Packing Their Book Bags and Heading Overseas

QC students are taking their schoolwork to another plane, literally: Enrollment is rising in both Education Abroad and the National Student Exchange. “Despite the economy, people still want to travel,” observes Gary Braglia, director of Education Abroad.

In June and July, more than 130 undergraduates, about 70 percent of them from QC, headed to major European cities for the college’s third summer program in as many years. As with all Education Abroad programs, the courses were open to anyone who had completed at least one freshman semester and had a GPA of 2.5 or better. Students had a choice of 19 courses, including two new ones that provided additional reasons to visit the City of Light: “Paris Through the Eyes of Travelers,” and a Parisian setting of the innovative history class “Reacting to the Past.”

Also making its debut was a multidisciplinary class in Irish literature and drama, taught by Clare Carroll (Comparative Literature) and Susan Einhorn (Drama) at the National University of Ireland at Galway. Students read—and staged scenes from—Brian Friel’s *Translations* and J. M. Synge’s *The Playboy of the Western World* while immersing themselves in the culture of these plays. *Playboy* will be presented in its entirety in October by the Department of Drama, Theatre, and Dance; the opening performance on October 16 will be followed by a question-and-answer session with visiting artist-in-residence Stephen Rea, the continued on page 2

Update on Campus Renovations

Running the gamut from the not-particularly-glamorous (bathroom renovations) to the exciting (QC’s first residence hall), a number of campus projects have either been completed or gotten underway in recent months.

According to figures provided by Katherine Cobb (VP, Finance & Administration), the Science Building is the big winner in the bathroom upgrade category, accounting for six of the dozen upgrades done around campus in the past year. To be sure, the building received other improvements as well, including an upgrade to the cooling tower (Razran’s has also been upgraded) and new seating and carpeting for five lecture halls.

“I think the lecture halls are one of the more dramatic examples of before and after,” says Cobb. “Every single seat was broken and they were all tilted. Some of them had springs, and every spring had sprung.”

Also in the Science Building, two chemistry labs were completely renovated to allow for the use of various instruments, including two spectrometers, two lasers, high-voltage power supplies, and other electronic devices, as well as a computational cluster for theoretical simulations.

Rosenthal Library has also received significant attention, with HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) upgrades for the second-floor computer labs, two bathroom upgrades, and the creation of a media commons area on the first floor. Trouble with a leaky roof contributed to a number of problems in recent years. Consequently, the library’s Art Center now has a new floor.

“Hey, Harvard, Hang It Up!”

QC’s high academic rankings as featured in the 2009 edition of the Princeton Review *The Best 368 Colleges* were cited in articles July 29 in the Daily News (under the “Hey, Harvard” headline) and July 31 in the Queens Chronicle. Both papers described how QC and nearby St. John’s have consistently fared well in such surveys in recent years. The July 31 Times Ledger meanwhile chose to emphasize QC’s high ratings for low alcohol and marijuana use among students.
Renovations from page 1

and carpeting has been installed in other areas. And, yes, repairs have been made to the library’s roof, as well as to the roofs of Kiely, Rathaus, King, and Temp 2.

Dave Gosine (Dir. Facilities, Planning, Design, and Construction) emphasizes that, wherever possible, work is being done utilizing materials in compliance with CUNY’s green initiative. “The new floor in the library’s museum is made from harvested wood,” he notes. “And the carpeting we’re installing there and elsewhere on campus has a very high level of recycled content.”

Temp 3 Is Now Honors Hall

One of the more dramatic developments is the complete renovation and restoration to service of Temp 3. Rechristened Honors Hall, it is now home to Macaulay Honors College, the Business and Liberal Arts program, the Freshman Year Initiative, Honors in the Social Sciences, Honors in the Humanities, Upward Bound, and the Mellon Mays Program.

With its improvements, Gosine observes that perhaps Temp 3 has outgrown its temporary status. “It’s permanent,” he laughs. And, he notes, “It has the best bathrooms on campus.” The Temp 3 renovation is also notable for its extensive use of green products.

OCT, he observes, has also been busy upgrading some 14 classrooms to “smart” classrooms with projection facilities capable of working with a variety of digital media. Upgrades have been done in the Science Building, Rathaus, Honors Hall, Kiely, Razron, G Building, and Powdermaker.

Campbell Dome, says Gosine, has undergone a major modernization with the installation of more comfortable and ergonomically correct lecture seating, electrical upgrades, and data wiring that will allow laptop computer users in all seats to directly access QC servers, providing them with significantly greater bandwidth. Cobb notes that these improvements make the dome attractive as a potential rental facility for outside parties.

Of course, construction of the new residence hall remains QC’s major new construction project. But just across the way some much-appreciated changes are taking place in FitzGerald Gymnasium. “We’re getting all new flooring and lockers in all our locker rooms,” says Athletics Director Rick Wettan. “They’re 50 years old; we needed this very badly. This will be great. We’re also getting six new outdoor tennis courts near the soccer field to replace some of those lost to the dormitory project.”

Returning students will find that the food court renovation begun last year has been completed. The main dining hall has new colors (consistent with those at the Student Union), a new floor, and new tables and chairs. Explaining a minor miracle performed in the process, Administrative Services Director Steve Aiello says, “There’s additional seating for a hundred; yet we’ve managed to increase the average eating space per seat by six inches.” Aiello also notes that renovations to the clubs area in the lower level of the Student Union have been completed.

