Peter Carravetta and Kristin Jackson
Receive Fulbright Scholar Awards

Peter Carravetta (European Languages and Literatures) and Kristin Jackson (Drama, Theatre & Dance) have been awarded Fulbright Scholar grants for the 2002-2003 academic year. They were selected on the basis of their academic or professional achievement and for extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

Peter Carravetta came to the College in 1983 and was appointed a full professor in 1992. He had previously received a Fulbright Junior Research Award to Rome in 1991 for work on Italian Marxism. Among his accomplishments, he is the founding editor of Differentia, Review of Italian Thought (1986-1999), the author of Prefaces to the Diaphora (Purdue UP 1991), Il fantasma di Hermes (Milella 1996), and Dei Parlanti. Studi e ipotesi su metodo e retorica dell’interpretare, which will be published by Marcovalerio of Turin in November. (A re-writing in English, entitled Gods and People Speaking: Studies on the Method and Rhetoric of Interpretation, is under way.) Carravetta is also the editor of several anthologies of criticism and poetry, and the author of over 75 articles. In 1999 he was an exchange professor at the University of Paris/8, at their Institute for European Studies.

For his Fulbright Senior Lecture-ship, Carravetta will teach American Literature and Culture at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid, Spain, for the Spring 2003 semester. He will give a series of weekly lectures and discussions on trends in American criticism, poetry, and the media; relations between American and European schools of thought; the question of postmodernity; intellectuals before and after the end of the Cold War; debates on history and education; and identity and the new immigration. Besides the above, Carravetta will continue his ongoing research on the history of European colonialism and migrations, focusing on Spanish sources during his sojourn.

Kristin Jackson, who holds a master’s degree in dance from New York University, is currently adjunct associate professor in the Department of Drama, Theatre & Dance, where she has taught since 1990. In November she will travel to the University of the Philippines – Diliman in Quezon City, the college from which she received her bachelor’s degree. While there she will teach three classes and choreograph a piece using the music of a local composer.

A gifted dancer and choreographer, Jackson has been praised by the New York Times (“I loved the soft intensity of the way she moved, her velvety quality”) and the Village Voice (“[Jackson dances with] a combination of strength and delicacy, even fragility, cool and contained, with an enormous amount of fire”). She has previously received grants from Meet the Composer/International Creative Collaborations Program and the Ford Foundation to stage In Their Shoes. A multimedia dance performance, In Their Shoes explored the Jackson family’s experiences during World War II, when the Philippines came under the domination of the Japanese. In Their Shoes received its world premiere at the Colden Center in November 1998.

Carravetta and Jackson are two of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad to 140 countries for the 2002-2003 academic year through the Fulbright Scholar Program. Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright, the program’s purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

Among thousands of prominent U.S. Fulbright Scholar alumni are Milton Friedman, Nobel Laureate in Economics; James Watson, co-discoverer of the structure of DNA and Nobel Laureate in Medicine; Rita Dove, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet; and Craig Barrett, CEO of Intel Corporation.

The Fulbright Program, America’s flagship international educational exchange activity, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. During its 56-year existence, thousands of U.S. faculty and professionals have studied, taught, or done research abroad, and thousands of their counterparts from other countries have engaged in similar activities in the United States.
Notes

Preziosi: Italy’s Anti-Semite
On Monday, October 21 Mario Caruso (Graduate Admissions) will discuss “Giovanni Preziosi: Fascist Italy’s Rabid Anti-Semite.” This lecture will examine the campaign directed against the Jews by Preziosi, a defrocked priest whose calls to curtail the civil rights of Italy’s Jews predated the 1938 anti-Semitic fascist legislation introduced and implemented by Mussolini. The talk will take place at noon in the Newman Center, SU 208.

