President Hails Campus Progress

At the annual Faculty and Staff Assembly on October 22, President James Muyskens praised several significant improvements to the college in the last year and outlined four major challenges for the year ahead.

Muyskens was especially happy with the increase in the number of both students and faculty, noting that the college is now back to the level of faculty it had in 1994 before enrollment declined. He praised the college’s most recent hires, who were introduced at the assembly, saying that “A college can be better than its facilities, its sports teams, its administration. But the level of its faculty is a level above which a college cannot rise.”

Muyskens also singled out the improvements to the college’s Web site. “Our home page is cleaner and much better organized, and improvements are added almost every day,” he said. “We have also been able to cut down on our printing costs by using the Web for general announcements and by making forms, applications, and newsletters available there.”

The college’s image—both its physical campus and its image in the wider community—is on an upswing. “We have improved the appearance of our campus with the opening of Powdermaker Hall and a cybercafe and with new walkways and landscaping. . . . We have been receiving a good deal of positive news coverage concerning the quality of our students, including several stories in the New York Times, and have earned a great deal of media coverage for our environmental programs at Caumsett and the opening of the Armstrong House.”

The president then outlined the four greatest challenges the college (continued on page 4)

Satchmo’s House Opens to Public

Louis Armstrong was known as Ambassador Satch for his worldwide concert tours, sometimes spending as many as 300 days a year on the road. On October 15 the world repaid the favor by flocking to Corona, Queens, for the opening of the Louis Armstrong House as a historic house museum.

Along with music legends such as Jimmy Heath, Jon Faddis, and Marty Napoleon, and local dignitaries such as Queens Borough President Helen Marshall ’75, a virtual UN of media came to the October 9 media preview or the October 15 opening. Among the foreign press were BBC TV, Agence France, AP TV, France 2 TV, NTV America (Russian TV in U.S.), Globo TV (Brazil), German TV and radio, Nippon TV (Japan), TV Tokyo America, ANSA (Italian News Agency), America Oggi, and others.

The event garnered heavy local and national coverage, including a feature on CBS’s “Sunday Morning” with Charles Osgood. The New York Times ran four articles related to the opening, and numerous articles appeared in the Daily News, Newsday, Hoy, New York Sun, Amsterdam News, Queens Courier, Times Ledger, Queens Tribune, and Queens Chronicle. An article in the Associated Press was picked up nationwide and made the front page of Yahoo on (continued on page 2)
INSURANCE TRANSFER PERIOD
The fall transfer period for the Health Benefits Program ends on November 14. During this period you may change your health plan as well as add or drop dependents and optional benefits. Changes will be effective the first day of the first full payroll in January 2004. If you wish to choose the Buy-Out Waiver Program, you must provide documentation from an insurance carrier showing that you have coverage through another source. The forms to make these changes are available in Human Resources (Kiely 163). In addition, you may enroll now through November 21 in the city’s Pre-Tax Benefits Programs: Health Care Flexible Spending Account, Dependent Care, and Medical Spending Coverage. If you have questions, contact the Benefits area in Human Resources at 4460.

LECTURE BY HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR
On Monday, November 10, Walter Wolff will tell “The Story of a Holocaust Survivor in Germany and Italy.” During World War II, Wolff, an Italian Jew, was hidden and protected from Nazi persecution by the Italian military. The lecture, sponsored by the Calandra Institute and the Center for Jewish Studies, will begin at 12 noon in the Student Union, 4th Floor. It is free and open to all.

WORKSHOP ON TEACHING PERFORMANCE
Teaching performance is being given greater weight in decisions regarding hiring, tenure, and promotion. In recognition of this, the Academic Senate Committee on Teaching Excellence and Evaluation will present a workshop entitled “How Am I Doing?: Documenting Your Teaching Excellence” on Wednesday, November 12, from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Student Union 310. An invited panel will discuss the preparation of teaching portfolios and criteria for the documentation of high-quality teaching in regard to various personnel decisions. If interested in attending, continued on page 4

QC COMMUNITY

Yevtushenko’s Seventieth Birthday Bash
The Aaron Copland School of Music is planning a memorable seventieth birthday party for Yevgeny Yevtushenko: a concert on December 11 that will include Shostakovich’s Symphony No. 13, which sets to music Yevtushenko’s poem Babi Yar. The orchestra and men’s voices of the QC Choir will be conducted by Maurice Peress. Bruce Saylor will compose a work for voice and chamber ensemble to English translations of Yevtushenko’s poetry. Saylor’s work will feature mezzo-soprano Constance Beavon and an ensemble that includes faculty members Morey Ritt (piano), Charles Neidich (clarinet), David Jolley (horn), and Michael Lipsey (percussion).