Getting Ready for Live-in Students

Much of what’s taking place across campus, says Cobb, is being done in consideration of the fact that QC will soon have a population of resident students. Many campus improvements, especially with respect to amenities, are in keeping with the spirit of the president’s strategic plan. “Community,” Cobb notes, “was an important element of President Muyskens’ plan. We looked, for instance, at student traffic patterns—how students move from one building to the next and where they tend to congregate—thinking perhaps we can use more benches here or there.

“Community,” she emphasized, “will be an important consideration in all of our efforts going forward.”

Study Abroad from page 1

celebrated Irish actor who earned an Oscar nomination for his role in The Crying Game. Rea will be at the college October 6 through 16.

After the international travelers returned, nine QC undergrads left New York through the National Student Exchange, a network of nearly 200 North American colleges and universities. “In our second year with NSE, we’ve tripled our numbers,” reports Braglia, noting that participants pay the equivalent of their Queens tuition, or less, for a semester at another NSE school. Not surprisingly, a lot of students have chosen warm weather campuses, such as the Hilo and Manoa branches of the University of Hawaii, and the Northridge and Monterey Bay branches of California State University.

Meanwhile, QC, the only CUNY institution accepting NSE students for the current academic year, retains its appeal for out-of-towners. This fall 12 men and women have come to Flushing from schools all over the country: the University of Texas at San Antonio, the University of Utah, the University of Puerto Rico, and—as if trading places with Queens undergrads—the University of Hawaii at Hilo and Cal State at Northridge. Another three students arrived from Rikkkyo University in Tokyo. Next year, Braglia expects interest to soar. “There is going to be a spike in numbers once we have the residence hall,” he says.

Thirteen QC students traveled to Galway this summer for an intensive course on Irish theatre at the National University of Ireland.

Our View

What better way for CUNY Matters to wordlessly illustrate the promise of Commencement Day than with this photo of QC’s event and the stunning backdrop that has suggested dreams to be fulfilled for generations of QC graduates and their families.
GLOBE Travels to Antarctica

Students from kindergarten through high school will not have to travel far to learn first-hand about climate change in the coldest place on earth thanks to a research weather station that will be set up this fall on one of Antarctica’s active ice shelves. The environmental data-monitoring station is part of a science education initiative called the Con Edison/Queens College GLOBE-NY Metro program, which was just renamed to recognize the utility’s continued support. As a result of Con Ed’s long-standing commitment to GLOBE, the college has trained more than 1,700 teachers and staff from over 600 New York schools, agencies, and community environmental groups.

“Con Ed has been a strong partner since 2001 when the college first became involved with GLOBE in New York,” says President James Muyskens. “In those seven years, the program has grown in size and scope, paving the way for future science education initiatives such as the Antarctica research weather station.”

The meteorological station will be brought to Antarctica as part of a National Science Foundation-funded expedition led by Stephen Pekar (EES), who will be accompanied by three of his students and a science teacher from a Harlem middle school. The expedition will study sediment deposited in Antarctica during the Cretaceous Greenhouse World period, when atmospheric carbon dioxide levels were similar to what is predicted for the end of this century. Each day the station will monitor and feed data on air and ice temperature, relative humidity, cloud cover, and other research into the international GLOBE databank for use by students, teachers, and scientists.

GLOBE emphasizes hands-on activities that can be integrated into daily classroom work at any academic level. Each school in the program receives research equipment and instruction in its use on-site. Participants turn their campuses into open-air labs where they monitor environmental conditions in five categories: air, soil, water, land use/land cover, and seasonal change. Then students enter their findings into an international GLOBE database, which can be accessed by scientists around the world. To date, students have submitted more than 14 million pieces of information.

“Students aren’t just learning chemistry, physics, or biology,” says Allan Ludman (EES), the GLOBE-NY Metro director. “They’re learning about the natural world in a way that makes science understandable. At the same time, they are developing observational abilities, math skills, general literacy and a sense of inquiry, research and the investigative process—an integrated approach that can be applied to any academic subject.”

![Steve Pekar](image)

Steve Pekar (EES) will bring a GLOBE climate monitoring station when he returns to Antarctica this fall.

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**QC PEOPLE**

**STEVEN ALVAREZ** (English) was selected one of five winners from among 700 entrants in the “Bright Lights, Big Verse: Poems of Times Square” contest sponsored by the Poetry Society of America and the Times Square Alliance. He received $1,000 and read his stream-of-consciousness poem “& So Tio & Chaley” at noon on June 23 in Times Square

... **RIKKI ASHER** (SEYS) gave a talk July 13 at the Chan Meditation Center in Elmhurst. Her presentation, “Two Quilts, One World: Advocating Global Art Education,” described her recent Peace Quilt project, which fostered a cultural exchange between New York middle school girls with their counterparts in a special school for girls in Uttar Pradesh, India

... **TOM BIRD** (European Langs.) participated in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Sources for Russian and Soviet Visual Cultures, 1860-1935, held at the New York Public Library

