The Summit Has Opened!

It was a moving day much like any other moving day at any other college, with parents and siblings along to help with the lifting and the hauling. Except that this moving day was the first at Queens College. As such, some 68 faculty and staff members signed up to assist the school’s first-ever resident population settle in to their new home away from home. But it’s really not all that far away, as most of The Summit’s residents come from the Metropolitan area, with the largest contingent from nearby Nassau County. The official ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Summit took place on September 30.

Summer Research: From Africa to Greenland

Education knows no borders as QC. Faculty and students went to Europe, Africa, and the Mideast this summer, turning historic locations and research sites into inspiring open-air classrooms. “No book could reproduce the knowledge that I have gained from this experience,” observes Joanne Giarrusso, who came back from Turkey with the intention of becoming an archaeologist.

The opportunity to benefit from the college’s overseas programs begins even before first-year students set foot on campus. Through a new Study Abroad initiative, Helen Gaudette (History) brought 15 incoming freshmen to Paris for two weeks to study the French revolution. In a course that utilized a teaching method called Reacting to the Past, the students assumed the roles of political leaders—in the National Assembly and on the streets—to debate the issues that consumed France in 1791. The seminar included visits to the Louvre, the palaces of Versailles, and Notre Dame Cathedral, which had been looted by mobs.

Building on a pedagogical model developed the previous summer in Ireland, Susan Einhorn (Drama) staged another theatre class on the road. This time, she rehearsed The Rest of Oedipus—playwright Robert Montgomery’s...
New Faces on Campus

In late summer, 38 new faculty members settled into their office and lab space on campus and began to get to know their students and colleagues. Here are brief introductions to four of them.

ELLEN SCOTT | Media Studies, enjoys making “the links between the ways people think about their community and their environment, and the way they interact with media.” Her interests span media history, African American cultural history, film and media theory, American film history, sound theory, censorship, and cultural studies. Scott is completing a book on civil rights and films. After receiving her PhD in American culture from the University of Michigan (2007), she became a Mellon Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. Viewing The Birth of a Nation (1915) as an undergraduate at Penn became her first cinematic “awakening about African American representation,” she recalls. Other favorite films with racial themes include The Well (1951), No Way Out (1950), and The Foxes of Harrow (1947). Living in Forest Hills, Scott finds that “the mixing of cultures brings stories to the forefront that are essential to my work.”

For ANDREW ROSENBERG | Computer Science, “language was the most compelling insight into human intelligence.” So, fascinated by computers as well, he honed in on speech and natural language processing. For his PhD dissertation at Columbia University (2009), he examined how computers can access intonation and rhythm to better process spoken input. Another project he worked on analyzed the charismatic speech of politicians as a way to identify future leaders. This fall Rosenberg is teaching Algorithms I and applying for research grants. He has lived in the New York area all his life. For two summers he interned with Google’s speech synthesis team; the company “lives up to the hype,” he affirms. He’s well-prepared to help students interested in research. While a Vassar College undergraduate, he and others created MOOssiggang, the first bilingual multi-user environment used in collaborative language instruction. It is still used to teach German and English in tandem by Vassar College and the University of Münster, respectively. Rosenberg has studied Spanish, Latin, Chinese, and Japanese, and he loves to cook.

INAS RASHAD KELLY ’00 | Economics, not only is a summa cum laude QC alumna but taught here while earning her PhD at the CUNY Graduate Center (2004). She then became an assistant professor of economics at Georgia State University and conducted research at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Kelly quickly has made her mark by focusing on consumer choices and economic policy. For those who wish to have the MA as their terminal degree, the curriculum and intense research experience will prepare them for work in medical schools, hospital settings, and the pharmaceutical and biotech industries,” says Bodnar. “This major will be an efficient way to provide this training.”

College Introduces Majors in Chinese and Neuroscience

Looking to serve the changing needs of its students and the metropolitan community, Queens College now offers an undergraduate major in Chinese and a master’s degree program in behavioral neuroscience.

“The Chinese major will provide a solid grounding in modern and classical Chinese,” says CMAL Chair William McClure. In the past the college offered classes in Chinese that could fulfill a student’s language requirement, but it did not provide a major for students who wanted to specialize in the language. McClure says many students are already literate in Chinese to varying degrees, and want to pursue their language studies further. A grant from the Mellon Foundation helped fund planning to develop the course of study.

The major is especially important for fledging language educators, who would like to teach Chinese in the growing number of schools that offer the language on the high school level. “This now makes Queens College a place where you can graduate with a BA in Chinese, with initial certification so you can teach in the public schools,” says McClure. “We’ve had students hounding us to get this going.”