Yevtushenko, a Distinguished Professor in the Department of European Languages and Literatures, was the first Russian poet to break through the Iron Curtain and recite his poetry in the West. His works have been translated into over 70 languages.

Tickets ($15, $13 students/alumni) for the 7:30 pm concert in LeFrak Hall can be purchased through the Golden Center Box Office at 793-8080. There will also be an after-concert champagne reception with Yevtushenko. Tickets are $125 ($100 for alumni). For reception information, call 3802. All the evening’s proceeds will support scholarships in the School of Music and the college’s Russian language program.

October 11. A number of magazines are expected to run feature articles on the house, including Condé Nast’s Interiors of the World, Ebony, Jet, and Where. With its turquoise kitchen and a bathroom with gold fixtures and mirrored-covered walls, the house opening was a must for TV cameras. Crews came from WNBC, WCBS, WABC, WWOR, NY1, Fox, and BET.

Louis and Lucille Armstrong purchased the home, located at 34-56 107th Street in Corona, in 1943 and lived there for the rest of their lives. The house, which has undergone a $1.6 million restoration and renovation, is now open for tours from 10 am to 5 pm, Tuesday to Friday, and 12 noon to 5 pm, Saturday and Sunday. Admission is $8; students and seniors, $4. For more information on the Armstrong House, visit www.satchmo.net or call 3670.

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Hratch Zadoian Retires After 40 Good Years

“It’s been a very good run,” says Hratch Zadoian, discussing his upcoming retirement after over 40 years at the college as a student, teacher, and administrator. Friends celebrated Hratch’s long career at the college on October 31 at a farewell luncheon. President Jim Muyssens noted that “It would be impossible to exaggerate the contributions Hratch has made to the college community. I have certainly enjoyed working with him and will miss him greatly. However, Hratch has assured me he’ll only be a phone call away if we need him.”

Zadoian was born in Rumania to Armenian parents. The family moved to Lebanon when Zadoian was young, and he, his mother, and sister came to the U.S. in 1959. Zadoian then spent three years in the army, serving some time in Korea. Following his discharge he enrolled at Queens College while working in an insurance company. After graduating with a degree in political science, he continued his graduate studies at Columbia University on a Faculty Fellowship.

Starting as an adjunct lecturer in the Political Science Department in 1973, Zadoian gradually took on more responsibilities at the college, serving at various times as Director of Interdisciplinary and Special Studies, Associate Dean and Acting Dean of the School of General Studies, Assistant Provost, and finally Acting Vice President for Business and Finance. Among the projects he enjoyed most were the Interdisciplinary Weekends at Caumsett, at which students and faculty would go out for a weekend of intensive study on topics as different as Byzantium, Native Americans, or Brahms. “The only mandatory constant about the weekends was volleyball,” notes Zadoian.

Despite his long administrative record, Zadoian’s first love is teaching. “People I worked with would say I would leave my office on the way to teach a class looking down or harassed, but when I came back I would be flying,” he notes. “It is very helpful for administrators to teach, not to lose sight of what is most important: the students.

Indeed, some of the most rewarding remembrances from my years here are the letters I received from students thanking me for helping them to stay in college.”

Zadoian has also been active in a number of programs that fostered better race relations, including the Black-Jewish People to People Project. In recognition of his tireless work in this area, in 1996 he received the Bishop Francis J. Mugavero Award for Religious and Racial Harmony for his efforts to build “a community of justice and interfaith cooperation.”

In 1986 Zadoian established a student essay contest in Holocaust/Genocide studies, which each year offers a prize of $200 to the author of the best essay on the topic of the Holocaust or other forms of genocide. He also established the annual Africana Studies Prize.

Zadoian believes this is a good time to be retiring because, after some years of turmoil in the late 1990s, the college is once again on solid ground and moving in the right direction. “By leaving now, I feel I am going out on top,” he says. Zadoian will not be idle in retirement. He will spend time traveling and relaxing in his upstate home, where he will be able to indulge his love of books and music. He also plans to continue teaching.

HANNES BRUECKNER (EES) presented a paper on “Dunks and Redunks: Repeated Subduction of HP/ UHP Ternaeas in the Western Gneiss Region of the Scandinavian Caledonides” at the annual meeting of the Geological Society of America in early November.