... **KEVIN BIRCH** (Anthropology) gave a talk June 24 at the Mid-Manhattan Library of the New York Public Library on “The Meaningful Irregularity of Time: Trinidadian Music and Social Polyrhythms”

... **RICHARD BODNAR** (Psychology, Acting Dean of Research & Grad Studies) has been selected as a member of the Committee of Examiners for the Graduate Record Examination Psychology Test for the Educational Testing Service. He is one of six committee members—each with a particular specialization—charged with creating new questions for the exam. Bodnar will be the Physiological/Sensation and Perception representative

... **MIRIAN DETRES-HICKEY** (Students with Disabilities) and **LAURA SILVERMAN** (Academic Advising) recently received word that, based on an RFP authored by Hickey, the Veteran’s Support Services Program they administer (Detres-Hickey is the chair) has received a CUNY grant of between $12,000 and $15,000 (amount to be determined) to support efforts on behalf of student veterans. Additionally, the program was recently recognized by the Council on Education as a model program for best practices. Detres-Hickey presented at the COE’s conference in California last May.

... An article by **HAROLD GELLIS** (Accounting), “China: A Demographic and Business Update,” appeared in the March issue of Academic Affairs Update

... **JOSEPH GROSSO** (Calandra Institute) published his fourth edition of Il Giornalino, a journal highlighting the writings of New York City students studying Italian. This expanded edition included the writings of CUNY students. The project is funded by a grant from State Senator Serphin Maltese

... **SUE HENDERSON** (VP, Institutional Advancement) has been elected to serve as a member of the National Advisory Board for Scholarship America’s Board of Trustees. The organization is the nation’s largest nonprofit, private-sector scholarship and educational support organization and has distributed nearly $2 billion to more than 1.5 million students since its founding in 1958

... **NAVEED HUSAIN** (OCT) made a presentation describing how his department serves the needs of QC at a June 12 CUNY CIO Roundtable sponsored by the Poetry Society of America.
Staff Profile: Steve Whalen, New Marketing Director

In 1996—just a year out of college—Queens College’s new director of marketing Steve Whalen undertook an enterprise that clearly demonstrated he had a talent for marketing. He and a college friend, Nithy, decided they would undertake a bicycle trip across the African continent and use their firsthand experiences as a learning tool for K–12 students.

“We partnered with a number of retired high school teachers from the St. Cloud, MN area,” recalls Whalen. “They helped us write an educational curriculum on art, music, culture, social studies, and geography of Africa that could be superimposed on any existing curriculum.”

Whalen and Nithy created an interactive Web site, ExpeditionAfrica.org, which chronicled the pair’s progress through 21 countries and allowed school children and teachers to follow along every pedal-push of the way. One section of the Web site stood out as a testament to Whalen’s marketing skill. It provided a detailed rundown of the equipment—bicycles, helmets, clothing, tents, computer, etc.—used for the trip, all obtained gratis in return for mentioning the manufacturer’s name.

By firing up the enthusiasm of several educators, sponsors, friends, and relatives, Whalen was able to enjoy the experience of a lifetime and share it with an eager Internet audience. And, in a claim sure to impress his new employers at chronically cash-strapped CUNY, Whalen recounts, “We did the whole 12-month trip—which included 10 months on the road in Africa—for just about $40,000.” (Oh, yes, they also sold T-shirts.)

He and Nithy completed their journey in September 2000, but a legacy of their adventure exists today in an ongoing relationship between a high school in Mountain Iron-Buhl, MN, and an elementary school in Nairobi, Kenya.

Whalen comes to the QC Office of Communications following seven years at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where he was publications and advertising manager. (Between 1997 and 2001 he held positions in graphic design and production at Duggal Color Projects, Lindblad Expeditions, and Kate Spade.) His tenure at FIT was notable for his success at introducing efficiencies that made procedures more uniform, cost-effective, and environmentally sound.

“One of our biggest projects was introducing a content management system for our catalogs,” he says, explaining a process by which computer software was employed to greatly streamline production and improve accuracy.

In addition, he helped build branding for an innovative FIT program called Executive Education. “This allowed people in middle or senior management to come back to school for a specific program without having to go for a BA or MBA. We marketed the program from the ground up—creating the branding, advertising, and everything ourselves.”

He also was instrumental in getting every department at FIT to agree on a single tag line for all their branding efforts: “Where creativity gets down to business.”

Whalen is very enthusiastic about coming to Queens College—which should only make his new job that much easier as he helps direct marketing efforts targeted to potential students, donors, and other key audiences. Readily confiding, “I’m glad to be out of Manhattan,” he loves the suburban feel of the QC campus—something he expects will be emphasized in marketing messages.

“As we move forward to implement our strategic plan and fill the residence hall next fall, marketing QC effectively becomes especially important,” says Maria Terrone, assistant vice president for communications. “We’re delighted that Steve has joined us and that he’ll be using his many talents to help us advance at this crucial time.”

Whalen has a BA in English literature from Saint John’s University in Collegeville, MN, and a BS in advertising and marketing communications from FIT. An outdoor enthusiast who also loves do-it-yourself building projects, he lives with his wife and two-year-old son in Long Island City.

DenBoer Follows the Sun

Marten denBoer has moved up and out: On August 14, QC’s latest associate provost started a new job as provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State Polytechnic University at Pomona.

