be in print. The goal of this new partnership is to publish work that emphasizes the importance of something that often really does get ‘lost in translation’: the world’s diversity of cultures and the people who create and foster them.”

Posten took the prize with her original translation of Der Schöne Ort (This Beautiful Place), a recent novella by acclaimed German playwright Tankred Dorst, best known for his plays influenced by the Theatre of the Absurd. Posten was captivated by the book as an undergraduate German major at Oberlin College. “I read it and instantly fell in love,” says the Astoria resident. On entering the MFA program, she knew that translating it would be a major creative project for her.

“The book has been a pleasure and a challenge to translate, and I am thrilled to be the first winner of this prize,” says Posten, who met Dorst, still vital at 87, and his life partner Ursula Ehler in Munich in January. “Since my first reading of This Beautiful Place, I have believed that Dorst’s work needs to be shared with the English-speaking world.”

Hanging Loose Press takes its name from its initial offering, a literary journal printed on loose pages for 25 issues and thereafter released in a bound format. As a book publisher, the company takes enormous pride in the fact that all its titles remain in print. Hanging Loose has published the poetry and fiction of such notable writers as Ha Jin (a recent participant in QC Evening Readings series), Sherman Alexie, Jayne Cortez, Chuck Wachtel, D. Nurkse, and Maggie Nelson. The English-language edition of This Beautiful Place was released in April.

A/AC Offering Summer Institute

High school students thinking about enrolling at QC will experience some of Queens’s most interesting ethnic neighborhoods when the Asian/American Center (A/AC) hosts its Summer Leadership Institute July 9-13.

A nonresidential program adapted from previous offerings for students already in college, the institute will examine issues in Asian American communities and enhance participants’ critical thinking and problem-solving skills; QC upperclassmen will be on hand to serve as mentors. Students will also learn about QC’s new minor in Asian American Community Studies, developed with funding from the U.S. Department of Education.

“This AACS minor, with many new course offerings in various departments on Asian American and other communities of Queens, is intended to enrich different majors with learning about the cultural diversity of our local/global communities,” says Madhulika Khandelwal, director of A/AC. “We would like incoming students of Queens College to hear about this opportunity as they enter college.”

Meanwhile, A/AC is getting ready to publish several white papers on vital local topics, from urban planning to redistricting, and working papers written by faculty as well as past and present students. The papers will be printed and posted on the center’s website, qc.cuny.edu/AAC.
Women’s History Month Conference Focuses on Reproductive Justice

Experts from a range of disciplines and backgrounds explored the many facets of reproductive justice when this year’s Virginia Frese Palmer Women’s Studies Conference addressed the subject on March 19. After brief remarks by Provost James Stellar, who recounted his mother’s lifelong regrets at being forced to give up her job, Carol Giardina (History) introduced the day’s topic and panelists. “It’s thrilling and galvanizing to stand on stage with these women, who are on the frontlines battling the war on women,” said Giardina, who worked with Joyce Warren (Women’s Studies) to organize the event.

The first speaker, filmmaker Faith Pennick, showed clips from Silent Choices, her documentary about abortion and related matters in the black community. “I wanted to make sure that black women were front and center about how these issues affect us,” commented Pennick, who noted later that “having extra melanin doesn’t preclude me from having a uterus.” Next, City College Professor Iris Lopez (Latin American and Latino Studies) talked about her longitudinal and multigenerational study of Puerto Rican women on the island and in New York. Because of such factors as poverty and lack of access to birth control—as well as practices rooted in eugenics and fears of overpopulation in Puerto Rico—disproportionate numbers of Puerto Rican women have been surgically sterilized; some assumed that the procedure would reverse itself naturally.

Continuing the discussion, Eileen Geil Moran, a long-term board member of the advocacy group Catholics for Choice and former research associate at the Michael Harrington Center, analyzed the political battle over mandating birth control coverage in health insurance plans provided by employers. “An institution does not have a conscience,” said Moran. “Good public policy in a pluralistic society is one in which one religion’s beliefs do not dominate.”

Attorney Lynn Paltrow, founder of National Advocates for Pregnant Women, explained that reproductive justice encompasses much more than access to contraceptives and abortion. She cited numerous cases in which pregnant women who used drugs, attempted suicide, or refused Caesarian delivery were charged with crimes.

Synthesizing points made by preceding panelists, Loretta Ross, co-founder of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, called attention to the role of white supremacy in reproductive politics and decried the school-to-prison pipeline for people of color. “What would the failure of the war on women look like?” she asked, describing it as worse than the war on drugs. Agreeing that “racism is a structural problem,” historian Rickie Solinger showed how the notion of individual choice hides factors that affect people’s lives, turning “bad” choice-makers into culprits. In case in point: A poor woman who “chooses” to have an abortion because she and her husband cannot afford to have another child does not have the same “choice” as a wealthy woman, for whom money is not a consideration.

