Keeping a Close Eye on the Budget

Even before the seismic economic events of recent weeks, the Queens College administration, prompted by earlier announcements of cuts in the CUNY budget, was implementing measures to help minimize their effects—at least, in the short term.

“Last year we had a good budget, and we had some reserves,” says Kathy Cobb (VP Finance & Administration). “But those reserves are not available to us this year, and we have a several-million-dollar budget cut.

“Fortunately,” she continues, “we were able to move some of the projects we intended to do this year to last year so we could take advantage of those reserves.”

Going forward, Cobb expects to see substantial cuts in funding available for OTPS (other than personnel services) spending. “We’ll also have to see some personnel services reductions and that will have to be obtained through a cutback in hiring. Right now we have a hiring pause. We don’t know how long that will last.

“This year we need to protect the core mission, to make sure that our students’ education and our faculty’s salaries are not impacted. But other areas will be affected.”

One area may be tuition. Any increase there, Cobb notes, can be ameliorated by financial aid. With respect to the proposal recently floated to allow individual CUNY schools to determine their own tuition rates, Cobb says, “I believe a rational tuition policy is very much on the table. We don’t want to wait X number of years and then have to do a substantial increase. That’s just not right. The idea is to have modest, incremental increases.”

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Humanities newcomer MICHAEL NELSON (Art) specializes in Mycenaean art and archaeology. He earned his master’s degree and doctorate at the University of Toronto; then he became an adjunct at a small liberal arts college in St. Paul, Minnesota. “A large East Coast school was appealing to me, with its economic and ethnic diversity,” says Nelson. A resident of Manhattan’s Yorkville neighborhood, he commutes by subway and bus to QC, but regularly travels farther with students on excavations and study abroad trips, which are critical to his research and teaching. He’s already led trips in Greece, Italy, Turkey, and Israel. “I’m thinking now of Libya,” he says.

continued on page 2

A New Tradition for Freshmen

Some 800 freshmen participated in the Jefferson Gateway Procession, the first exercise of what will become a QC tradition, when they entered campus en masse through the new gateways leading to Jefferson Hall. They were then welcomed by Pres. James Muyskens and other officials. A similar ceremony, the Jefferson Gateway Recessional, will take place as part of future commencement exercises when graduating students will leave campus through the same gates. “The journey,” says Muyskens, “takes students full circle, and they leave with far more than they brought.”

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In the Social Sciences, ALEXANDER BAUER (Anthropology) explores related academic territory. “I work in Turkey, on the Black Sea,” says Bauer, who studies cultural interactions in the area, going as far back as 5000 BC. As editor-in-chief of the International Journal of Cultural Property, an interdisciplinary academic journal, he also addresses present-day topics involving the treatment and ownership of artifacts. “I love teaching at the undergraduate level,” notes Bauer, who held positions at the University of Pennsylvania (where he got his PhD), George Washington University, and Princeton University. “I enjoy teaching classes that aren’t necessarily the ones majors would take. If you take only one class outside your major, it should be anthropology.”

ASHAKI ROUFF (Earth & Environmental Sciences) is among 13 professors joining the Mathematics and Natural Sciences division. Rouff holds a doctorate in geosciences from SUNY Stony Brook. She spent the last two years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Laboratory for Energy Materials at the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland, where she conducted high-temperature, high-pressure lab studies aimed at transforming biomass into a source of clean-burning fuel. Rouff’s first assignment at QC is teaching a graduate-level introductory course, Principles of Environmental Geochemistry. “I’m interested in outreach and working with underrepresented groups,” she adds, noting that she feels at home in the multiethnic United States.

Encouraging the development of future scientists—particularly among minority and immigrant students—is one of the long-term goals of a new faculty member in Education, ASHRAF SHADY (EECE). He has extensive experience with public institutions: He got his doctorate in science education at the CUNY Graduate Center and logged 17 years with the New York City Department of Education as a science teacher, science coordinator, and science director. Shady’s work concerns ways to address the impact of race, class, ethnicity, and identity issues in science education. “Science education is not only about the delivery of content,” he explains. “Unless you change the culture of the classroom, it’s impossible to get better results.”

The greater emphasis on community that President James Muyskens called for in the Strategic Plan can be seen coalescing in a number of changes taking place both on and around the Queens College campus.

A principal driver is the creation of The Summit, QC’s first student housing complex, with an anticipated August 2009 opening.