“Marten served the college for seven years and was the ideal person for the position,” says Provost Evangelos Gizis, praising denBoer for his deep knowledge of higher education, his expertise in technology, his exceptional writing skills, and his excellent work ethic. “He was entirely committed to the college.”

DenBoer was the author of the Middle States periodic program review report in 2002, and five years later, he was the author of the Middle States Association Self-Study. DenBoer also helped develop new bachelor’s and master’s degree programs, and bolstered student support services—changes that are reflected in the college’s growing enrollment and improved graduation rates. While denBoer’s contribution to the college was unique, Gizis isn’t worried about filling his shoes. As people move on, he observes, others emerge with the necessary abilities and skills. Steven Schwarz, dean of research and graduate studies, will serve as interim associate provost. As a long-term physics professor, Schwarz is well-acquainted with the college and its issues. “The big challenge someone has to become familiar with the specific details,” explains Gizis. “With the Internet and email, these transitions are easier.”

Richard Bodnar (Psychology) will take over from Schwarz as acting dean of research and graduate studies. “Dr. Bodnar is a very successful researcher, and the students in his psychology subprograms excel,” says Gizis, adding that Bodnar’s expertise in doctoral education will be essential as the university has plans to revise the existing consortial approach to offering doctoral degrees in sciences, psychology, and environmental science.

The college is indebted to Marten denBoer for his many contributions.
QC’s Latest Watson Fellows Plan to Make Waves

Sophomores William Leverett and Jonathan Vazcones want to make waves—waves of social change. Their internship experiences as winners of Jeannette K. Watson Fellowships have inspired them to consider careers in public service. “Even a tiny ripple in the water can stimulate a huge wave of change,” observes Leverett.

Over three summers, Watson fellows receive paid internships that offer high-level work experiences and the opportunity to participate in leadership forums. Leverett, a music and political science major and a Business and Liberal Arts minor, interned this past summer at the Department of Youth and Community Development. There he learned about municipal government, the power of community-based organizations, and how arts programs are created, funded, and evaluated. He credits this experience with focusing his future direction and enhancing his professional development.

A member of the college’s wind ensemble, Leverett views music as a powerful force for change because “it is so universal and limitless.” He is also a youth usher and lay reader at St. Albans Congregational Church and a member of the QC Black Student Union. In 2006 he was selected to go to Swaziland, South Africa, to assist the youth minister of his church in faith-service work. He saw firsthand the effects of real poverty and desperation, which reinforced his goal of “achieving progress for people who are less fortunate.”

Vazcones, whose older sister Jessenia was a 2006 QC Watson fellow, is majoring in economics and philosophy. He hopes for a career that would combine ethical values and decision-making with economic policy development.

This past summer Vazcones interned with the Summer Rescue Fund, a grant program that protects and supports academics and scholars who face political, social, ethnic, or religious persecution. The fund is part of the Institute of International Education, a nonprofit organization that promotes international exchange. Vazcones says that his experience “showed him the reality of injustice” and invigorated him “to help build public awareness and develop solutions for these social ills.”

At QC Vazcones is a member of the Political Science Club and a delegate to the United Nations Club. He also plays tenor saxophone with jazz bands in New York and enjoys track and field.

Vazcones and Leverett are currently developing a college mentoring program for high school students in Jamaica. Scheduled to begin next fall, the program will offer counseling and other training to prepare more students for college.

People from page 3

by Computer Associates and hosted by the Center for Digital Education.

The American Hellenic Institute Foundation announced May 19 that CHRIS IOANNIDES (Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies) has accepted the appointment as AHIF Fellow of Greek American and Cyprus Studies. He will continue to serve as Byzantine Center director . . . MADHULIKA KHANDELWAL (A/AC & Urban Studies) conducts a video walking tour of the growing South Asian community in Queens at the City of Memory Web site (www.cityofmemory.org) created by City Lore. Founded in 1986, City Lore produces programs and publications that convey the richness of New York City’s cultural heritage . . . Three Townsend Harris High School students mentored by IGOR KUSKOVSKY (Physics) and VINOD MENON (Physics) were named Grand Award winners in May for work they presented at this year’s Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in Atlanta. Kuskovsky’s student, Erin Zeqja, won third place in the physics category. Menon’s students, Tinya Cheng and Nischay Kumar, won team second place overall across all disciplines. The fair is the world’s largest international pre-college science competition . . . CECILIA MCHUGH (Earth & Environmental Sciences) will participate in an Integrated Ocean Drilling Program expedition to the South Pacific, offshore of New Zealand, from Nov. 12 to Jan. 4. She was one of only six scientists from her specialty (marine sedimentology) selected to participate. The trip’s goals include understanding global sea level changes and climate over the past 40 million years as they relate to the evolution of the Antarctic Ice Sheet . . . CAROLYN PYTTE (Psychology) is organizing the Sixth Annual Neuropsychology Research Day, which will take place in Rosenthal Library. The keynote speaker for the Sept. 19 event is Dr. Paula Tallal . . . MIHAELA ROBILA (FNES) received a Faculty Research Grant from the Fabs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation to conduct her study on “Eastern European Immigrant Families: Negotiating Change and Continuity” . . . JOSEPH SUNGOLOWSKY (European Languages) contributed a chapter entitled “André Neher (1918–1988) et Erets Israël,” to La pensée juive contemporaine (Editions Parole & Silence, 2008). He also published “Hidden Children in France (1940–1944): A Memoir,” in The Hidden Child (XVI, 2008) . . . While on sabbatical, ROLF SWENSEN (Library) published “‘You Are Brave but You Are a Woman in the Eyes of Men’: Augusta E. Stetson’s Rise and Fall in the Church of Christ, Scientist,” Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion (Spring 2008) . . . JOHN TYTELL (English) was among 20 editors of literary journals who participated in the Magathon, a marathon reading of favorite selections from their journals that took place June 14 at the New York Public Library. Tytell, associate editor of the American Book Review, read a memorial tribute to poet and novelist Rochelle Ratner, one of the founding editors of ABR who died earlier this year. The tribute, written by Tytell, subsequently appeared in the July/August edition of ABR . . . DAVE VILLALISTA, who was enrolled in the Cisco Networking Academy at QC (part of Continuing Education) in Sept. 2005, received a 2008 Cisco 4R award. The award recognizes students and graduates who have used knowledge and skill gained through participation in the Academy to increase their opportunities for career, educational, or personal development.
Shirley Will Be Missed

