Queens College Preparing for Spring Middle States Reaccreditation

Queens College took several major steps toward being reaccredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education with the recent release of the draft self-study and a preliminary visit by members of the commission.

To facilitate discussion, the self-study was posted on the provost’s Web site (www.qc.cuny.edu/provost/) and an accompanying blog was created for the posting of comments. Several public forums on the self-study were also held in October.

While there seems to have been some reluctance to using the blog, notes Associate Provost Marten denBoer, co-chair of QC’s Middle States Steering Committee, people were not shy about registering their opinions in other ways. “Both co-chair James Saslow (Art) and I have gotten a number of emails and paper mails. Perhaps people are more comfortable with traditional communications.

“ The comments have all been very substantive,” he continues. “They’ve talked about important issues, from the kinds of services we provide to the need for new programs and more student support, faculty issues, and so on.”

The self-study was compiled from reports written by several faculty and student task forces that began examining different services and areas at the college last spring. A year earlier the self-study process was initiated with the creation of a steering committee to oversee its completion.

“The task forces worked very hard and were very enthusiastic,” says denBoer, “and we had good comments at the steering committee meetings as well.”

Self-Study Focus on Six Areas

As noted in the study’s executive summary, the committee chose to focus on six areas of particular importance:

- **Transfer Students**: More than half of all students now transfer to QC from other institutions.
- **Retention**: While many students graduate in a timely manner, many others do not.
- **Campus Life**: Facing the challenge of...
Robert Ball ’62 and Stephen Pekar ’86 (Earth & Environmental Sciences), visits to campus art exhibitions, campus tours, and more.

The scheduled activities culminated late in the afternoon with the dedication of the new Alumni Plaza in front of Jefferson Hall. Always a factor critical to the success of Homecoming is the weather: “It was fabulous,” says Rudolph.

Courting the Millennium Grads

Rudolph was equally enthusiastic in her assessment of a special event held three days earlier for “millennium grads.” The Sept. 27 evening reception in the atrium of the Music Building was for alumni who have graduated since 2000. “In looking at some of the past events,” Rudolph says, “we saw that not a lot of our recent grads came. At any school the millennium grads are a difficult group to get because they’re all too busy with their careers. So I wanted to do something to make this group feel special.

Over a hundred alums showed up and they brought about 50 guests,” she says, describing the well-received event that was also attended by Assemblyman Jose Peralta ’96. “It was a cocktail reception with finger foods from 7 to 9 pm. People didn’t want to go home; they were having such a good time. They were all just so thrilled to be back on campus.”

Another way Rudolph hopes to maintain the group’s connection to QC is with the impending launch of inCircle. This is an online social networking program—created at Stanford University and in use at many colleges—that allows alumni to remain in touch with one another and their alma mater.

“inCircle is like MySpace and Facebook,” she says, referring to two social networking Web sites that are enormously popular among teenagers and young adults. “Many of our younger alums are more computer-savvy and they’re already involved with these kinds of programs. We’re in the process of fine tuning it right now.”
Robert Shaddy
New Chief Librarian

Before his arrival, Robert Shaddy, Rosenthal Library’s new chief librarian, piqued his 17-year-old daughter’s interest in Queens College by pointing out that the faculty come from “outstanding institutions like Cornell, Columbia, Yale, and Harvard.” He is pleased that Sophia is now considering applying to Queens.

The college’s mission to serve a diverse clientele—ranging from honors students to working and retired adults—appeals to Shaddy. “Everybody should have a chance at a college education, and there are several programs and services available at the college to help ensure student success and retention,” he says.

Shaddy, who has been on board since August 1, is impressed with how the library’s faculty and staff are dedicated to imparting “a positive educational experience to QC students.” He believes that “the college library should play a central role in the teaching and learning taking place on campus and should provide the tools to enable students to be critical thinkers, information literate, and better able, ultimately, to lead productive and successful lives.”

In Shaddy’s view, the library is “a laboratory for engagement and discovery.” It should be arranged to offer a multipurpose environment composed of spaces where students can study alone or collaborate, or even daydream in comfort. “Rosenthal Library,” he notes, “provides this sort of environment, with close collaboration among faculty and staff in various units, including public services, technical services, and systems.”

A Future-Oriented Approach
Prior to his appointment at the college, Shaddy was university librarian and chair, department of special and area studies collections, at the University of Florida’s George A. Smathers Libraries. While his roots are in the culture of books, his perspectives on learning in the 21st century are up-to-date. He is future-oriented and expects the “widespread implementation of new technologies and support systems” to continue on college campuses. Colleges will increasingly provide “an abundant and mobile distribution of information.” Current students “have grown up, lived, and been educated in a different way” from students of earlier generations, “and our challenge, which is also an opportunity, is to keep abreast of ever-emerging combinations of linear and nonlinear styles of learning.”