“The Strategic Plan has really laid the groundwork for us to improve the student life of our campus and to continue to create a campus that has a residential feel,” says Joe Bertolino (VP Student Affairs). “We’ve now broken ground for the residence hall; we’ve built a new fitness center, a recreation center, and a series of student lounges around campus. We’ve also updated our dining facilities. We’re creating warm welcoming spaces that meet not only students’ academic needs but their social and personal needs as well.

“Africa Adventure

On a trip this summer to Ethiopia to study baboons, QC biologist Stephane Boissinot (far right) was accompanied by (l to r) Mahmoud (Guide at Bale National Park), Christine Tuaillon (Nassau Community College), and QC students Pamela Sanchez, Ronald Fikes, Juliana Giraldo-Ramirez, and Lauren Alvarez.

Strategic Plan Placing Emphasis on Community

“The Strategic Plan,” Bertolino observes, “gave us an opportunity to take a good look at ourselves, to set some benchmarks in comparison to other institutions, and to raise the standard of the services we provide for our students.”

The college’s new Asian Initiatives program shows the academic side of QC’s focus on community. Its acting director, Marleen Kassel, says, “The program is responsible for coordinating existing Asia-related activities across campus, and expanding and institutionalizing them.” And, noting the Flushing area’s large Asian population, she says, “It will also forge stronger bonds and create greater visibility for the college locally and in different Asian countries.

“Queens College,” she continues, “is home to what is arguably the largest and most comprehensive East Asian Studies program in the City University system. continued on page 5
On April 26 MAGNUS O. BASSEY (Secondary Ed.) presented a paper entitled “Service—Learning for Social Justice: An Ongoing Research,” at the second Equity & Social Justice in Education Conference held at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey . . . ZOE BELOFF (Media Studies) presented her second solo exhibition, The Somnambulists, at Bellwether Gallery in Manhattan, Sept. 6–Oct. 4. It’s comprised of five hand-painted miniature wooden theatres into which moving images are projected. The installation centers on the idea of literally staging the unconscious as a hysterical drama. The exhibition is accompanied by the publication of Beloff’s first book, The Somnambulists: A Compendium of Source Material, made in collaboration with Christine Burgin . . . JEFFREY HALPERIN’s (Psych.) student Joey Trampusch received an award to attend the 9th Annual Meeting of the SUNY-ADHD Molecular Genetics Network, Dec. 2–10, in Sanibel Island, Florida . . . SAMUEL HEILMAN (Sociology) recently completed eight months as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he was part of a group working on a “new history of Hasidism.” During that time he and a colleague completed work on a social biography of Menachem Mendel Schneerson, the Seventh Lubavitcher Rebbe, and his messianic movement (to be published by Princeton University Press).Selected this fall to be a Fulbright Senior Specialist, Heilman will give a series of lectures at Nanjing and Shanghai Universities in China as well as at Kaiteng University . . . On Sept. 27 RICHARD MCCOY (English) appeared as a noted Shakespeare scholar at the Classic Stage Company’s Saturday symposium following a 2 pm matinee performance of Shakespeare’s The Tempest starring Mandy Patinkin. With partial support from the English Department’s Alumni Fund, 15 students from McCoy’s Shakespeare II course attended the performance and talk. McCoy, with the support of an NEH fellowship, is writing a book on Faith in Shakespeare . . . EUGENIA PAULICELLI (Eur. Langs.) recently published two articles: “Mapping the World: The Political Geography of Dress in Cesare Vecellio’s Costume Books” in the Italianist, Vol. 28 (2008), and “Poetica e Politica dello spazio nella scrittura di Clara sereni” in Athanor, n.11 (2007–08). She was also invited to speak on “From the Sacred to the Secular: The Gendered Geography of Veils in Italian Cinquecento Fashion” at the conference Accessorizing the Renaissance Body organized by NYU’s Gallatin School Sept. 26, and on “Going Global: Italian Style and the Films of Michelangelo Antonioni (1960–1966)” at the international conference of fashion studies Interactions, organized by the University of Stockholm, Oct. continued on page 4


Heilman

McCoy

Paulicelli

McCoY

Henderson (VP Institutional Advancement) notes some continuing bright spots for the college. These include increased entrepreneurial activity among faculty and greater success in fund-raising activities.

“Our alumni,” she says, “are appreciative of the quality education they received for the modest tuition they were charged. They realize that in order to maintain that quality education, we have to rely more on private funding.”

In proceeding this way, notes Henderson, “We’re just following in the pattern of most other public institutions around the country that have begun to rely more on their alumni and private funds or on the entrepreneurial activity of their faculty. Those things help enrich our programming.”