After working on campus for nearly four decades, Shirley Deifik—at age 80, QC’s oldest employee—is going to experience something new: time off. An administrative assistant whose knowledge, seniority, and people skills made her an institution in her own right, Deifik resigned in July. But technically speaking, her retirement hasn’t even begun; she accrued so many vacation and sick days that she’s on leave until May 2009, at which point she’ll be 81. “I worked hard and it was worth every moment,” she says.

A Brooklyn native who finished high school at age 15, Deifik was accepted to City College, but never registered. “I was afraid to go through the streets at night,” she explains. Four years later, she married her childhood sweetheart, Joey, who had returned home from World War II. To raise their family, the couple moved to semi-rural Little Neck, settling in Deepdale Gardens. “Everything was brand-new there,” she says.

Eager to get her bachelor’s degree, the young mother enrolled at Queens College at age 15. Deifik was accepted to City College, but never registered. “I was afraid to go through the streets at night,” she explains. Four years later, she married her childhood sweetheart, Joey, who had returned home from World War II. To raise their family, the couple moved to semi-rural Little Neck, settling in Deepdale Gardens. “Everything was brand-new there,” she says.

At a party in her honor, Deifik received a QC proclamation from President James Muyskens thanking her for her friendship, resourcefulness, and contributions to the campus community. Mayor Michael Bloomberg has sent her a letter congratulating her on her exemplary service to New York City’s public education system; every week brings cards and emails from people who benefitted from her advice. “Everyone has been so giving,” Deifik observes. “I don’t think I deserved all this.”

Long accustomed to rising at 4 am so she could tackle household tasks, prepare lunch, and arrive at the office by 7 am, she suddenly has too much time on her hands. “I’m not so sure I like it,” Deifik admits. “Cleaning, doing the laundry—this is not for me. I’m going to try to get some volunteer work.”

SAVE THE DATE!
Faculty & Staff Assembly
Thursday, October 16
LeFrak Concert Hall, Music Bldg.
3:30–5:00 pm
Refreshments to follow in the Atrium

Making a Splash!
Demonstrating that he’s not afraid to take a dunking in the service of a good cause, Director of Student Life, John Andrejack, does just that at the 18th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act Bar-B-Q presented at the QC Student Union July 23 by the Committee for Disabled Students. The dunking booth was among the amusements and good food available at the annual charitable event.

SAVE THE DATE!
Faculty & Staff Assembly
Thursday, October 16
LeFrak Concert Hall, Music Bldg.
3:30–5:00 pm
Refreshments to follow in the Atrium

Villalista and Chua
People from page 5
development and success. According to Villalista, RUBY CHUA, director of technology training, taught him to not give up on his goals. Thanks to certifications he received from the Academy, he jumpstarted his career as an electrical engineer and in April 2007 was hired by Con Edison as a Network Designer . . . ZAHRA ZAKERI (Biology) was honored as “Ambassador of Science”

Nobelist Bob Horvitz and Zakeri
at the seventh meeting of the International Cell Death Society, June 6–9 in Shanghai. The award noted “her contributions in building international coalitions, connecting scientists of many nations, and building opportunities for women and junior scientists.” Jeffrey McLean, a student in Zakeri’s lab, also presented at the meeting.
Since their expulsion from Jerusalem, and possibly before, Jews have been a multiethnic people. The evidence is intriguing. An image in the Sarajevo Haggadah, an illuminated medieval manuscript, depicts a black woman among the participants at a Passover seder. The oldest Jewish congregations in the U.S. including Shearith Israel in Manhattan, proudly identify their founders as 17th-century immigrants from Portugal and Spain. And Queens itself is home to a thriving community of Bukharian Jews, who came from Uzbekistan. But in much of the Western world, Jews are presumed to be Ashkenazic: light-skinned, of European heritage, speaking Yiddish or descended from someone who did.