The last panelist, Karen Weingarten (English), tracked the depiction of abortion through fiction and film. Unplanned pregnancies are major elements in the novels Strange Fruit and Revolutionary Road, the cinematic version of Revolutionary Road, and the hit movies Juno and Knocked Up. In popular culture, as in real life, the abortion debate “is still about race and eugenics, class, and notions of responsibility,” Weingarten concluded.

Pyong Gap Min Launches Korean American Data Bank

With the launch February 15 of the web-based Korean American Data Bank (koreanamericandatabank.org), Pyong Gap Min (Sociology) has engaged the power of the Internet to broaden accessibility to the growing resources offered by the Center for Korean American Community he founded at the college three years ago.

With the simple click on a Korean or American flag icon, viewers can see the site’s contents in either Korean or English. Min expects the Data Bank to become a significant resource for social service agencies and other Korean community organizations—as well as for scholars, journalists, government officials in both Korea and the U.S., and anyone else with an interest in the Korean American experience. But the audience he is most enthused about reaching is people living in Korea. “Many people there are interested in data about Korean Americans,” he notes.

The site offers statistical reports, a reference section, and unpublished and published articles and book chapters about Korean Americans and other overseas Korean populations. A section devoted to qualitative data offers what Min describes as “more humanistic aspects of Korean American and other overseas Korean experiences,” including oral histories, audio-visual tapes of old-time Korean immigrants, and personal narratives on ethnic and racial identities among younger-generation Korean Americans.

Visitors will find six of 12 essays written by Korean-American young adults exploring their racial and ethnic identities. Originally presented last year at the center’s annual conference, their inclusion illustrates

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
New Path for Foreign Students To Earn Their College Degree

Without a good command of English, international students cannot pursue a college education in the United States. QC/ELI Path—an alternative admissions process involving the English Language Institute—provides talented foreign candidates with a route to a degree.

Launched just two months ago, QC/ELI Path offers provisional acceptance to undergraduate transfers and graduate students who meet all academic requirements other than English skills. Before they can matriculate as full-time students, they must pass the equivalent of ELI’s Level 6 or get the minimum TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score demanded by their particular program.

The new QC/ELI initiative may literally smooth the road for some applicants: Students from certain countries are more likely to receive an American visa if they are enrolled in a degree program, as opposed to just English classes. QC will also benefit from this arrangement, observes Donna Gruber, executive director of the ELI. “These students bring a rich, international perspective to the Queens College campus, whose student body is one of America’s most diverse,” says Gruber, who spent half a year on QC/ELI Path-building. “By engaging in dialog with one another, all of the students enhance their global awareness—a necessity in today’s globally connected job market.”

Professor Gives Bach to School Children

Maxine Fisher wears many hats at Queens College. She’s an English literature professor and the director of the NY/Paris Exchange Program. But perhaps the hat she loves best is that of creator of the “Bach to School” program that brings free classical music concerts to elementary and secondary schools in Queens.

Fisher, who feels that music education is not enough of a priority in schools, devotes hours of her own time preparing for these concerts. She makes the classical pieces fun and easy to understand. Her payback comes when an audience of young children—“most of whom have never heard a classical piece”—raise their hands excitedly as they recognize a recurring melody or what sounds like two instruments “speaking to each other.” A true labor of love.

Fisher, who grew up in Maspeth, fell in love with classical music at an early age. She recalls her mother playing old opera recordings at home and taking her by bus and subway in the heat of summer to free classical concerts in Manhattan before she even started school. “It’s a taste you acquire very young in life,” she says.

Bach to School’s inaugural performance was held for first through eighth graders last December at St. Stanislaus School in Maspeth, and featured a pianist and a Juilliard-trained violinist who is studying for a master’s degree in music at QC. Fisher raised money to pay the musicians with help from Copland School Director Edward Smaldone.

Thanks to a $1,500 grant from the QC Foundation, Fisher is organizing five free concerts this spring at different public schools with musicians from ACSM.

Maxine Fisher (center) and QC musicians participating in her “Bach to School” program: (l to r) John Kelly, Ryan Oberlin, Anthony Izzo, and Thomas Lee.
Scholar-Athlete Records Win in Neuroscience

Last fall, after two seasons competing in breaststroke on the swim team, Kobi Wasner added 1-meter diving to his repertoire. Like two other members of the team, he was also diving into research in the lab of Carolyn Pytte (Psychology). That work paid off at Hunter College on April 1, when he won the Suzannah Bliss Tieman Research Award at the 22nd conference held by N.E.U.R.O.N. (the Northeast Undergraduate Research Organization for Neuroscience). Wasner was recognized for the poster he presented on lateralization in the caudomedial nidopallium, or NCM, the auditory area in the songbird’s brain that learns and stores vocalizations. (The NCM is thought to be analogous to Werneke’s area, the lateralized speech-specific brain region in humans; in right-handed people, it’s on the left hemisphere.)

In collaboration with fellow QC swimmer Sissi Palma Ribeiro, Wasner studied the NCM in adult zebra finches. They discovered that with exposure to normal vocalizations, a zebra finch forms more new neurons, or nerve cells, in the left hemisphere NCM than in the comparable NCM on the right side of the bird’s brain. But if the finch gets experimentally altered feedback of its own singing, neuron growth is greater on the right side—evidence that nerve cells can be recruited to one hemisphere over the other, and that regions found in both hemispheres of the brain may function differently.