CAROLINE RUPPRECHT (Comparative Literature) won the 2003 Texas A&M University Women’s Studies Prize for “A Family of Stone and Hearts Transformed into Deserts: The Divided Communities of Marguerite Duras and Etel Adnan,” a paper she presented on November 1 at the South Central Modern Language Association in Hot Springs, AR. She also presented a paper in September on “Castration Anxiety Revisited: Germany as ‘Mother’ in Kutlug Ataman’s film Lola & Bilidikid” at the German Studies Association Conference in New Orleans.

JOSEPH SCELSA (VP Outreach and Cultural Affairs) received a proclamation from Councilman Anthony Avella, chairman of the Italian Caucus of the New York City Council, as part of the celebrations for Italian Heritage Month in October.

ROLF SWESEN (Library) is the author of “Pilgrims at the Golden Gate: Christian Scientists on the Pacific Coast, 1880-1915,” which appeared in Pacific Historical Review 72 (May 2003). Thanks to an initiative by CONSTANCE TAGOPOULOS (European Languages), the Hellenic Ministry of National Education and Religious Affairs agreed to sponsor a visiting lecturership at the college.

YANNIS ZIKOUDIS, an expert in Greek tragedy, will teach modern Greek language and culture at the college for three years.
faces in the coming year. The first challenge is financial. With a stagnant budget and little hope for significant increases in the near future, Muyskens stressed the need for faculty to pursue outside funding with the help of the Office of Grants and Sponsored Research. “This year we are already on a record-setting pace as far as receiving new grants,” he said. “The Grants Office will tailor workshops to your department, so I urge you to get in touch with them.”

The second challenge is the General Education Review. “Our last major revision was 30 years ago, and it is hard to think of a time of more profound change in the way we communicate and receive information than the last 30 years,” he stated. “We need to help our students make the connections between their courses. They should see their courses as steps to something higher, not as hurdles that have to be cleared in the name of college requirements and quickly forgotten.”

The third challenge is technology. “We must make it easier for students and faculty to email each other,” Muyskens said. “We must also improve our Web services for faculty and students and continue to introduce technological improvements into the classroom.”

The final challenge is improving the appearance of the campus. “I want our students to linger here, I want them to feel that this campus is their home-away-from-home,” the president said. “They should have more places where they can meet with friends, or where they and faculty can continue a discussion after class. We have plans in the immediate future for a new cafe in the Science Building and improvements to the Student Union, but there is more work to be done.”

Before the address, Richard Goldstein, chair of the Queens College Foundation, helped Muyskens present a number of faculty awards. The President’s Grants for Innovative Teaching Projects were presented to Ammiel Alcalay (CMAL), Nora Glickman (HLL), and Madhulika Khandelwal (Asian/American Center). The President’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching went to Randi Dickson (SEYS), Robert Engel (Chemistry), Robin Rogers-Dillon (Sociology), Mark Rosenblum (History), Ann Davison (English, Adjunct), Michael Roberts (Sociology, Adjunct), and Bridgit Goldman (Biology, Graduate Student).

A complete transcript of the president’s address can be found at www.qc.edu/about/message.php
Manny Goldberg is used to standing out. At the age of 85, he is the oldest full-time student in the Aaron Copland School of Music. During World War II Manny stood out even more as he was, by the government’s estimation, one of only 170 Americans who could speak Japanese. Because of this, he had one of the more unusual jobs in the army: Saving the enemy.

Manny began to learn Japanese in 1932 when, at the age of 14, he moved with his parents to Japan, where his father ran a branch office in Osaka for a company that exported sewing machines. The family stayed only two years as Manny’s father felt that war between Japan and America was inevitable. Manny joined the army in 1942 and was recruited for Officers Candidate School at the University of Ann Arbor.

Upon completing his training, 1st Lt. Manny Goldberg, now in charge of a translation team of ten nisei (Japanese Americans), was sent to the island of Saipan, where Japanese civilians were hiding in caves, often held against their will by Japanese soldiers. Manny’s job was to convince the soldiers to let the civilians go so they could be safely placed in internment camps. “The soldiers would see us approaching their caves and think ‘These Americans must be crazy, they don’t wear a helmet, they don’t carry a rifle . . . let’s hear what they have to say.’ ” Manny’s detachment resettled 1,500 civilians on Saipan.

Manny and his team were then transferred to Iwo Jima. On his second day there, Manny approached a soldier in a cave who was holding two live grenades: “I told him Japan was on the brink of defeat, and now needed men like him to come back and help reconstruct the country.” The soldier surrendered. For his bravery, Manny was awarded a Bronze Star.