MELANIE KAYE/KANTROWITZ (History & Comp. Lit.) tackles this notion head-on in her book "The Colors of Jews: Racial Politics and Radical Diasporism" (Indiana UP). Drawing on extensive interviews with Jews from the Iberian Peninsula, Asia, Africa, and India—such as QC’s own Ammiel Alcalay (CMAL)—with Jews of color, and with Jews who are, like herself, committed to fighting racism, Kaye/Kantrowitz explores complex and multiple identities within a group with a long record of outsider status, and argues the value of Diasporism.

QC IN THE MEDIA

SALMAN AHMAD (Music) was profiled June 6 on NPR’s “Morning Edition” program as part of “The Urban Frontier” series . . . ANDREW BEVERIDGE (Sociology) was a guest June 19 on WNYC’s “Brian Lehrer Show” to discuss the new atlas published by the U.S. Census . . . MELISSA CHECKER (Urban Studies) authored a May 27 story for the online Gotham Gazette describing a movement among Bronx residents to tear down the lightly used Sheridan Expressway . . . NICK COCH (EES) was interviewed by HSToday Magazine, a publication devoted to the homeland security industry, for a May 31 story on New York/New Jersey hurricane preparedness . . . TOM CRACOVA (Continuing Education) was interviewed by the Queens Courier for a June 19 story about the new Confucius Academy at QC . . . The Times Ledger reported July 3 on the retirement of SHIRLEY DEIFIK (Academic Support Center) after 37 years at QC (see page 6) . . . DESLYN DYER (Armstrong House) was interviewed for a piece about musicians’ houses for the September issue of Courier, the magazine of the National Tour Association. She also offered a comprehensive overview of the Louis Armstrong House Museum and Archives to CUNY Radio reporter Cathy Jedruszczek for a podcast that can be heard at www1.cuny.edu/forums/podcasts/?cat=1. These stories cap off a busy summer of events and related publicity for LAHM. A story advancing the July 8 concert by the Ray Vega Quintet at LAHM appeared June 13 at allaboutjazz.com and July 8 in the Daily News. AARP featured a column July 8 about the museum on its Web site, and the WNBC program “Positively Black” aired a segment Aug. 2 about LAHM in honor of Louis’s birthday. The August 7 Queens Courier ran a story about the issuing of previously unreleased recordings by Armstrong . . . NANCY FOLDI’s (Psychology) study of the effects of aging on an individual’s ability to process information was the focus of the “Prime Times” column appearing July 3 in the Queens Chronicle . . . PENNY HAMMRICH’s (Dean of Education) innovative Sisters in Science and Brothers of Science program was the subject of the “Success Story” column in the June 19 Queens Courier. Hammrich also was interviewed for a CUNY “Newsmakers” podcast, which is available currently at http://www1.cuny.edu/portal_ur/news/radio/podcast/newsmakers_70.mp3 . . .

ACCIDENTAL SAVIORS

LAHM Architects
Sara Caples and Everardo Jefferson, who are designing the Visitors Center for the Louis Armstrong House Museum, stand at the colorful entrance they created for Heritage Health & Housing’s Manhattan office.

Academic Senate Schedule

Academic Senate meetings for the 2008–09 school year are listed below. All meetings take place on Thursdays at 3:35 pm in Kiely Hall 808.

FALL 2008
SEPTeMBER 11 (Special Meeting)
OCTOBER 2 (Special Meeting)
NOVEMBER 13
DECEMBER 4 (Special Meeting)

SPRING 2009
FEBRUARY 5 (Special Meeting)
MARCH 12
APRIL 2 (Special Meeting)
MAY 7 (Special Meeting)
MAY 14 (Special Meeting)

QC AUTHOR
Student Profile: Janice Lenzer, Dancer Turned Researcher

Being punched in the face by an autistic child probably would elicit a less than positive response from most people. In Janice Lenzer’s case, it provoked an interest in the child’s condition that made her segue from a successful career as a dancer to pursuing a career in neuropsychology research.

A doctoral student in the neuropsychology lab of Susan Croll (Psychology), Lenzer spent the past summer working on her project, “Long-term Effects of VEGF on Seizure Sequelae,” which is funded by the Epilepsy Foundation. She hopes this research will contribute to creating a form of gene therapy that can protect neurons in the brains of individuals who experience seizure disorders from suffering permanent damage as a consequence of their seizures—damage that can ultimately impair behavioral function.

Her talent as a dancer, Lenzer explains, is what first brought her into contact with children with these and other brain-related disorders such as autism. Eighteen years ago she was teaching at five different dance schools around the city in addition to working as a waitress. “The guy behind the bar worked for the Association for the Help of Retarded Children (AHRC) in Upper Brookville. One day he told me he had just lost the dance therapist for a program he ran. He said, ‘You’re the only person I know that teaches dance to children. I know you don’t work with handicapped children, but I’d like you to come take a look.’” Lenzer did, bringing along her “bag of tricks,” to which the children responded enthusiastically. “One very cute boy who looked just like the Dutch Boy on the paint can came flying from across the gym,” she recalls. “I bent over thinking ‘Oh, how cute, he’s going to hug me,’ and he punched me five times square in the face.”

Her reaction? “I wanted to know what was making his brain work that way.” The school’s principal soon offered Lenzer a full-time position as a vocational coach, allowing her to develop programs that would prepare the older students for part-time jobs in nearby communities. “I also continued to do dance therapy as a fun thing so that they wouldn’t only look at me as the boss, the person who was always telling them what to do,” she says.