A double major in psychology and neuroscience/biology, Wasner began working in Pytte’s lab in April 2011. “It’s a group project and we all collaborate,” he explains. “My specialty is work on the microscope.” As in swimming, practice matters. Ten days before his appearance at the N.E.U.R.O.N. conference, Wasner made the same presentation at the undergraduate conference held by the QC chapter of Sigma Xi, the scientific research society. Still shocked and delighted by his win, he considers it an achievement for everyone in Pytte’s lab. “It’s our first award for a poster,” says Wasner, who has recently been accepted to the master’s program for behavioral neuroscience at QC.
Mellon Fellowship to Support Erickson’s Research on Bach and the Jews

Raymond Erickson (Music) continues to accumulate academic distinctions in his retirement. He recently received an Emeritus Professor Research Fellowship from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The fellowship will support Erickson’s study of attitudes toward Jews in Leipzig during the era of Johann Sebastian Bach, who lived there from 1723 until his death 27 years later.

Like so many projects, this one was inspired by an accidental discovery. While preparing a lecture on the St. John Passion, which Bach wrote in 1724, Erickson read about a fascinating Gutachten, or learned opinion, issued a decade earlier by the theological faculty of Leipzig University. Ordered to assess the validity of blood libel—the accusation that Jews kill Christian children to use their blood for ritual purposes—the authors systematically disproved the charge. Issued by prominent Lutheran scholars at the behest of the king of Poland (a Catholic convert whose territory included Saxony, in what is now East Germany), the Gutachten represents a surprising degree of religious tolerance in a time and place not noted for it. The document also creates a context for Bach’s oratorio passions, which, unlike choral compositions by his contemporaries in other German cities, eschew anti-Semitic language.

“Bach comes out OK,” says Erickson, who has already transcribed and translated a copy of the Gutachten he found in the Saxon State Archives in Dresden. This fall he will travel to Europe to look for the original, identify and explicate some of its sources, and delve into related issues. His neutrality equips him for a project that ventures into sensitive topics. “I’m not German, Lutheran, or Jewish,” he says with a laugh.

IN MEMORIAM

E. L. Epstein

Edmund L. Epstein (English) died April 1 from complications of multiple myeloma. He received his BA from Queens College in 1951, his MA from Yale University in 1953, and his PhD from Columbia University in 1967. Before turning to teaching, he had a distinguished career in publishing at Putnam’s (1957-63) and Farrar, Straus & Giroux (1963-65). His decision in 1959 to print in paperback a little regarded book, Lord of the Flies by William Golding, led to that novel’s extraordinary popularity. He then taught for 10 years at Southern Illinois University before joining QC’s English Department in 1974. From 1981 to 2012, he also taught at the CUNY Graduate Center. Epstein’s two academic passions were the study of the English language and James Joyce. Among his works are Language and Style, The Ordeal of Stephen Dedalus, and A Guide Through Finnegans Wake. A calm, intelligent, and humane presence in the English Department for over 35 years, Eddie Epstein will be missed by students and colleagues alike.

Talking Turkey

Talât S. Halman from Bilkent University (top), Jaklin Kornfilt from Syracuse University (left), and William B. F. Ryan of Columbia University were among the scholars who gave lectures as part of the college’s Year of Turkey.
Bio Major Bound for Summer Research at Boston U.

The latest success story for QC’s MARC U-STAR program is biology major Johnny Groeling, who has received a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship from Boston University. A junior, Groeling is one of fewer than 20 undergraduates nationwide who will participate in this 10-week program, working with a faculty researcher in a BU lab.

“I’m hoping that when I go to Boston I get to work on something similar to what I’m doing now, but different enough so that I have a more diverse experience,” says Groeling, who is currently doing research in the lab of Zahra Zakeri (Biology).

Zakeri is the founder and director of QC’s MARC U-STAR (Minority Access to Research Careers/Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research) program. She has reason to be proud of the success that her chapter of this National Institutes of Health-funded program has had in directing under-represented minority students toward graduate school and careers in biomedical research.

“This makes the third or fourth of our students to be accepted to the Boston program,” says Zakeri. “They are really happy with our students because they’re very good; two of our students have been accepted to their PhD program.” MARC U-STAR members have also won places in summer research programs at Yale Medical School, Tufts University, Rockefeller University, and Columbia University.

MARC U-STAR members work in the labs of QC faculty members. Groeling’s interest in biomedical research logically directed him to Zakeri, who has devoted her career to better understanding the mechanisms of cell death. In her lab Groeling has been researching the Modoc virus, which Zakeri explains is “a mouse homolog virus.” Consequently, mice are an ideal vehicle for experiments that may have important application for the disease in humans.

Groeling’s experiments attempt to determine how the virus manipulates the cell’s energy supply, its mitochondria, explains Zakeri. “He’s trying to look at what is going on with the affected cell’s mitochondria; he’s already seeing that there are differences.”