On his return to civilian life, Manny worked in the sewing machine industry, including six years in Japan. In 1992 he decided to earn a degree in music and enrolled in the ACE Program; he will graduate this December. “It is so much fun studying with younger students,” he says. “To them I’m just Manny.” His favorite class was a theory course with William Rothstein. “He would play for us to illustrate the theory he taught, so it was like having a private concert every day,” he says.

An accomplished jazz pianist, Manny has written numerous pieces, including Seder in a Flat, a musical presented at Colden Center several years ago. He is now working on an opera, The Octopus Trap, based on his WW II experiences.

STUDENT PROFILE

Manny Goldberg ’03

Manny Goldberg recently received the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross and Conspicuous Service Star in a ceremony at the house of Congressman Gary Ackerman ’65. Attending the ceremony were his wife Lillian ’81 and their grandchildren.

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Strekas Named Dean of Math and Natural Sciences

“Sometimes we do a nationwide search to find the best person for a position, and it turns out that the best person is already here,” noted President Jim Muyskens recently in talking about the appointment of Thomas Strekas as dean of the Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. “Tom has been a most effective advocate for his division, and I have full confidence that under his leadership the division will continue its rapid advancement.”

Strekas, who had been serving as acting dean of the division for the past two years, received his BA from Holy Cross College in Worcester, MA, and his PhD from Princeton. He did postdoctoral work at IBM Research and Columbia University-College of Physicians and Surgeons from 1973 until joining the college’s Chemistry Department in 1978. He was appointed a full professor in 1988.

The inorganic chemistry of biological systems is Strekas’ area of research; he is currently studying the binding of transition metal complexes to DNA. His work has appeared in many of the leading journals in his field, including Inorganic Chemistry, Journal of Physical Chemistry, and the Journal of the American Chemistry Society. Strekas has received numerous grants for his work from the National Institutes of Health, PSC/CUNY, and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and he has also been the recipient of a Mellon Fellowship Award, several Faculty-in-Residence Awards, and a Presidential Mini-Grant for Innovative Teaching.

“I have enjoyed my 25 years at Queens College immensely,” Strekas says. “The dedication of the administration, faculty, and staff, and the determination and high aspirations of the students have been an inspiration to me. I look forward to contributing to the college’s growing reputation for excellence.”
Rooftop Weather Station

Just in time for the arrival of Hurricane Isabel, the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences brought online a fully automated weather station located on the roof of the Science Building. The station was funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation and developed in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Water Resources Division. Instruments at the station record temperature, humidity, precipitation, dominant wind direction and wind velocity, wind gust direction and velocity, and total solar radiation. These data are sent in real time to a Web site jointly run by the college and the USGS, at: waterdata.usgs.gov/ny/nwis/nwisman/?site_no=404404073491301&agency

The weather station is half of a QC/USGS initiative to monitor the entire hydrologic cycle on campus as a step toward understanding the groundwater system in Queens and Brooklyn. The other half, scheduled to be operational within a few months, is an automated groundwater monitoring site just north of the parking garage. Data from wells at that site will include fluctuations in the depth to the water table, soil temperature, and soil moisture—information that will be combined with weather station data to calculate the water budget for western Long Island. Real-time groundwater data will also be sent automatically to the QC/USGS Web site. When fully functional, the campus site will be the only one in the nation that combines all components of the hydrologic cycle in an urban environment.

Coch a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer

Nicholas Coch, a longtime member of the Earth and Environmental Sciences faculty, was recently named a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer for a two-year term beginning July 2004. Sigma Xi notes that Coch was selected “for his ability to communicate his insights and excitement to a broad range of students, faculty, and the public.” During these two years Coch will have the opportunity to deliver general interest or advanced lectures at colleges, universities, and research laboratories. Coch is well known for his research on hurricanes and is a familiar figure in the media each fall when hurricane season begins. An expert on northern hurricanes, he also serves as a consultant to the New York City Emergency Management Organization and the New York State Office of Emergency Management.

Celebrating John Castellini

A gala memorial concert in honor of the late John Castellini will be held on Thursday, November 13, at 7:30 pm in LeFrak Concert Hall. Castellini was one of the founding members of the college’s music program and conductor and director of the Queens College Orchestra and Choral Society for many years until his retirement in 1973. The traditional annual performances of Handel’s Messiah each December began under his baton. The concert will feature orchestral and choral music by Castellini, Rathaus, and Beethoven to be performed by the QC Orchestra (Maurice Peress director, Dong-Hyun Kim, conductor), the QC Choir (James John, director), Morey Ritt (piano), Alexander Kouguell (cello), and Donald Pirone (piano). The concert is free and open to all.