Citing as an example of that enrichment QC’s new Asian Initiatives program, she says, “We use what we get from our fund-raising each year to do a lot of seed funding. Recently we’ve been able to endow the first years of some endowed professorships. We’ve also used it to fund faculty who want to do innovative things. This has allowed us to become more of a value-added institution.”

But, again taking note of the budget cuts and grim economic news, she concludes, “It puts the pressure on us to be very diligent in going after both foundation grants and private donations.”
People from page 3

3–4 . . . STEVE PEKAR (Earth & Env. Sci.) gave four talks this summer: one in St. Petersburg, Russia, at the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research meeting; two in Oslo, Norway, at the International Geological Congress; and an invited talk at Cambridge University in the UK. Pekar was recently one of 26 scientists selected from over 120 researchers around the world by the integrated Ocean Drilling Program to participate as an onboard scientist on an oceanic research expedition to Antarctica between early January and mid-March 2009. . . . CAROLINE RUPPRECHT (Comp. Lit.) presented a paper on “Hiroshima mon amour and Uwe Johnson’s Jahrrestage” at the U.S. Cultural Studies Association Meeting at NYU on May 22. . . . CHRISTA SPREIZER (Eur. Langs.) was an invited participant at the 4th Alumni Conference of the Round Table USA: Societies in Transition—Adjusting to Changing Global Environments held at Stanford University, June 26–28. Follows from over 30 key organizations and foundations discussed the challenges posed by the ongoing process of globalization and ways in which to improve future German-American cooperation.

MFA in Creative Writing Begins Collaboration with Actors Company Theatre of New York City

Dramatic developments are under way at Queens College. Building on the success of its master’s in fine arts program in creative writing and literary translation, QC is joining forces with The Actors Company Theatre (TACT) of New York City. This unique collaboration will allow emerging dramatists to have their scripts developed and performed by members of an acclaimed off-Broadway troupe, one of the few true repertory companies in the city.

Under the leadership of Obie-award-nominated playwright Richard Schotter (English), winner of the Berman Prize in Playwriting, this curriculum offers the rare interplay of practical theatre experience and intensive workshop training. “There’s nothing more useful and exciting for a young playwright than to see and hear his or her work performed by professional actors in a real-world theatrical setting,” notes Schotter. “And that’s what our partnership with TACT will provide.” Students will also have the chance to cross genres and study with members of QC’s MFA faculty in poetry, fiction, and translation.

To complete the learning experience, members of TACT will help students move their material from the page to the stage. Led by director/playwright Scott Alan Evans and actors Cynthia Harris and Simon Jones, TACT is an ensemble of professional theatre artists with collective credits in scores of Broadway shows, hundreds of Off-Broadway plays, and over a thousand regional productions. Unique in its artistic vision, TACT is, in the words of Evans, dedicated to “creating theatre from its essence: the text and the actor’s ability to bring it to life.”

The deadline for application to the program for the 2009–2010 academic year is February 15, 2009. For further information, visit the MFA Web site at www.qc.cuny.edu/Creative_Writing and The Actors Company Theatre’s Web site at www.tactnyc.org.

2,977 Reasons to Remember

That’s the number of lives lost in the worst attack ever on American soil on Sept. 11, 2001. Samuel Hahn (above, right), president of the College Republicans, assisted by Jacob Solomon (left), raised money to pay for the 2,977 flags that were placed on the Quad for this year’s observance of the attack. The Manhattan skyline behind the pair still appears strangely incomplete without the familiar twin towers of the World Trade Center. Speaking at this year’s memorial event, Pres. James Muyskens observed, “We come here today to not talk about what is missing, but what we have gained. . . . Take these tragedies as an opportunity to understand each other.” Sen. Frank Padavan (near left) presented Muyskens with a “Flag of Heroes” listing emergency service personnel who died on 9/11.
Contemporary Chinese Landscapes at Godwin-Ternbach Museum

Meditation in Contemporary Chinese Landscape, a special exhibition organized by the Godwin-Ternbach Museum and curated by Luchia Meihua Lee, features the work of 12 Chinese artists from Taiwan, China, Malaysia, and the United States. It opens on October 15 and runs through December 6.

Working in the media of painting, installation, video, and photography, these artists capture the spirit of Chinese landscape in contemporary context, using today’s visual language and idioms. Included is work by Queens resident Zhang Hongtu, whose politically charged painting was seized by Chinese customs officials and banned in part, to develop and solidify our relationship with the Asian community in Queens—the second largest in the U.S.—and pave the way for future collaboration.

Just as Chinese landscapes are meant to be true to nature but not pictorial, Meditation invites the viewer to explore the art in detail, using imagination to supplement the work itself. In so doing, the viewer experiences a kind of journey through the represented scene. Updating this practice for the current exhibition, the gallery space has been designed as an interactive environment, with four stations or zones that simulate the journey that viewers undergo by contemplating traditional Chinese landscapes.