Talk on Caribbean Americans
“Politics and the Caribbean American Community” will be the topic of a lecture by François Pierre-Louis (Political Science) on Wednesday, October 23 at noon in Room 301 of the Student Union. His talk is part of the Young Scholars’ Series sponsored by Africana Studies. Students attending the lecture will receive one CLIQ point.

Friends of Library Lecture
“Uncovering Early New York Jewish History” will be the topic of a lecture by Leo Hershkowitz (History) on Wednesday, October 23, at 12:30. The lecture, presented by the Friends of the Queens College Library, will take place in the fifth floor President’s Conference Room #2, in Rosenthal Library. All are invited to attend.

Exhibition Walk-Through
Amy Winter, director and curator of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, is offering a walk-through of the Museum’s latest exhibition, Director’s Choice: Highlights of the Godwin-Ternbach Collection, Part II: Renaissance to Modern Art on Thursday, October 24 at noon. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call 4747 or visit www.qc.edu/art/gtmus.html.

College and Con Edison Collaborate to Improve Teaching of Science
On October 8 President James Muyskens hosted a ceremony to thank Consolidated Edison for its support of the College’s GLOBE NY METRO initiative. Con Ed’s grant of $25,000 made it possible for the College to become the GLOBE Program’s teacher training and support partner for southern New York State. The College is now responsible for implementing this science teaching and learning program in Grades K-12 in every school in New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, and southern Westchester counties.

Among those representing Con Edison at the ceremony were David Gedris, Vice President for Brooklyn/Queens Electric Operations, and Carol Consalato, Director of Queens Public Affairs. Also attending were Queens High Schools’ Rowena Karsh, Deputy Superintendent, and Diane Pillersdorf, Coordinator for Science and Mathematics.

“Queens College became a GLOBE training partner because we were concerned about American children’s poor performance on standardized mathematics and science tests, which raised serious questions about the way these subjects are being taught,” noted Allan Ludman (EES), who heads the Project GLOBE effort at the College. “Indeed, we have inaugurated several programs recently to address this problem: a campus school devoted to improving math, science, and technology education; the Time 2000 program to train mathematics majors for secondary school teaching; and the Science Teacher Career Ladder. GLOBE represents our most ambitious step in this area, one that will lead to strong, long-term ties with all the school districts and systems in the New York metropolitan area.”

The GLOBE program was created in 1994 by NASA, NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency, National Science Foundation, and the Federal Departments of State and Education. The goal is to improve the teaching and learning of science. Today, the program is used in more than 12,000 schools in 98 countries.

GLOBE trains teachers at all levels to implement a hands-on, inquiry-based approach to science. Students make measurements in five areas of the environment: atmosphere, hydrology, soils, land cover, and phenology (seasonal change). Data collected by the students are sent via the Internet to the GLOBE database, where federal and university researchers use them to monitor long-term climate change. The projects and student data have already been praised in Science and Nature, the world’s two most prestigious scientific journals.

In its initial year, the College’s GLOBE NY METRO initiative trained 36 teachers from Queens schools. Plans are nearly complete for three training cohorts this year involving 120 teachers from 40 schools in Brooklyn, Queens, Staten Island, and Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Journalism Minor to be Administered by GSLIS
Following consultation with a number of departments at the College and other institutions with journalism programs, Provost Evangelos Gizis announced that the journalism minor has been placed in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS).

Under the guidance of the GSLIS, an interdisciplinary search committee and an interdisciplinary curriculum committee will be created to handle major issues affecting the journalism program. Another committee of faculty members from interested departments will explore options for a master’s in journalism.

According to Gizis, for a number of years, faculty teaching in the journalism minor were appointed from various departments related to their disciplines (e.g., English, History, Media Studies) and the minor was placed administratively in the Office of the Provost. Although this model had some advantages, notes Gizis, it encountered some difficulties, especially concerning the issue of guidance to the faculty.
Health Alert: Breast Cancer & Flu Shots
As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the Health Service Center will be holding a session on how to perform a breast self-exam on Wednesday, October 23 from 12-1 pm in FitzGerald Gym 204. Students receive a CLIQ point for attending.