For years, fans of Louis Armstrong have been asking MICHAEL COGSWELL, the director of the Armstrong House and Archives, when he was going to write a book about Satchmo. He finally has. Louis Armstrong: The Offstage Story of Satchmo (Collectors Press) is Cogswell’s look at the private life of one of the twentieth century’s most recognizable figures. It features over 250 rare photographs and excerpts from Armstrong’s unpublished writings. After 12 years of overseeing Armstrong’s house and archives and writing a book about him, how does Cogswell see Louis? “I haven’t yet succumbed to the temptation to deify Louis. He was as human as the rest of us, and was certainly no saint. But Louis seemed to embody love, goodness, and humility in everything he touched.” Cogswell will be reading from and signing copies of The Offstage Story of Satchmo at the Barnes & Noble store on East 86th Street in Manhattan on Thursday, November 20 at 7 pm. All royalties from the book support the programs and services of the Armstrong House and Archives.
MARY BUSHNELL (Education) had a letter to the editor published in the September 27 New York Times protesting the use of surveillance cameras in schools. “When will we recognize that treating children like prisoners does not enable them to become contributing, engaged, ethical members of society?” she asks . . . The Queens Chronicle contacted QC’s hurricane expert NICHOLAS COCH (EES) for a Sept. 18 article about Hurricane Isabel. Coch noted that the worst-case scenario for a hurricane approaching the city would be one that came in from New Jersey and entered the city near the Coney Island shore. This could cause massive flooding and tree damage, as well as structural damage to skyscrapers. The Queens Tribune also tapped Coch’s expertise . . . MICHAEL KRASNER (Political Science), in an article in the September 30 New York Times entitled “Bloomberg, the Technocrat, Seeks His Inner LaGuardia,” stated that Bloomberg “is much more comfortable with the details of policy and problem-solving than he is either with rallying and inspiring people or, I think, building alliances among politicians” . . . GREG MANTSIOS (Worker Education) was interviewed on WNYC “Morning Edition” for a piece that aired Friday, Oct. 3 on the Freedom Ride, the recent cross-country tour that sought to bring attention to the plight of immigrants . . . President JAMES MUYSKENS was profiled by the Queens Times Ledger on September 25 in an article headlined “Queens College Prez Wants to Build Campus Community.” He noted that with the uncertain economy, the college has been attracting higher achieving students who would normally have gone to an Ivy League college but are now discovering they have a quality institution in their own backyard . . . AMAL RASSAM (Anthropology, Emerita) was the subject of an October 12 column by Thomas L. Friedman in the New York Times concerning her efforts to help organize interim advisory councils as a way for Iraqis to begin the process of governing themselves . . . In an October 22 Newsday article on the opening of the exhibit Caruso: The Life and Work of an Opera Legend at the Italian American Museum, JOSEPH SCELSA (VP Outreach and Cultural Affairs), president and CEO of the museum, noted that “Caruso made Italian-Americans proud. In 1903 there was a lot of discrimination against Italian-Americans. Caruso, because of his wonderful, fantastic voice, gave Italian-Americans a source of pride, because they could say with great affection that this was someone who came from the same lineage” . . . The September 28 issue of Newsday quoted PETER SCHMIDT (Center for Environmental Studies) on how schools can ensure the safety of their children on overnight trips. He was interviewed on the same subject by 1010 WINS radio on September 30. That interview was also broadcast nationally on ABC radio affiliates . . . September 29 Newsday featured an article on the exhibit McCarthyism at Queens College, 1947 to 1955 that was on display in the Rosenthal Library in October. The article included a photo of exhibit curators DOROTHY PITA ’49, LAWRENCE KAPLAN ’55, and ALICE SPRINTZEN ’69. The Times Ledger also published an article on the exhibit . . . A QC Art Center show, Traces on the Wall, received a full page of coverage in the September 17 Queens Courier.

New Ad Campaign Features Students

Borough residents saw striking new ads about the college in their community weeklies late last month. Aimed at recruiting excellent applicants, each ad showcases a current student and features a large, black-and-white portrait above a capsule profile. All students are residents of Queens.