It’s these discoveries that fuel Groeling’s enthusiasm for his research in Zakeri’s lab. Along with the many new things he’s learned, he says he most appreciates the opportunity to “find new things that no one has seen before.”

Poetic Justice?
Maria Terrone to Join Her Muse

Maria Terrone, Assistant Vice President for Communications since 2003, will retire on June 22 after 22 years at CUNY. President James Muyskens and VP Sue Henderson made the announcement, pointing out that under Maria’s leadership, Queens College has become more visible nationally, with major stories about QC’s people and programs appearing in such national media as the New York Times and major broadcast networks. Maria oversaw the evolution of Queens, the college’s alumni magazine, into a high-quality publication prized by its 90,000+ readers. She is also responsible for the launch of FYI as an online publication.

“I feel extraordinarily fortunate to have worked at this wonderful college, where I’ve been given many opportunities to grow while doing what I love,” Maria says. “I am profoundly grateful to the support I received from Jim Muyskens, Sue Henderson, and my talented staff, whom I will miss along with so many colleagues.”

After June 22, Maria will be devoting more time to her poetic and other literary pursuits, while keeping her hand in the communications field. We all wish her the best.

Chow Line for Philly
As part of its commitment to service learning, QC’s Student Life office organized a January trip to Philadelphia, in which four students and two administrators volunteered to help Philabundance, an organization that packs and distributes food for those in need in the greater Philadelphia/Delaware River region. Taking a breather from packing are (l to r) Matthew Rivera, Judy Krinitz (Student Life), Charmaine Browne, Rachel Stern, Warleny Colon, and Emanuel Avila (Student Life).
Cross-Cultural Conversations, Cafeteria-Style

Lunch hour at the QC cafeteria has changed. It is still a meeting place for students to relax, socialize, and eat lunch with friends. But instead of hanging out with friends of the same ethnic or religious backgrounds, some students are having lunch with others whose perspectives, values, and philosophies may be contrary to their own.

These students are participating in Lunchtime 2.0., a new initiative supported by the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding (CERRU), which is generating a lot of excitement among students. (Just as Web 2.0 seeks to increase interconnectedness between people in cyberspace, Lunchtime 2.0 aims to do the same in physical space). Directed by Mark Rosenblum (History), CERRU (qccenterforunderstanding.org) was established to combat intolerance, overcome stereotypes, and promote understanding among groups with historic conflicts. Its goal is to “Change Our Community, One Conversation at a Time.”

Every Thursday during free hour in the student cafeteria of the Dining Hall, students are invited to spend 40 minutes over lunch conversing about meaningful issues with people they have never met before. Word about the project has been spread through Facebook, Twitter, and CERRU mailing lists. A large Lunchtime 2.0 banner and prominent placement next to the Louis Armstrong photo at the front of the cafeteria have also attracted curious students.

“It’s a way of bringing students from different backgrounds together in a casual environment to talk about their values, concerns, and hopes for the future,” says Steven Appel, assistant director and co-founder of CERRU, who conceived of Lunchtime 2.0 and worked for a year to implement it. “The goal is to develop empathy and cross-cultural understanding between groups who are often invisible to one another.”

At these Thursday lunches, each participant is randomly paired and given the same questions to answer while his/her “partner” takes notes on cards. Then they switch roles. Questions include: What are your most important values? What makes you feel guilty and why? What would you like to see happen in this country in the next 50 years? The cards are collected and the comments anonymously posted on Lunchtime 2.0’s Facebook page. Some students become so engaged they find it difficult to end their conversations.

Naaila Hassan, a Pakistani Muslim majoring in political science, is a case in point. During one of these lunch sessions, Hassan spent 45 minutes talking to Abisooop Dutta, a CERRU facilitator from India who is studying for a master’s degree in history, about their divergent perspectives on the 1947 partition of India. It turned out to be the beginning of a good friendship.

“Programs like this—especially in an environment as diverse as Queens College—are great in dispelling stereotypes about people and encouraging cross-cultural conversations,” says Hassan.

Appel feels this student-driven concept, which can easily be replicated, has potential beyond QC. If the program continues to grow, he plans to create a short manual for use by other colleges, high schools, and businesses.

“We shouldn’t underestimate the positive social transformations of these interpersonal experiences on our students . . . and on our country,” says Appel.
Panels Discuss Pressing Issues During Immigrant Heritage Week

QC observed Immigrant Heritage Week by hosting two panel discussions on Wednesday, April 18. Democracy for All: The History and Revival of Immigrant Voting Rights, held in the President’s Conference Room during free hour, began with remarks by Dean Betsy Hendrey (Social Sciences)—who mentioned the college’s plan to open a Center on Immigration Studies at QC this fall—and Anahí Viladrich (QC Immigration Studies Working Group), who will serve as director of that center.