On this same day, faculty and staff may receive a flu vaccination from Dr. Vinay Kapoor. There will be a $15 fee, and as supply is limited, shots will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. To receive a shot, go to Room 204 in the FitzGerald Gym between 4 and 6 pm.

Storybook Parade to Be Held on Halloween
The Child Development Center will hold their first annual Fall Storybook Parade on October 31 at 10:30 a.m. Instead of their traditional Halloween interoffice trick-or-treating, the children will dress as their favorite storybook character and parade down the quad to the Library. There the Center will host a literacy reception at which President Muyskens will read to the children. If you would like to schedule an appointment to come and read a book to the children, call the Center at 5885. Visit our website at www.qc.edu/qcchild to see our featured guest readers.

Alice Zinnes Exhibit at QC Art Center
The QC Art Center will present The Color of Memory: 25 Years: An Exhibition of Paintings and Drawings by Alice Zinnes from October 29 to December 23. The opening reception will take place on Tuesday, October 29, from 5 to 8 pm, with a gallery talk by the artist at 5 pm. This is the first time Zinnes’ representational and abstract work will be exhibited together.

Zinnes’ current paintings contain the spirit of the storyteller in the guise of the abstract adventurer. Before making these abstract paintings, she spent 15 years painting from observation.

Zinnes was born in Norman, OK, received her BA from Swarthmore College and MFA from Queens College. She has had four solo exhibitions in New York City and is represented in many public and private collections. She teaches at Pratt and the New York City College of Technology.

The Art Center is on the 6th floor of the Library. Hours are Monday to Thursday, 9 am–8 pm, and Friday, 9 am–5 pm (closed November 28-29). For information, call 3770 or visit www.qc.edu/Library/art/artcenter.html.

Symposium on Italian Fashion October 30-31
A symposium on Italian Fashion: Identities – Transformations – Production will bring together internationally known scholars, leading designers from Italy and the U.S., and specialists in the field. They will explore the role fashion has played both in the past and in the contemporary world in shaping identities, and as a manifestation of Italy’s cultural and artistic wealth. The symposium will be held on Wednesday, October 30 (10 am–7 pm) and Thursday, October 31 (9:30 am–4 pm) at the Elebash Recital Hall at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Speakers will examine the complex apparatus of fashion in the spheres of art, design, industry, publicity and mass media, street-styles, youth culture, and cinema. The symposium is free and open to the public. To reserve a place, call the Italian Trade Commission at 212-848-0325. The symposium is sponsored by the Italian Trade Commission, the Italian Cultural Institute, Queens College, the Calandra Institute, and the CUNY Graduate Center.

Drama to Present Classic Molière Farce
The Doctor in Spite of Himself by Molière is one of the world’s great farces, poking entertaining fun at the foibles of its age, and perhaps our own age as well. The Department of Drama, Theatre & Dance will be performing this classic in the Little Theatre (King 115) on Friday, October 18 and Saturday October 19 at 8 pm, and on Sunday, October 20, at 3 pm. Tickets are $12 ($9 with QCID/senior citizens).
The Silence of the Godfather Explored

On Thursday, October 31 at 6:30 pm, Christian Messenger will speak on “The Godfather’s Silences” as part of the Calandra Institute’s Seminar Series in Italian American Studies. Messenger is the author of The Godfather and American Culture: How the Corleones Became “Our Gang” (2002) and professor of English at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He will focus on the multiple meanings of The Godfather’s “silences” as Italian, modernist, popular, and “American.” The event is free but seating is limited. The Calandra Institute is located at 25 West 43rd St. in Manhattan. For information call (212) 642-2035 or visit www.qc.edu/calandra.