“I think this is a good way to ‘sell’ the college because we have outstanding students,” says Maria Terrone, Director of Communications. “We’re selecting those who come from a diversity of backgrounds and who represent a diversity of interests and majors. We want the readers—parents and high school students—to be aware that we have not just high-achieving students here but also a wide range of programs and resources for students.”

The first ads spotlight Cathy Jung and Sonia Toure. Cathy is an Asian American student in the Honors College. An aspiring CPA, she is a member of the BALA program who obtained a business-oriented internship through the college. Sonia, an African American who entered through the ACE program and plans to be a doctor, is a member of the Science Organization of Minority Students. Last summer she attended a premed program at Yale. As the mother of three, she relies on campus day care.

Terrone proposed the concept to admissions director Vincent Angrisani. Admissions and Communications will be tracking response to these ads and an upcoming bus ad by including a special phone number for people interested in learning about the college.
History Sometimes Repeats Itself as Freshmen React to the Past

Socrates (played by Provost Evangelos Gizis at right) waits to hear if QC students will be

With degrees from the London School of Economics (M.Sc. in economic history) and Columbia University (M.S., journalism), Svoboda has covered economics, politics, and the military for many newspapers and magazines. During his time as a reporter and editor for the Des Moines Register, Svoboda hit the campaign trail with presidential candidates. As East Coast correspondent for Time magazine, he covered the mid-Atlantic region, including the UN. For the Economist, where he was Africa editor, he lived in London but traveled often to East, Southern, and West Africa.

Svoboda taught at Columbia’s Graduate School of Journalism for nine years, but when the opportunity arose at Queens, he welcomed the challenge of running an academic program. He also liked the diversity of the college. “If you’re interested in international issues, this is a really good place to be,” he says.

A year ago Wayne Svoboda, the new director of the Journalism program, was in the Czech Republic - a Fulbright lecturer in American studies, media studies, and journalism, in a country once deemed inhospitable to visitors and the press. He taught at Charles University in Prague, founded in the late fourteenth century, and at the twentieth-century Masaryk University, named for the country’s first president. His students represented 15 countries of the European Union.

The year of contrasts and change proved rich for Svoboda, who had gone to Czechoslovakia in 1985 “under the old ways” and returned to lively new possibilities. In fact, his interest in folkways and policy informs his own research, which explores the evolution of the idea of the public’s “right to know” as a widely shared justification for journalistic enterprise.

The desire to experience different perspectives has taken Svoboda around the country and the globe. “It’s one of the reasons I became a journalist: to see the places I read about when I was a kid,” says Svoboda, who grew up on a farm in Iowa.

After intense debate, Socrates was condemned to death – again. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced by Queens College students in Philosophy 101, as part of the Freshman Year Initiative. Taught by Fred Purnell, the course builds on an innovative curriculum called Reacting to the Past.

In the curriculum, students play historical games, drawing on important texts to debate pivotal philosophical issues. The teacher’s role as gamemaster includes judicious interventions when students misunderstand the texts or introduce 21st-century arguments. It also entails reading and responding to numerous papers and e-mailed questions from students.

Queens is the first nonresidential college to offer this curriculum. Developed for freshman general education by Mark Carnes, the Ann Whitney Olin Professor of History at Barnard College, it has been adapted and evaluated with the collaboration of faculty at other colleges, including Smith and Trinity. The curriculum differs markedly from the usual college seminar in which the teacher maintains a Socratic relationship with the class, guiding them through discussion of texts.

For the trial of Socrates, for instance, students prepare by reading Plato’s Meno and The Republic as well as historical background. They play multiple roles representing overlapping but not identical social groupings such as occupations and factions (Socratics, oligarchic party, etc.). In the game students use both rhetorical and political strategies to win adherents to specific ideas and values.

According to Purnell, “It’s very hard for a teacher who has spent a career giving information to stand back,” but he finds this curriculum “an invigorating opportunity.” Watching his own students gather in animated clusters, discussing how to argue persuasively for or against citizenship and the vote for women and landless men in ancient Athens, he says with satisfaction, “Look at the interaction!”

Reacting to the Past is still being refined, with the help of funding from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. Purnell is introducing the curriculum with two games, while John Matturri will play one in his section of Philosophy 101 and Helen Gaudette in her History 101.