Next, political scientist Ron Hayduk, future associate director of the Center on Immigration Studies at QC, and Dennis Redmond, chief strategy officer of the Queens Community House, talked about the U.S.’s little-known history of immigrant suffrage. Forty states and federal territories allowed noncitizens to vote in local, state, and national elections until the 1920s, when the rise of nativism ended this practice; unnaturalized individuals also held such offices as alderman, coroner, and school board member. Letting non-citizens vote and hold office now, the speakers argued, would promote civic education and citizenship and bring immigrants into our political system. “Noncitizen voting is the suffrage movement of our time,” declared Hayduk.

Leading the charge, New York City and Chicago have restored the right of noncitizens to vote in school board elections, a move that affirmed parents’ stake in the education of their children. The city is poised to make history again: A bill that would allow legal immigrants to vote in local elections has 22 of the 26 co-sponsors it needs to pass the City Council.

Democracy for All was sponsored by the QC Immigration Studies Working Group; the QC Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding; the Latin American and Latino Studies Program; and the Division of Social Sciences.

The dialogue continued at 6:30 pm in Room 230 of the Rosenthal Library with Dreams, Realities, and Future Scenarios: A Discussion about Immigration Policy on a Local, State, and Federal Level. Opening the session, President James Muykskens noted the importance of sustaining hope in the drive for changes in immigration law. Then Provost James Stellar read a letter, endorsed by the QC administration, in support of the New York DREAM Act. Daniel Dromm, a New York City Council member representing Queens’s District 25, gave the keynote, highlighting the successes and challenges involved in comprehensive immigration reform. Alexandra Ruiz, president and executive director of the nonprofit organization Immigration Advocacy Matters, followed up by screening a short video about the plight of undocumented farm workers in upstate New York, where they fear the police as well as the immigration officers.

Reprising his afternoon duty, Hayduk returned to the microphone as moderator for a diverse lineup. In addition to Dromm, panelists included Rocío Cruz, from the office of Assembly Member Guillermo Linares; Andrea Quarantillo, from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services; and Thomas J. Shea, from the New York Immigration Coalition. The session concluded, the panelists fielded questions about current laws and immigration reform.

Dreams, Realities and Future Scenarios was sponsored by the Office of the Provost, Immigration Advocacy Matters, and the four QC groups that also sponsored the afternoon’s panel discussion.

One for the History Books

The retirement of Frank Warren (History) is a momentous occasion: He’s been a faculty member for 50 years.

Ironically, his lengthy career came about by chance. “I didn’t know what I wanted to do,” admits Warren, who had majored in English at Rutgers and gotten married—to another future QC professor, Joyce Warren (Women’s Studies)—by the end of his senior year. So he hedged his bets, applying to graduate programs in English at Columbia, social work at Rutgers, humanities at Chicago, and American studies at Brown. The only school that gave him money was Brown, where American studies had two tracks, English and history.

Opting for the latter, Warren focused on the intellectual and political history of the 1930s and, after completing his PhD, came to QC in 1962 through the referral of a colleague. “An old boy network operated then,” he observes. “I knew one guy from Brown who was at Queens. I’ve been here ever since. I had opportunities elsewhere, but I was happy here.”

During his tenure, Warren saw QC evolve from a white, middle-class enclave to a much more heterogeneous institution. “It’s a remarkable student body,” he says.

“In some ways, it’s more interesting, with all the diversity.” The varied classroom population, he notes, has changed discussions in positive ways.

Author of three books and editor of a fourth, Warren has no projects underway and expects to come back to campus as an emeritus to do what he enjoys—teach. He’s particularly delighted by the success of individuals who had to struggle academically, often because they come from families and neighborhoods where no one had gone to college. “You feel great for these students,” he concludes.
Croll Named Among Princeton Review’s Best 300 Professors

Susan D. Croll (Psychology) has been named among the top college and university professors in the nation in The Princeton Review’s recently released debut book, The Best 300 Professors. The group constitutes less than .02% of the roughly 1.8 million post-secondary teachers instructing students at colleges and universities across the U.S. Croll taught at the college for three years as a graduate student before joining the full-time faculty in 2001.

“Susan well deserves this national distinction,” says Dean Larry Liebovitch (Mathematics and Natural Sciences). “Her dedication and ability to connect with students are among the many qualities that have made her an extraordinary educator.”

Croll is currently on academic leave, developing education programs at a biotech company in Tarrytown, NY, work that will enhance her background and experience in the industry and serve her psychopharmacology students well. “I’m looking forward to teaching again,” says Croll. “I just love Queens College!”

*The Best 300 Professors* was developed in collaboration with RateMyProfessors.com, the highest-trafficked college professor ratings site in the United States. It uses qualitative and quantitative data collected from students at thousands of colleges and universities across the nation. The book’s impressive roster of top teachers features professors in more than 60 fields, ranging from accounting to neuroscience to sports management. They hail from 122 colleges and universities across the nation. A complete list of the professors is accessible at www.princetonreview.com/best-professors.aspx.

Croll’s write-up in the book includes comments from some of her students who commend her method of teaching, which uses examples drawn from everyday life, humor, and controversy to maintain interest. “Scientists need to perfect the art of cloning,” says one. “This way they can clone Professor Croll so she can teach every class at every learning institution on earth.”