The opening reception on October 15 will feature a special performance by choreographer Yin Mei (Dance). For information on additional public events, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/godwin_ternbach.

Strategic Plan from page 2

Three of the eight distinguished professors on campus teach about Asia. The Asian Initiatives program is a logical outgrowth of this unique aspect of Queens College.

On October 15 the program will present A Day of Chinese Art to coincide with the opening of Meditation in Contemporary Chinese Landscape at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum (see article at left). The day will feature “The White Haired Girl: Chinese Revolutionary Ballet on Film,” a presentation and discussion by Ling Guiming of the Shanghai Ballet at 12 noon in the Patio Room of the Dining Hall. At 6 pm in the Godwin-Ternbach, there will be a performance of Mountain/River/Ink/Lust: three thousand, choreographed by Yin Mei (Dance).

QC’s participation in CUNY’s environmental initiative will become even more of a community effort in the weeks ahead, according to Kathy Cobb (VP Finance & Administration), director of the campus’s sustainability efforts.

“We’re going to launch a suggestion campaign and give out prizes,” she says. People who contribute ideas that can be used to help shrink QC’s carbon footprint will be rewarded with tote bags—made from renewable materials, of course—bearing the sustainability logo.

Cobb says there may also be more bike racks on campus in the future, thanks to a city initiative to induce more people to reduce dependence on carbon-emitting automobiles. “I know Mayor Bloomberg is committed to having a bike-friendly city,” she says. “Another initiative is carpooling software. There are some vendors who supply software that matches people up with carpooling options.”

Cobb notes that sustainability goals and requirements are also being factored into the RFP for a new food service as the current vendor’s contract has expired.

The college’s ongoing efforts to “brand” itself in the minds of the public also support the Strategic Plan’s emphasis on community. “Building on our unique strengths to create a recognizable QC brand is an important way to foster unity and pride among faculty, staff, and students,” notes Maria Terrone (Asst. VP Communications).
TV Ad Campaign Last Spring Succeeds—
Ad Will Reach More Homes This Month

“Take the Q,” the college’s first-ever television ad campaign that debuted March 31, significantly increased telephone activity to Admissions during its six-week broadcast on Time Warner and Cablevision networks in New York City and Long Island. The 30-second ad, which starred the college’s diverse students, greatly increased awareness of QC. While the ad aired, the average number of calls coming into the basic Admissions telephone number (x5600) increased by more than 50 percent compared to a week in March before the ad was broadcast. In the fifth week of the campaign, calls increased by 140 percent. The number of people who visited the college’s Web site also increased during the same period.

“Take the Q” began a new three-week run on October 6. An on-screen message has been added informing viewers that the college’s residence hall opens in August 2009. “To attract more potential students for The Summit, we’ve expanded our reach,” says Maria Terrone (Asst. VP Communications). “We’re now including the Hauppauge zone in Suffolk County, which airs in an additional 200,000 homes.”

Making a Good Impression
Yes, many of these neatly attired young men and women really are Queens College students—putting on their best appearance and attitude as they shuttle between booths at a recent career fair held on the fourth floor of the Student Union. It was an opportunity to meet representatives of several prospective employers, leave a resume, and make a good impression.
IN MEMORIAM: Benny Kraut

IN MEMORIAM: Benny Kraut, a member of the History Department since 1998 and director of the QC Jewish Studies Program and the Center for Jewish Studies from 1998 to 2006, died on Friday, Sept. 26. A renowned scholar of Jewish history, he earned the President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2004. Kraut came to QC after serving as professor and director of Judaic Studies at the University of Cincinnati for almost 22 years. A summa cum laude graduate in philosophy from Yeshiva University, he held MA and PhD degrees in Jewish history from Brandeis University. Kraut’s wide-ranging academic interests lay in the areas of modern European and American Jewish history, the history of Judaism, Jewish-Christian relations, and Holocaust studies, fields in which he published widely. He is survived by his wife, Penina, and his three children, Racheli, Yehuda, and Yosefa.

Harmonious Homecoming

Graduates of QC’s music program perform in the garden of the Louis Armstrong House Museum for participants in this year’s Homecoming on Sept. 21. A reception at the house was the last act of a day filled with activities that began with brunch in the recently renovated Patio Room. This year’s event saluted the classes of ’48, ’58, and ’83.