Thus far, the Reacting to the Past curriculum includes games for not only Athens in 403 B.C., but Anne Hutchinson’s trial in Puritan New England, Confucianism and the succession crisis of the Wan-li Emperor, and Gandhi and the Indian independence movement of the 1940s. Purnell is adding a new game to the roster. A specialist in Italian Renaissance thought, he received a $2,000 grant to research and write a new game on the trial of Galileo. Last summer he traveled to Rome and Florence to photograph sites central to Galileo’s career and visit collections from his laboratory. Purnell will introduce the Galileo game in his Philosophy 101 class later this fall.
ROBERT ENGEL (Chemistry), the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, and LEE ANN TRUESDELL (Secondary Education), the Associate Dean of Teacher Education, will be resigning from their current positions at the end of December. “Bob and Lee Ann exemplify the best of Queens College: fine teachers and scholars who are willing to take on administrative responsibilities for the good of the college,” President Muyskens said. “Bob has done a terrific job as Dean while continuing to teach; indeed, his teaching was recognized with a President’s Award for Excellence at the October Faculty and Staff Assembly. Lee Ann has also excelled as Associate Dean, spearheading the college’s Teaching Fellows program and preparing for our next review by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education.”

Nominations are now being sought to fill these two positions (self-nominations will be considered). A description of the requirements for these positions can be found at www.vanguard.qc.edu/provost/fac_staff

MAXINE ROTHENBERG and SUSAN WONG have assumed expanded responsibilities as Assistant Vice President for Human Resources and Facilities and Assistant Vice President for Business Affairs, respectively. Reporting to Interim Vice President for Finance and Administration Jim O’Hara, Rothenberg will oversee Human Resources; Payroll; Facilities Planning, Management and Construction; Buildings and Grounds; and Security. Wong will be responsible for Budget; Accounting and Accounts Payable; Procurement, Property Management and Auxiliary Services; Bursar & Revenue Reporting; and Financial Aid.

**Remembering Hortense Powdermaker**

Now that the long-awaited renovation of Powdermaker Hall is complete, it behooves us to refresh our collective memory about Hortense Powdermaker: who she was and why a building was named in her honor. In 1938, when Queens College was in its infancy, Hortense Powdermaker founded the Department of Anthropology and Sociology. Beyond that, she was a renowned scholar who helped to shape the emerging field of anthropology.

Hortense Powdermaker was born in 1896 to a German-Jewish family of business people in Baltimore. She attended Goucher College, where she was dissatisfied with her sociology courses and concentrated on history and the humanities. While at Goucher she worked as a labor organizer for the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, an experience that she later regarded as her introduction to fieldwork. After graduating from Goucher, she moved to England and, as a diversion, registered for courses at the famed London School of Economics. Her teachers included Bronislaw Malinowski and A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, two of the founders of anthropology. She later wrote, “Anthropology was what I had been looking for without knowing it.”

Eager to do a study of an “untouched primitive society,” Powdermaker did ten months of fieldwork in a remote village in Australia’s Bismarck Archipelago, which resulted in her first book, *Life in Lesu* (1933). She then did something that was rare in anthropology at that time: she turned the anthropological lens onto the United States, and did a community study of Indianola, Mississippi, which she dubbed “Cottonville.” As a white woman in the Deep South, she transgressed boundaries of both race and gender, proof of her courage and resourcefulness as a researcher. Her book *After Freedom* (1939) is still regarded as a classic because it provides a remarkably detailed and textured account of life on both sides of the color line during the heyday of Jim Crow. Perhaps it was the political acumen she developed as a labor organizer that allowed her to recognize the smoldering resentments among young blacks that erupted two decades later in the civil rights movement. As she wrote in *After Freedom*, “The further they get from ignorance, poverty, and the slave tradition, the more they resent and rebel against such a system imposed upon them under a democracy.”

Powdermaker’s next three books indicate the astonishing range of her scholarship. *Hollywood, the Dream Factory* (1950) provides an incisive analysis of the power structure that rules Hollywood. *Copper Town* (1962) is based on a field study of a mining town in Rhodesia. *Stranger and Friend* (1966) is a reflection on the enterprise of anthropology. In different ways, these books are shining examples of engaged scholarship that championed the cause of racial and economic justice. That all four books remain in print is testimony to the fact that, more than a name on a building, Hortense Powdermaker continues to have a living presence in American social science.

By Stephen Steinberg (Urban Studies)
NOVEMBER EVENTS

6 THU
QC CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: Charles Neidich, director; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm (voluntary $10 donation for ACSM Scholarship Fund requested).

7 FRI
ANNUAL GALA CPSM FACULTY CONCERT: Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm, $3 (for tickets/info, call 3888, also at Box Office).