Evil Eyeful

Attempts to ward off the curse of the evil eye have led to a proliferation of talismans around the Mediterranean, especially in Turkey. Contemporary artists explore the Turkish evil eye and find commonality within their own culture in *Amulets, Nazars & Evil Eyes: Artists Looking Forward*. Presented as part of Queens College’s Year of Turkey, the exhibition is on view at the QC Art Center through June 29.

The Knight Stuff

Junior Sara Bourcher (at left, above) currently leads NCAA Division II in draw control per game and has helped the three-year-old women’s lacrosse program to its first national ranking. Junior Carla Pennolino and the Knights softball team have qualified for the four-team East Coast Conference Championships for the first time in three seasons. The Knights women’s tennis team, including senior Taylor Barber, currently holds the number one ranking in NCAA Division II and ranks 28th nationally. Led by senior All-American Attila Toth, the men’s tennis team is ranked 24th nationally in the Campbell’s/Intercollegiate Tennis Association NCAA Division II Poll.

Photos courtesy of Brian Ballweg
QC People

Enterprise Toronto, Canada’s largest municipal website and the forum for a public/private partnership aimed at supporting entrepreneurs, posted two articles in March by HAROLD GELLIS (Accounting) concerning global economic practices . . . ANTONIO HART (ACSM) joined a concert program of world-class musicians such as Herbie Hancock and Dee Dee Bridgewater, on April 27 at UNESCO headquarters in Paris to launch festivities in honor of the first International Jazz Day on April 30. A collaboration between UNESCO and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, the day is intended to bridge cultural and racial differences, foster jazz education among disadvantaged children, and “recognize jazz music as a universal language of freedom” . . . JUDITH KIMERLING (Political Science) was an invited speaker at two law conferences, where she discussed the lawsuit she brought on behalf of indigenous peoples against Chevron for oil pollution in the Amazon rain forest in Ecuador. On March 16 she gave a plenary talk about it at the University of Colorado School of Law in Boulder, at a conference sponsored by the Colorado Journal of International Environmental Law and Policy. She also spoke on a panel held March 30 at the 106th annual meeting of the American Society of International Law, held in Washington, DC. Kimerling brought two Huaorani (one of the indigenous peoples) to QC and the United Nations this month . . . The American Library Association has given the Queens Memory Project, directed by NATALIE MILBRODT (QC Libraries), its 2012 Outstanding Collaboration Citation Award. The project, a cooperative venture of the Queens College Libraries’ Department of Special Collections and Archives and the Archives at Queens Library, is considered “likely to become an industry standard,” as one jury member wrote . . . CHARLES REPOLE (Drama, Theatre & Dance) was nominated for a 2012 IRNE Award as Best Director of a Musical (My Fair Lady). His production also was nominated as Best Musical. The awards are given by the Independent Reviewers of New England . . . MIHAELA ROBILA (FNES) was invited to participate at the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on “Good Practices in Family Policies” organized by the UN Division for Social Policy and Development on May 15-17. She presented a paper on “Good Practices in Family Policies Development, Implementation and Assessment.” . . . CAROLINE RUPPRECHT (Comparative Literature) gave a paper on Japanese-German writer Yoko Tawada at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference at Brown University on March 31 . . . NAVINDRA SINGH is the recipient of the 2012 Michael Craig-Scheckman Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research Project. His research paper was presented at the Optical Society of America’s annual meeting and is accepted to the Electro-optics/Quantum Electronics and Lasers Symposium. Navindra works in the lab of LUAT VUONG (Physics) . . . ROLF SWENSEN (Library) gave a paper entitled “Eddy’s Immigrants: Foreign-Born Christian Scientists in the United States, 1880-1920,” at the International Conference on Religion & Spirituality in Society in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada . . . For Women’s History Month, ANAHÍ VILADRICH (Sociology) was the moderator and discussant for an awards ceremony and discussion on empowerment and gender equality sponsored by the Coalition of Latin American Consuls in New York and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer. The event was held at the Baruch Performing Arts Center . . . JOHN WALDMAN (Biology) received a Kaplan Fund Furthermore Grant in Publishing and a Rockefeller Bellagio Fellowship, which will support a month in residence at the Bellagio estate on Italy’s Lake Como this summer. The grants will help him finish his book Running Silver, which is about the historical ecology of freshwater-marine migratory fish (like shad, salmon, and sturgeon). Later this year Fordham University Press will publish his book Still the Same Hawk: Reflections on Nature in New York, based on a highly acclaimed conference Waldman organized at QC in 2005 on Why Nature Matters to New Yorkers. Fordham also plans to release an updated edition of his Heartbeats in the Muck: The History, Sea Life, and Environment of New York Harbor.