Stephen Rea to Be Interviewed After Oct. 16 Performance of Playboy of the Western World

After receiving critical acclaim in New York and London stagings of Sam Shepard’s monologue Kicking a Dead Horse, Stephen Rea is playing a new role as artist-in-residence at Queens College in October. The Belfast-born actor, an Oscar nominee for his performance in The Crying Game, will visit classes and rehearsals in conjunction with the college production of J.M. Synge’s Playboy of the Western World. He will also attend the play’s opening night on October 16, when he will be interviewed by Professor Kevin Whalen of Notre Dame University, Dublin, after the final curtain. “I’m very susceptible to being asked to do things,” says Rea, who considers Synge’s dark comedy “the greatest Irish play we have in the English language.”

The first Irish drama enacted at Queens College in decades, Playboy is the culmination of an innovative interdepartmental effort. This summer Clare Carroll (Irish Studies) and Susan Einhorn (Theatre) took 16 CUNY students to the National University of Ireland at Galway for a Study Abroad course that focused on Playboy, andTranslations by Brian Friel. Absorbing Irish culture at its source allowed the participants—most of them QC drama majors—to develop a deeper understanding of the texts. Rea is an apt choice as coach: He played the title role in the Synge work earlier in his career.

Following the performance on Sunday, Oct. 19, there will be a panel discussion on Irish theatre. Among the participants will be Charlotte Moore, the artistic director of the Irish Repertory Theatre in New York City.

The Department of Drama, Theatre & Dance will present Playboy of the Western World in Goldstein Theatre, October 16–26, under the direction of Einhorn. Tickets are $12. See calendar on page 8 for dates and times.

Play Ball!

Members of the Lady Knights softball team join (l to r) VP Sue Henderson, Athletics Director Rick Wettan, Softball Coach Brian DeMasters, and Pres. James Muyskens for the Homecoming Day ribbon-cutting ceremony opening QC’s renovated softball field. The field is part of a $900,000 renovation of the track and baseball and soccer fields.
October

15 WED


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY: Press Conference, Frese Hall, 1st Floor, 11 am; March, in front of Frese Hall, 12 noon.

A DAY OF CHINESE ARTS: "The White Haired Girl: Chinese Revolutionary Ballet on Film," presentation and discussion, Prof. Lin Guiming. Dir., Shanghai Ballet China, Patio Room Dining Hall, 12 noon–1:30 pm. President’s Reception, 5:15–6 pm; Mountain/River/Ink/Last • three thousand, dance performance by Yin Mei. Dir., QC Dance Program, 6–6:30 pm; Meditation in Contemporary Chinese Landscape, exhibition opening with original student music compositions, 6:30–8 pm; Godwin- Ternbach Museum, 405 Klapper Hall.

16-19 & 23-26

THU-SUN


20 MON

PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE: “Commuting to Queens College: Why So Slow and What Can Be Done,” Yan Zheng (Earth & Environmental Sciences) and Alfredo Morabia (Center for Biology of Natural Systems). Q-Side Lounge, Dining Hall, 12:15 pm. RSVP Qc.Pres.EventsRSVP@qc.cuny.edu or x75559.

21 TUE

CONCERT: Siri Howard, soprano, and Max Roll, baritone. LeFrak Hall, 10 am–12 noon. Information x73802.

22 WED


23 THU

LECTURE: “The Contribution of Jewish Scholarship to the Emergence of Islamic Studies,” Dr. I. Schorsch. LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm.

24 FRI

CONCERT: Kenny Vance and the Plano- tones Unplugged. LeFrak Hall, 8 pm. $45.

26 SUN

CONCERT: Shlomo Leiderman & Old Red Wine Band, Klezmer Meets Dixieland. LeFrak Hall, 2 pm. $15.

27 MON


LEcTure: “A Child’s Voice: One Girl’s Journey to Discover Her Voice and Be Heard,” Michele Pranger. Frese Hall, Room 014, 12:15 pm.


28 TUE

EVENING READING: Novelist Jamaica Kincaid reads from her work and is interviewed by Leonard Lopez. LeFrak Hall, 7 pm. $15. Information x74646 or www.qc.cuny.edu/readings.

30 THU


November

2 SUN

CINEMA ON SUNDAYS: Kaddish. Discussant: Paul Marcus. LeFrak Hall, 2 pm. $5.

3 MON


4 TUE

CONCERT: Jaume Llinares, Quico Miro Reig, violins, Vicent Nogues, viola, and Fran Moral, cello. LeFrak Hall, 10 am–12 noon. Information x73802.

Exhibits


FYI items should be submitted to Maria Matteo, maria.matteo@qc.cuny.edu, Kiely 1310, x75593.