9 SUN
CONCERT: Prague Chamber Orchestra; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 2 pm, $34/$32.

10 MON
KRISTALLNACHT MEMORIAL PROGRAM: “The Story of a Holocaust Survivor in Germany & Italy,” Walter Wolff; Student Union, 4th flr., 12 noon.

11 TUES
MENC BENEFIT CONCERT: Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm (voluntary $10 donation to the ACSM Scholarship Fund requested).

12 WED
QC ORCHESTRA: Maurice Peress, director; works by Castellini (conducted by Dong-Hyun Kim), Mozart (Macarena Lopez, soprano), and Haydn; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 12 noon.

13 THU
ACADEMIC SENATE WORKSHOP: “How Am I Doing?: Documenting Your Teaching Excellence”; Student Union 310, 3:30 pm.
WRITERS READ SERIES: Poets Maria Terrone (The Bodies We Were Loaned) and Rosette Captoperto (Bronx Italian), Calandra Institute, 25 W. 43rd St., 17th Fl., 6:30 pm.

16 SUN
SYMPOSIUM: “Moses Maimonides: Communal Impact & Historic Legacy”; Student Union, 4th flr. 1:15-5:30 pm ($5 advance registration requested; call 5730 to arrange payment).

ASIAN ART IN PERFORMANCE: Soh Daiko, Taiko drummers; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 2 pm, $12.

17 MON
FRIENDS OF THE QC LIBRARY FALL BOOK SALE: Rosenthal Library Lobby, 3rd flr., 9 am-5 pm, through November 20.
HEALTH SERVICE CENTER: “What Works for You?”; FitzGerald 204, 12 noon & 1 pm.
NOTA BENE ENSEMBLE: David Jolley, director; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 12 noon.
PHYSICS COLLOQUIUM: “Billiard Dynamics: Cold Atoms to Lost Whales,” Bala Sundaram (College of Staten Island), Science Bldg. B326, 12 noon.
PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE: “A Short History of Nature: Rachel Carson to the Present,” Fred Buell (English); Dining Hall, Patio Room South, 12 noon-1 pm (RSVP to qcpres@qc1.qc.edu or 5556).
BRASS STUDIO RECITAL: David Jolley, director; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 3 pm.
PRESIDENTIAL ACHIEVERS HONOR ROLL AWARDS CEREMONY: LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm.
19 WED

FOUNTAIN CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY: clarinet quintets by Menachem Zur (1979) and Brahms; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 12 noon.

JEWISH LECTURE SERIES: “Judah Halevi’s Political Philosophy: Its Relevance for the State of Israel Today,” Zev Harvey, Hebrew Univ. of Jerusalem; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm.


20 THU
QC CHORUS, CHOIR, AND VOCAL ENSEMBLE: Cindy Bell and James John, directors; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm (voluntary $10 donation to the ACSM Scholarship Fund requested).

24 MON
MATTERS OF THE SPIRIT/FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Thanksgiving Celebration; Student Union 208 (Newman Center), 12:30-2 pm (for info, call 793-3979).

QC BRASS ENSEMBLE: David Jolley, director; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 12 noon.

BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE SERIES: “The Golden Age of Solomon,” William G. Dever, Univ. of Arizona; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm ($5).

25 TUE
QC EVENING READING: Author Norman Rush, with Leonard Lopate; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 7 pm ($10)

DECEMBER EVENTS

1 MON

QC OPERA STUDIO: Doris Lang Kosloff, director; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 12 noon.

SEMINAR: “Global Migration/Immigration, Urbanism, and the Contemporary University”; Rosenthal, 5th flr., President’s Conference Rm. #2, 4-5:30 pm (for info, call 4695).

JEWISH LECTURE SERIES: “Yiddish New York,” Thomas Bird (European Languages); Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm.

4 THUR
PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE: Michael Lipsey, director; works by Xenakis, Cage, and others; Music Bldg., Choral Rm., Rm. 264, 7:30 pm (voluntary $10 donation to the ACSM Scholarship Fund requested).

Exhibits

INQUIRING FINGERS, INQUIRING MINDS: Outside Rosenthal 230 (through Nov. 26).

THIS IS WOMAN’S HOUR: THE LIFE OF MARY BAKER EDDY; Rosenthal Library, Barham Rotunda, 3rd flr. (through Dec. 19).


CIPHERS IN TIME: RECENT ITALIAN MIXED-MEDIA ART (Angela Biancofio, Luisella Carretta, Gian Carlo Pagliasso); QC Art Center, Rosenthal, 6th flr. (through Dec. 23).