Shaddy would like to further cultivate and enlarge a community of library supporters who possess the “time, talent, and treasure” to help the library better carry out its mission. “We would like to move the library to the next level, in terms of updating learning and instructional technologies and providing services and electronic and print resources.”

As a fund-raiser, Shaddy will aim to increase endowments, but will also be on the lookout for generous donors who are bibliophiles. He is proud of a recent donation, an original 1676 copy of _The Libertine: A Tragedy_ by Thomas Shadwell, that once had been part of the private collection of Broadway composer Jerome Kern.

Shaddy has quickly discovered that Queens College is a warm and hospitable workplace. “People enjoy working here, and working on behalf of our students,” he remarks. “It’s an environment that promises much professional satisfaction and enrichment.”

Lisa Flanzraich

New Fitness Center Opens in FitzGerald Gymnasium

Cutting the ribbon officially opening QC's newly renovated $200,000 Fitness Center are (l.-r.) Rick Wettan, Sue Henderson, Councilman James Gennaro, and QC grads: Assembly Member Nettie Mayersohn, Councilwoman Helen Sears, and Nazia Tabassum.
Orthodox kehilla of Eastern Europe—Orthodox Jewry, by Heilman’s account, has taken root and thrived in the United States. He presents a picture of an Orthodox Jewry that has gained in both numbers and intensity and has moved further to the religious right as it struggles to define itself and maintain age-old traditions in the midst of modernity, secularization, technological advances, and American culture.

In his Sept. 20 review in the Jewish Press, Aharon ben Anshel, calling Heilman “the premier social-anthropologist and demographer for the Jewish community,” notes that he presents his extensive and scholarly study “without recourse to any ‘trade lingo;’ but rather in a quite readable and very interesting exposition of the subject.” An Abundance of Devils follows the adventures of ragamuffin Odie Hart who, by virtue of the “scientific charity” of the early 20th-century ‘progressive era,’” finds himself consigned to the stucco-and-terra-cotta enclave out on the terminal moraine in Queens. “Intended to eliminate warehousing of ‘bad boys,’” says Weller, “this institution quickly gives way to terror and fear.”

In the News

Two stories appeared in the New York Times on Oct. 1 and Oct. 3 that were based on census data analysis provided by ANDY BEVERIDGE (Sociology). One concerned how black incomes have surpassed those of whites in Queens, and the other investigated the increasing burden posed nationwide by rising housing costs. Both stories were picked up by wire services and generated considerable interest in other news outlets, including interview segments Oct. 3 on Brian Lehrer’s show on WNYC radio and Oct. 4 on Washington Post radio and WWRL. Beveridge was also quoted in a piece that aired Sept. 28 on WNYC radio about the importance of political debates. A Sept. 23 story in the Cincinnati Enquirer about Ohio Republican gubernatorial candidate Ken Blackwell quoted STEPHEN STEINBERG’s (Urban Studies) book New Politics . . . Asian Week, a national magazine, quoted PYONG GAP MIN (Sociology) in a story in its Sept. 22 edition about the Jesus Awakening Movement for America, an organization consisting mostly of Koreans . . . The Daily Challenge quoted LEONARD RODBERG (Urban Studies) in a Sept. 5 story about the growing numbers of people without health insurance . . . JOHN WALDMAN (Biology) offered his expertise to the Associated Press for an Oct. 1 story about the resurgence of wood-eating gribbles and shipworms in New York waterways . . . QC was the subject of a story in the Queens Chronicle’s Aug. 24 Back to School Guide . . . The current exhibitions at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum and the Queens College Arts Center were mentioned in a Sept. 6 story in the Queens Tribune about art offerings in Queens . . . The opening of QC’s new fitness center was the subject of stories Sept. 21 in the Queens Courier and Times Ledger, and Sept. 26 in the Korean-language World Journal. The Sept. 21 Queens Tribune offered a photo of the center’s ribbon-cutting ceremony . . . The POPSTARS! exhibition at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum was noted in the Sept. 19 edition of the Daily News and Sept. 22 in Metro New York, a citywide daily . . . The Daily News ran a story on Oct. 4 about the recent QC business forum that featured Computer Associates co-founder and QC alum Russell Artzt . . . The creation of a memorial to honor QC students who died in World War II generated a story Oct. 10 in the Daily News . . . QC student LAUREN TALERMAN, an Orthodox Jew who won a Boren Scholarship to study Arabic in Egypt, was the subject of stories Oct. 12 in the Queens Courier and Queens Chronicle and Oct. 13 in Jewish Week . . . QC ranked number 15 among public colleges chosen by Jews, according to the inaugural edition of The Reform Judaism Insider’s Guide to College. The new guide purports to work in conjunction with the popular US News rankings in offering information of particular interest to Jewish students.
Watson Fellows Set Sights on Careers in Public Service

This year’s Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship winners come from backgrounds as different as night and day, but both have one thing in common: Their internship experiences have motivated them to seek careers in public service. As Watson fellows, they receive paid internships over three summers that provide high-level work experience; they also participate in leadership forums.