Fulbright for Nathalis Wamba

Nathalis Wamba (ECP) has been accepted into two prestigious programs that will take him overseas. In August, he will go to Malawi as a Fulbright Scholar to teach and conduct research in the Education Division of Mzuzu University as a visiting faculty member. He will assist in the development and implementation of a new master’s degree program in teacher education, and foster collaboration among Mzuzu University, Mzuzu Academy (an international baccalaureate school), educational nongovernmental organizations, and QC. But before traveling to Africa, Wamba will have his passport stamped in Hungary. Over the summer, he will attend Central European University—a postgraduate institution in Budapest accredited in both Hungary and the United States—to participate in post-doctoral seminars in regionalization, globalization, and privatization in education.
If you buy specially marked (RED) products—your choices range from Gap T-shirts to Apple nanos—some of the purchase price is earmarked for charity. (RED) supports the fight against AIDS. But it and similar initiatives also serve as branding campaigns that color their corporate partners as model businesses deserving of patronage. **COMPASSION, INC.: HOW CORPORATE AMERICA BLURS THE LINE BETWEEN WHAT WE BUY, WHO WE ARE, AND THOSE WE HELP** (University of California Press), the latest book by Mara Einstein (Media Studies), analyzes this phenomenon, which is anything but benign. Amid declining government investment in social programs, cause-related marketing promotes the idea that problems can be cured by the right purchases. They cannot. Rather, Einstein advocates for social innovation, whereby corporations embed ethics and sustainability into every aspect of their business, creating true social good, not merely “symptom relief.”

Without literacy skills, children are unlikely to succeed in school. Literacy is also linked to socioeconomic factors. In **POVERTY AND LITERACY** (Routledge), Nathalis Wamba (ECP) and contributors investigate “the mutual dependence between poverty and academic achievement, creative pedagogies for low-income pupils, school models that ‘beat the odds,’ and the resiliency of low-income families dedicated to the academic success of their children.” The book’s articles were originally published in a pair of special issues of *Reading and Writing Quarterly* guest-edited by Wamba. Alpana Bhattacharya (SEYS) is among the contributors.

**Cover Story**

Mike Hickerson (Biology) was a co-lead author of the paper that merited cover billing in the March edition of the journal *Current Biology*. The study, “Reconstructing Community Assembly in Time and Space Reveals Enemy Escape in a Western Palearctic Insect Community,” will help predict how migration of animals or changes to their habitats associated with climate change could impact on the evolution of relationships between predators and their prey.

**Stepping Out**

The 2012 Student Choreography Showcase, SEVEN, offered five performances May 2-6 of works choreographed by seven dance majors (l to r): Verolene Chapman, Sharifa Linton, Letticia Camacho, Alicia Huerta (in front of Camacho), Juliet Dolan, Nic Bilbao, and Ogechi Nwaogo.

**Handiworkers**

When painter Victor Starna (Buildings & Grounds) needed a hand with a painting project, he got the help of more than a few from (l to r) Kira Gruber, Kaysa Padilla, Billy Mohr, and LaMadina Magnifique who were visiting campus as part of QC’s May 4 observance of Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day.
People in the Media

CLIVE BELFIELD (Economics) was quoted in the New York Times concerning research at Columbia University’s Teachers College he helped author that found that community colleges unnecessarily place too many entering students in remedial classes. He was also quoted in a TimesLedger story about the amount of jobs created by the Racinos, traditional racetracks that also feature slot machines and electronic gaming.... SUSAN BERNOFSKY’S (English) reading of short stories from Berlin Stories by Robert Walser, which she translated, was described in a story in Metro.... ANDREW BEVERIDGE (Sociology) was quoted in New York Times stories concerning affluent foreigners sending their children to New York public schools; New York City population growth; and a group of schoolgirls in Le Roy, NY, who suddenly began displaying behavior similar to Tourette syndrome. A dailyfreepress.com story concerning Boston’s poverty rate quoted his demographic data, as did one at Cleveland.com concerning Cleveland’s. He was also quoted in the Queens Tribune concerning attempts to divide Jewish voters in a Queens congressional election.... KRISTIN CELLELO’S (History) book Making Marriage Work: A History of Marriage and Divorce in the Twentieth-Century United States was dis-
cussed at psychcentral.com.... A report at lj.libraryjournal.com concerning March’s Public Library Association conference in Philadelphia cited a question MARY K. CHETALON (GSLS) posed at a Q&A session.... MARA EINSTEIN (Media Studies) appeared on public radio’s “The Diane Rehm Show” and WNYC radio’s “Brian Lehrer Show” in connection with her new book on ethical branding, Compassion, Inc.: How Corporate America Blurs the Line between What We Buy, Who We Are, and Those We Help (see page 18).... Stories about MAXINE FISHER’S (English) “Bach to School” program that brings classical music performances to local elementary schools appeared in the Queens Chronicle and Daily News (see page 10). She was also featured as NY1’s “Person of the Week”.... ANDREW HACKER (Political Science, emeritus) was quoted by Bloomberg.com concerning Senator Rick Santorum’s assertion that President Barack Obama was being a snob in stressing the value of a college education. He was also quoted in a Washington Post story concerning colleges that are performing tests to assess how much their students actually learn.... A Jewish Week story on declining enrollment at Yeshiva University quoted SAMUEL HEILMAN (Sociology).... A TimesLedger story on how different immi-
grant groups in Queens observe Valentine’s Day quoted CHRISTOS IOANNIDES (Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies).... HARRY LEVINE (Sociology) was quoted in the New York Times concerning police arrests for marijuana possession, and in the Queens Chronicle about a City Council resolution voicing support for state legislation that would make medical marijuana legal.... A Village Voice feature about the U.S. Census Bureau’s rebuff of an attempt by Mayor Michael Bloomberg to have city census figures revised upward quoted PHIL LEWIS (Sociology).... JOEL MANDELBAUM (Music, emeritus) was profiled in Jewish Week.... The Woman and Work program founded by CARMELLA MARRONE was profiled in Education Update.... A team of physicists headed by VINOD MENON (Physics) has discovered a new method to manipulate light that could result in more efficient solar cells, super bright LEDs, ultra-high sensitive sensors, and single photon sources for quantum communication protocols and quantum computers. This research was published in an article entitled “Topological Transitions in Metamaterials” in Science on April 13. A CUNY TV program, “Kids and Science,” also featured Minon at a fourth-grade class in Greenwich Village explaining the science of Harry Potter’s invisibility cloak.... A U.S. News/MSNBC story concerning shootings at Christian College in Oakland, CA, allegedly by a Korean gunman, quoted PYONG GAP MIN (Sociology).... DiscoveryNews quoted LEWIS PEPPER (CBNS) about the continuing radiation threat to people in the vicinity of Japan’s quake-and-tsunami-damaged Fukushima nuclear power plant.... A New York Times report about the leading developer of voice recognition computer technology quoted ANDREW ROSENBERG (Computer Science).... A story at blog.chron.com on annual assessments performed in Houston to determine how well public schools there prepare students for “the real world” quoted JOEL SPRING (EECE).... ROLF SWENSEN (Library) was mentioned in Newsday as one “who teaches research techniques at Queens College.” Swensen was quoted as saying that “Internet tools and Web-based archives have allowed people to embark on research projects that could hardly be imagined little more than a decade ago”.... MARIA TERRONE (Communications) was quoted in a Daily News article about her participation as a writer in the Guggenheim Museum “stillspotting nyc” project in Jackson Heights. Excerpts from her 20-minute narrative and that of ROGER SEDARAT (English) were