Lenzer soon took advantage of the school’s tuition reimbursement program. With her GED (she had dropped out of high school to pursue dance), she enrolled at Queensborough Community College and later transferred to QC. Attending classes nights and weekends for seven years, she graduated magna cum laude in 2005 with a BA in psychology. She enrolled in the master’s program in neuropsychology and continued on to the doctoral program.

Having watched so many of her AHRC students suffer from seizure disorders led her to the research in which she’s currently engaged. Lenzer says she was surprised at how much she liked research, particularly in view of the fact that as an animal lover, her work occasionally requires sacrificing rats used as test subjects. “They call me the rat whisperer in the lab,” she says. “I have them in my pockets all the time. I have the highest respect for them because they help so much in human research.”

As much as her research and doctoral studies now consume her life, Lenzer remains a dancer at heart, teaching advanced jazz and tap dancing Friday nights at the American Dance & Drama Studio in Flushing. She confesses to doing the occasional plie in the lab. “I have to turn around to make sure there’s no one behind me,” she says.

Residence Hall Lounge to Be Named for Two Alumni

Students taking up occupancy next year in The Summit, QC’s new residence hall, will find on its top floor a spacious lounge offering a magnificent view of the Manhattan skyline. Intended as a place where students can study and interact in ways that enhance their residential experience, the space will be called the Carole A. and Norman Barham Study Lounge in recognition of the two QC alumni (’66 and ’68) whose generous gift to the Queens College Foundation has made possible a scholarship fund to benefit future students.

The Barhams, who met in their freshman year at QC, have made many generous donations to the college over the years. In 2002 the rotunda in Rosenthal Library was named in their honor. Norman Barham is a director at Endurance Specialty Holdings, Ltd. and a Queens College Foundation trustee.
Arriving at Queens College after serving for two years at the New York Botanical Garden, new director of the Annual Fund Amanda Mandaglio is quick to note, “There’s some lovely landscaping around Frese Hall.” Asked whether she might have specific suggestions for other parts of the campus, she quickly acknowledges, “I’m afraid my own horticulture skills didn’t improve during my time at the Garden.”

At the Garden, however, Mandaglio was exercising skills as director for individual giving that can only be beneficial in her new position, where she has been charged with helping to increase donations that fall into the category of unrestricted giving: funds the college can use at its own discretion to address its most pressing needs.

Fundraising has been the major feature of much of what Mandaglio has done since graduating from Hofstra University, although the first position she held didn’t immediately suggest that as her career trajectory. “I graduated shortly after 9/11,” she says, “and pickings were slim in terms of employment options.” She landed a job as a mental health worker. “I worked at the adolescent pavilion at the psychiatric hospital at North Shore Hillside Hospital, probably one of the most rewarding jobs I ever had.”

This led to positions as an associate in the research grants program of the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression, where she worked to secure research funding and, subsequently, St. Mary’s Healthcare System for Children, where she was development coordinator for individual giving.

“My role here at Queens College,” she explains, “is to interact with all the departments to bring everyone together to work most effectively and efficiently to raise discretionary dollars for the college and the various departments.” To accomplish this, she says, “I’d like to expand our focus so that instead of just targeting our alumni as we have in the past, we begin marketing Queens College as not only an educational institution but also a center for research and culture.”

Mandaglio, who grew up in Elmont and currently resides in Floral Park, admits to knowing little about Queens College until meeting her fiancé, Matt, a QC alum whom she will wed later this month. “I had no idea,” she says, “that there was a museum here, or a concert hall, or a reading series, or any of that.”

Yet, she finds these are all useful attributes to cite in talking up QC to potential donors, attributes she believes can help draw them to campus. “If someone lives in the area,” she says, summarizing her pitch, “there’s no reason we shouldn’t reach out to them and say: ‘Your kids may not be ready for college yet, but Queens College has a lot to offer, and it’s not going to cost you an arm and a leg to expose your children to artwork or photography or classical music. Take your teenagers, who maybe go to the local high school, and bring them to our Evening Readings series.’”

Fundraising might seem somewhat removed from the substance of her studies at Hofstra, where she was a double major in sociology and communications. But Mandaglio explains, “Sociology is really the study of people and the ties that bind; I find it fascinating, and I think that’s one of the reasons I fell into fundraising: because it’s completely related to communications and completely related to sociology and understanding what makes people tick.

“I’d worked on educational initiatives before,” she continues, “but when I came here, it was my first opportunity to work in an academic environment. I thought that would be a nice change and an opportunity to do something new.”

**QC In the Media**

**MATT HEUNERFAUTH** (Computer Science) appeared in a documentary produced by TV station WPVI about 300 former high school valedictorians from the Philadelphia area. Heunerfauth, a 1997 graduate of Devin Prep, offered a 30-second message of advice to high school graduates.

. . . The May 29 Queens Courier reported that QC graduate** JOSEPH HIRSH** won a National Research Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. . . . The opening of new temples for Hindus in Staten Island was the subject of a June 4 story in the New York Times that quoted **MADHULIKA KHANDELWAL** (A/AC & Urban Studies) . . .