CUNY Honors student NICHOLAS COPELI ’08, an anthropology major on a pre-med track, believes that medicine has become too “scientific, objective, and removed from all human considerations.” Not too surprising then that he aspires to become a “humanities-oriented physician” and follow the footsteps of Dr. Paul Farmer, whose mission is to conquer diseases among the world’s poor. At press time, Copeli was applying to Mt. Sinai’s Early Acceptance Program in Humanities and Medicine, which provides liberal arts undergraduates a path to medical school.

As a Watson fellow, Copeli interned this past summer at Global Kids, Inc., a New York City-based nonprofit educational group that helps urban youth become global citizens and community leaders. He was responsible for maintaining Newz Crew, the organization’s Web site that promotes media literacy and political dialogue among young people around the world. He enjoyed the experience so much that he continues to work part-time for the organization.

Copeli looks forward to his next two Watson internships, one of which will give him an opportunity to study abroad, perhaps in Russia. “I hope to get more involved in the public health sector on an international level and gain better cross-cultural understanding,” he says. Copeli’s mother is Bukharian, so he and his brothers—Joseph, a graduate student at Hunter, and Eric and Frank, also QC undergrads—speak Russian at home. Copeli also knows Spanish, which he learned on his own when he went to Peru this past August as a CUNY Honors scholar and taught English at a remote orphanage in San Miguel. “I need to master both languages if I want to truly succeed in my field,” he says.

JESSENIA VAZCONES ’09, a political science major, hopes to make her mark in law. Her parents, originally from Ecuador, played a huge role in her choice of career. “It was my parents’ struggle with the inequities of the immigration process to become U.S. citizens that precipitated my interest in legal reform,” she says.

Unlike other legal internships that Vazcones had investigated, the Watson Fellowship was open to freshmen and sophomores. This past summer she interned for State Supreme Court Judge James Yates in lower Manhattan, which she describes as an “incredible learning experience that helped reverse [what had been] my cynical impressions of the criminal justice system.

“I was permitted to sit in on fascinating courtroom trials and, just like his law student clerks did, research statutes and cases which helped the judge make his decisions,” she says. “Now I’m eager to explore other areas of the law.”

First Queens College Web Ad Debuts on Newsday.com

The college is breaking new ground with its first-ever advertisement on the Internet. The ad, for our fall undergraduate Open House on November 5, runs on the Long Island news pages and sports pages of newsday.com. Created by Design Services with flash animation (see ad at right), it began appearing the week of October 29. During its run, the ad will load 200,000 times at a cost lower than that of traditional print ads.

Says Vincent Angrisani (Executive Director, Admissions), “When readers activate the Click to learn more link, they are taken to a special ‘landing page’ positioned in Admissions that allows them to request more information from us. Ultimately, this will help us capture the email addresses of prospective students and/or their parents.”

Adds Maria Terrone (Assistant VP, Communications), “One of the benefits of Internet ads is that we can now track the ad’s effectiveness. Newsday will provide us with detailed reports on how many people clicked on the ad, bringing them to the Admissions page. This will be invaluable information for us.”
The Louis Armstrong House Museum was selected as one of five 2006 recipients of the Mayor’s Awards for Arts & Culture. Director Michael Cogswell accepted the award from Mayor Michael Bloomberg at a ceremony Oct. 30 at Jazz at Lincoln Center. The awards were created in 1976 by the Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission “to honor individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the cultural life of New York City.” Maria Fosco (Calandra Institute) received the Governor’s Award of Excellence for her years of community service and commitment to preserving Italian heritage and culture. The award was presented Oct. 12 by Governor George Pataki at St. John’s University on the occasion of his Italian Heritage and Culture Month proclamation.

Michael Lipsey (Music) has been chosen as an ASCAPlus Award recipient this year. These awards, made by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers, reflect the society’s commitment to assisting and encouraging ASCAP composers. Awards are granted by an independent panel and are based upon the unique prestige value of each writer’s catalog of original compositions, as well as recent performances in areas not surveyed by the society.

Eugenia Paulicelli (European Languages) is the editor of Moda e Moderno. Dal Medioevo al Rinascimento (Fashion and Modernity: From the Middle Ages to the Renaissance) (Rome: Meltemi, 2006). Paulicelli has also been invited to hold two seminars at the University of Stockholm in Sweden for the graduate program in fashion studies.