IN MEMORIAM

E. James Ferguson

E. James Ferguson, Professor Emeritus of History at the College, died at his home in Silver Spring, MD, on September 11 at the age of 85. He was the author of The Power of the Purse: A History of American Public Finance, 1776-1790 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1961). The Power of the Purse, which received the John H. Dunning Prize of the American Historical Association in 1962, is widely considered a classic in the literature on the American Revolution. It is the only modern work to explain and untangle the intricate financial history of the American Revolution, showing how financial developments significantly influenced, and in turn were affected by, political, constitutional, and military currents in this formative era in America’s history.

Elmer James Ferguson was born on January 23, 1917 in Provo, UT, and received his bachelor’s (1939) and master’s (1941) degrees from the University of Washington, and his Ph.D. in history (1951) from the University of Wisconsin. He taught at the University of Maryland from 1947 until he joined the College in 1964, retiring in 1984. Ferguson was also the founding editor of The Papers of Robert Morris, 1781-1784 (University of Pittsburgh Press, 1973-1999), which was sponsored by the College. The Papers is a nine-volume work consisting of the official diary and correspondence of Morris as Superintendent of Finance, together with detailed explanatory notes based on Ferguson’s mastery of Revolutionary War finance. After Ferguson sustained a near-fatal head injury in 1980, his associates and students brought The Papers of Robert Morris to completion.

Engel & Students Develop Bacteria-Killing Surfaces

Bandages and other medical materials that can fight disease are promised by new techniques using chemically modified surfaces that can kill microbes. Robert Engel (Chemistry & Biochemistry) and two of his former students have modified the surfaces of carbohydrate-based materials such as cotton cloth, gauze, wood, paper, and bulk cellulose, giving them both antibacterial and antifungal properties. The modified surfaces are not removed or rendered inactive by washing or action against the microbes.

Working with Engel were former students Jaime Lee Iolani Cohen, now an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Pace University, and Karin Melkonian, now Assistant Professor of Biology at Long Island University-C.W. Post. While some of the modified surfaces were active against one type of bacteria (Gram-positive) but not against another (Gram-negative), one particular agent was effective against both types of strains as well as fungi. (Gram-negative bacteria, which occur in the gastrointestinal tract, cause sepsis and other sometimes-fatal diseases.) By contact alone, the new treatment kills many kinds of bacteria. The antibacterial action is believed to result from disruption of bacterial cell walls. Since the agent is physically bonded to the surface and is not washed out or modified upon interaction with bacteria, “it remains capable of continually acting against the bacteria.” Engel added that the agent also kills yeast.

Work on antibacterial coatings has been reported by two other groups. One has developed an antibacterial treatment applicable to glass surfaces and plastics. Another developed a variety of polymeric compounds for antibacterial surface treatments.

The researchers with whom Engel worked presented their results in April at the American Chemical Society National Meeting in Orlando, FL. Their findings were included in a report on antibacterial coatings in Chemical & Engineering News in June. In addition to a patent that is pending, the work is under submission for publication in Carbohydrate Research, an international journal.

Because of the relative ease of the Engel/Cohen/Melkonian method of creating antimicrobial properties for both porous and nonporous materials, the research has been called “elegant in its simplicity” and seen to have wide applications in maintaining the antiseptic properties of surfaces.

When Italian Americans Were “Enemy Aliens”

With America’s entrance into World War II, 600,000 Italian immigrants were designated “enemy aliens” by the U. S. government. Some were even held in detention on Ellis Island. Recently the experience of Italian “enemy aliens” has emerged from old scrapbooks to become an essential topic within Italian American communities. The exhibition Prisoners in Our Own Home: The Italian American Experience as America’s Enemy Aliens examines the importance of this little-known episode in American history by attempting to understand the fear and uncertainty enemy alien programs aroused in Italian Americans.

Prisoners in Our Own Home runs through January 10, 2003. Hours are Monday–Friday, 10 am–4 pm and by appointment at the Italian American Museum, which is currently in residence at the Calandra Institute, 28 West 44th Street in Manhattan.