**Micheal Mirkin** (Chemistry) was recently interviewed by an associate editor of Analytical Chemistry about his recent Journal of American Chemical Society paper, “Electrochemistry of Individual Molecules in Zepotiller Volumes”. . . VICTORIA PITTS-TAYLOR’s (Sociology) growing reputation as an expert on body art and modification was the basis for a substantial profile appearing in the July 24 Queens Chronicle . . . The release of the latest Indiana Jones film prompted a May 19 feature in the Daily News profiling NYC archaeologists, including two from QC’s anthropology department, **THOMAS PLUMMER and TIMOTHY PUGH** . . .

**ROSENBLUM** (Jewish Studies) was the subject of a profile in the August 7 Queens Courier . . . The July 30 pro boxing debut of QC student and four-time Golden Gloves champion WILL ROSINSKY prompted a piece that appeared the same day on the Times Ledger Web site YourNabe.com . . . MORRIS ROSSABI (History) contributed his insights to a story challenging the validity of claims made by explorer Marco Polo in the July edition of Smithsonian . . . RENA SMITH-KIAWU (Financial Aid) was quoted in a June 16 story in the New York Sun on revisions to New York State’s 529 College Savings Program . . .

**SOLOMON** (Journalism) was quoted in a story concerning the death of NBC newsman Tim Russert that appeared June 14 in Newsday . . . YAN SUN** (Political Science) authored an essay, “A Sichuan Family and Tibet’s Future,” which appeared on the Times Topics blog of the New York Times Web site on May 30. Her assessment of recent protests in downtown Flushing by the Falun Gong religious sect was the subject of a July 10 story in the Times Ledger . . . QC student **AUNAETITRAKUL VIMONSIR** was a…and continued on page 10
Tribute to Three Coaches Highlights
2008 Homecoming on September 21

The tribute will follow at the FitzGerald Gymnasium. According to Athletics Director Rick Wettan, it is in the form of a painting to be displayed at the gymnasium. “The person who did it,” he says, “took photographs of the three coaches and made a composite painting.”

Tierney, Salmons, and Foglia, says Wettan, were active between the late fifties and late seventies. Tierney coached baseball, Salmons coached basketball, and Foglia coached tennis and soccer.

Alums will next have an opportunity to either take a tour of the campus or attend a multimedia presentation sure to have them re-examining their homeowner’s insurance policies as Nick Coch (Earth & Env. Sciences) presents “The Unique Vulnerability of the New York Metropolitan Region to Hurricane Destruction.”

Individual receptions and group photos will follow for the honoree classes. Everyone will then have an opportunity to take a tour of Louis Armstrong House Museum, where the weekend’s closing reception will also take place.

This year’s Homecoming on September 21 will feature a special tribute to three who figured prominently in QC’s athletics history.

“A number of the alums have gotten together to create a tribute to three past coaches,” says Alumni Affairs Director Nancy Rudolph. “The three are Robert Tierney, Robert Salmons, and Guido Foglia.”

Activities will kick off with a brunch in the Patio Room dining hall where President James Muyskens will offer greetings and a special acknowledgment to QC as part of the college’s green initiative.

A Couple of Hits

With the future home of the New York Mets, Citi Field, looming behind them, VP for Institutional Advancement Sue Henderson and Louis Armstrong House Museum Director Michael Cogswell are seen proudly standing on the infield of the team’s soon-to-be former home, Shea Stadium, to receive the Spirit Award given by the Mets to acknowledge institutions that make a substantial contribution to maintaining the vitality of spirit that characterizes the borough of Queens. The Aug. 5 ceremony (also seen on the field’s Jumbotron screen) preceded the home team’s 6–5 win over the San Diego Padres.
September

17 Wed

19 Fri
NEUROPSYCHOLOGY RESEARCH DAY: Keynote speaker: Dr. Paula Tallal, “In the Development of Language, Time is of the Essence.” Rosenthal Library, 9 am–5 pm.

14 Sun
CONCERT: “Louis’ Legacy,” part of the 6th annual Festival of New Trumpet Music with performing group 3hree For Louis, consisting of Eddie Allen (leader/trumpet), Cecil Bridgewater (trumpet), James Zollar (trumpet), Bruce Barth (piano), Kenny Davis (bass), and Carl Allen (drums). Louis Armstrong House Museum, 2 pm, $15 (includes guided tour of museum).

21 Sun
HOMECOMING: Lectures, sporting events, tribute to three legendary coaches, campus tours, reception at Louis Armstrong House Museum. 11 am–5 pm. $35. Call 718-997-3939 for more information.

23 Tue
CHAMBER MUSIC LIVE PIANO RECITAL: Gerald Robbins, Piano, and Friends. LeFrak Concert Hall, 10 am–12 noon. Subscription for 10-Concert Series: $90. For information/reservations, call 718-997-3802.

25 Thu
VOTER REGISTRATION CONCERT: Michael Lipsey, director; ACSM students and faculty perform to encourage participation in the 2008 election; NYPIRG representatives will be present to assist with voter registration; QC graduate composer premieres. LeFrak Concert Hall, 8 pm.

Exhibits
BEGGARS AND CHOOSERS: MOTHERHOOD IS NOT A CLASS PRIVILEGE IN AMERICA.