For Italian Heritage Month, Joseph Scelsa (VP, Outreach and Cultural Affairs) was given the New York City Comptroller’s Distinguished Service Award in Education at a City Hall ceremony on Oct. 5. Areti Tsiola (Biology) is a volunteer producer at Hellenic Public Radio—Cosmos FM (WNYE 91.5 FM)—where, among other things, he co-produces “Cosmo-nauts,” a program concerning issues of science and technology. Last spring he assisted a group of QC undergrads in the production of two programs to fulfill an assignment in Dan Georgakas’s (Byzantine Studies) course, “The Greek American Community.”

Nicholas Alexiou (Sociology), who has produced programs for Cosmos FM, was also instrumental in organizing these projects.

**INVITATION TO ALL:**
Queens College Will Dedicate its World War II Veterans Memorial on Friday, November 10 at 2 pm on the Quad.

Recipients of this year’s President’s Awards for Innovative Teaching Projects and Excellence in Teaching join President James Muyskens at the annual Faculty-Staff Assembly last month. Left to right: Jacqueline Darvin, Yin Mei Critchell, Vinod M. Menon, Jenny Snider, Muyskens, David Leventhal, Jon Sperling, and John Kennedy.

Computer Associates co-founder Russell Artzt ’68, who met Charles Wang ’67, his partner in that very successful enterprise when both were students at QC (fellow student and future spouse, Alice ’68, arranged the meeting), returned to his alma mater in September as guest speaker at the most recent of the college’s business forums.
November 2

THU

LECTURE “Ancient Synagogues in the Land of Israel,” Joadi Magness (Univ of NC-Chapel Hill). LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. $5.

6

MON

PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE “Ethics, Business and the Evolution of U.S. Political Discourse,” David Leventhal (BALA). Faculty & Staff Dining Room in Dining Hall, 12:15 pm.

PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM “Shining a Light on Low-Dimensional Systems,” Jiufeng Tu (City College). Science Bldg, Room E308, 4 pm.

7

TUE


ROUNDTABLE ON THE ART OF WRITING With Salman Rushdie, Orhan Pamuk & Norman Manea. LeFrak Hall, 7 pm. $15.

8

WED


Empire Brass Quintet

9

THU

POETRYFEST Library Conference Room #1, 3 pm.

9–19

THU–SUN

PERFORMANCE Snow in Midsummer. 11/9 & 16, 7 pm; 11/10 & 17, 8 pm; Sat., 11/11 & 18, 8 pm; Sun., 11/12 & 19, 3 pm. Performance Space, Rathaus Hall M-11. $14/$12 seniors, QCID.

12

SUN

CONCERT Empire Brass Quintet, 2 pm, LeFrak Hall. $32 seniors, students, QC alumni, and staff.

13

MON


CONCERT John Curcio, trumpet. LeFrak Hall, 4:45 pm.

14

TUE

CHAMBER MUSIC LIVE Gerald Robbins, piano, with Meredith Parsons-McComb, mezzo-soprano. LeFrak Hall, 10 am. Information: 73802.

15

WED

LECTURE “Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Biblical Jerusalem,” Ronny Reich (Univ of Haifa). LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. $5.

16

THU

CONCERT Flamenco Sepharad. LeFrak Hall, 2 pm. $15.

19

SUN

CONCERT Flamenco Sepharad. LeFrak Hall, 2 pm. $15.

20

MON

READING Tom Stoppard will read from his work and be interviewed by Leonard Lopate. LeFrak Hall, 7 pm. $15.

December 2

SAT


3

SUN

CONCERT Ki-Sui-An Shakuhachi Dojo: 29th Annual Recital of Traditional Japanese Music with Horaku Burnett and Mutsumi Takamizu. Music Bldg, Rm. 226, 1 pm.

CINEMA ON SUNDAYS The Legacy of Jedwabne. Discussant: Stuart Liebman (Media Studies). LeFrak Hall, 2 pm. $5.

5

TUE

CONCERT Students of organist-in-residence Jan-Piet Knijff performing on the Maynard-Walker Memorial Organ. LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm.

6

WED

PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE Andrew Beveridge (Sociology). Faculty & Staff Dining Room, 12:15 pm.

EXHIBITS

Geoffrey Detrani and Jacek Maczynski: Recent Works. Gallery talk: Thursday, November 2, 5–6 pm; Reception, 6–8 pm. QC Art Center, Rosenthal Library, 6th floor. Through December 22.


Armstrong and Africa. Explores Armstrong’s travels through the continent in 1956 and 1960 using items from his personal collection. Screenings of rare film Satchmo the Great by Edward R. Murrow. Louis Armstrong House Museum. Tuesday–Friday, 10 am–5 pm; Saturday–Sunday, 12 noon–5 pm. 34-56 107th St., Corona, Queens. Information: 718-478-8274; www.louisarmstronghouse.org

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