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**Students in the News**

An essay by GSLIS student **WILLIAM BLICK** about the 1928 film *The Docks of New York* appeared at sensesofcinema.com.

... The Queens Courier reported **JESSICA LAU’S** role as graphic designer for the paper’s new *Queens in Your Pocket* guide to the borough.

...The Queens Courier reported **LILJETTE LOPEZ’S** receipt of the inaugural Ernesto Malave Outstanding Student Leader Award.

... Biology major **EMILY PARK** was featured in a story at queenscampaigner.com about efforts by State Assemblyman Rory Lancman to promote the state DREAM Act, which would provide equal access to educational opportunities to children of illegal immigrants. Park has been barred from receiving financial aid for graduate school. The *Epoch Times* reported that Park was one of 10 undocumented students to receive $10,000 scholarships from the New York Immigration Coalition.

**Events in the Media**

The Black History Month event featuring ESPN basketball analyst Carolyn Peck generated stories in the Queens Tribune, TimesLedger, and Queens Courier.

... **NY1** interviewed the dancers and performers participating in *Influx*, A Year of Turkey dance performance presented in February. Stories also appeared in the TimesLedger and Dance Magazine.

The TimesLedger also reviewed the Year of Turkey exhibition *Interwoven Worlds: Domestic and Nomadic Life in Turkey* presented at Flushing Town Hall.

... **NY1** covered April’s Immigrant Heritage Week forum at QC on Latinos in the U.S. ...

... India Abroad reported on QC’s planned Year of India.

... The 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic on April 12 saw stories on NY1 and in the New York Times about Titanic-related materials in the Seamen’s Church Institute Collection housed at the Rosenthal Library.

... The TimesLedger reported on the symposium at QC celebrating the 100th anniversary of the birth of film director Michelangelo Antonioni.

... The Woman and Work forum in March on domestic abuse was reported in the Queens Chronicle.

... The March QC Business Forum concerning changes in the media was the subject of stories in the Queens Courier and Queens Gazette.

... The Queens Ledger and blackstarnews.com reported the appearance of Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie as part of QC’s Evening Readings series.

**Alexiou’s “Got Greek?” Project**

Nicholas Alexiou (Sociology) was featured in Odyssey magazine for his research on young Greek Americans, which he conducted with The Next Generation Initiative, a Greek-American organization that mentors college-aged members of the community. With financial backing from the Zapis Charitable Foundation, Maliotis Charitable Foundation, and others, Alexiou developed the National Student Research Study, dubbed “Got Greek?” (playing off the well-known ad campaign for milk). Using a variety of questions and such indicators as use of the Greek language and diet, the study sought to understand students’ sense of connection to Greek heritage and identity. Overall, Alexiou found that students valued both Greek culture and their relationships with Greek family and friends, but that many needed help in establishing stronger connections within the Greek-American community or among Greek Americans of their own generation.