Chinese is now the ninth language in which QC students can major. The others are Spanish, Russian, Latin, Italian, Hebrew, Greek, German, and French.

Developing a master’s degree in behavioral neuroscience grew out of the college’s program in neuroscience on the undergraduate level and neuropsychology at the doctoral level. This new major will be offered to students at a time of growing interest in the function of the brain, with research projects proliferating around the country on Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative diseases.

In 2005 Queens was the first CUNY college to offer an undergraduate major in neuroscience, an interdisciplinary course of study with concentrations in biology and psychology. The master’s program will delve deeply into behavioral neuroscience and physiological psychology, Richard Bodnar (Psychology/Acting Director Grad. Ed.), who teaches a graduate course in neuroanatomy, says that graduate students majoring in behavioral neuroscience will be required to complete an empirical research project, which will be overseen by a research mentor. Ten students are expected to sign up for the major this fall, and as many as 15 can be accommodated in each of the upcoming years.

“We’re looking at the brain-behavior relationship,” says Bodnar. “Students learn how behavior can change the brain, and how the brain can change behavior.” Topics could range from molecular and cellular neuroscience to human psychopathology and neurological dysfunction.

For those who wish to have the MA as their terminal degree, the curriculum and intense research experience will prepare them for work in medical schools, hospital settings, and the pharmaceutical and biotech industries,” says Bodnar. “This major will be an efficient way to provide this training.”
QC Website Features More Than Just a Fresh Look

The new Queens College website launched in July presents more than just a distinct new look; it also represents a re-purposing of the college’s place on the Internet.

“The creation of the new website,” says Assistant VP Naveed Husain (OCT), “was an enormous undertaking that involved most of the staff of OCT with significant help from the Office of Communications.”

“As our public face and the major source of information about Queens College, our website—and especially our homepage—needed to better reflect our academic strength, energy, and momentum,” says Maria Terrone, Assistant VP for communications. “The new website design allows us to showcase our assets and gives us flexibility to frequently add rich new content—not a major challenge with all that’s happening on campus!”

Adds Director of Marketing Steve Whalen, “The old website was a one-stop shop for both the QC community and the general public who wanted to find information about the college.”

That one-stop orientation was evident in the crowded former QC homepage that presented visitors with dozens of options. By comparison, says Whalen, visitors to the new homepage find a cleaner design with fewer options, reflecting a bifurcation of the website into two entities: one more market-oriented, serving the information needs of the general public, and the other serving various needs specific to the campus.

The QC website Features More Than Just a Fresh Look continued on page 12

March of the Freshmen

It’s officially a tradition: As last year’s freshman class did for the very first time, the QC class of 2013 assembled on August 27 and paraded through the main campus gates to observe Welcome Day. There were welcoming speeches from campus officials, followed by fun activities on the Quad.

New Faces from page 2

Kelly

effects related to obesity, diabetes, nutrition, and exercise. “Over 60 percent of the population is classified as overweight,” she points out. Her insights are on the demand side, such as “how we cook and buy our food.” The economist also has studied the adverse health and mental outcomes of retirement; how fast-food advertising on television influences childhood obesity; and teens’ risky behaviors via sex, drugs, and alcohol. While a QC undergraduate, Kelly kept the pounds off as a track athlete; she now prefers biking.

SUN A KIM | ECP, Special Education, believes that to help children learn mathematics, “the teachers should first be educated using evidence-based practice.” A clinical psychologist for children in her native South Korea, Kim came to the U.S. to earn her PhD in special education at the University of Texas at Austin (2007). During her eight years there, she became a major contributor to a large-scale project at the Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk to create and field-test tools to monitor progress and outcomes for pupils (grades K–2) experiencing math difficulties.

“More than 100 schools in Texas are currently or have been involved in validating our assessments and implementing our model,” notes Kim.

Adds the researcher, who while growing up thrived on science and math, “I like logical things.” Kim’s graduate students at QC, teachers themselves, come to class having done their homework, she observes. “They want to see better models of how to teach,” and she’s delighted to share approaches that the research demonstrates will work.

The Art of Remembering a Tragic Day

Despite rainy weather that forced the ceremony from the Quad flagpole to the Student Union lobby, QC continued its tradition of commemorating the events of Sept. 11, 2001. During the ceremony, an American flag bearing the names of emergency service personnel who gave their lives was displayed, and QC was presented with a painting portraying the event by artist Chuck A. Spiteri.

New Faces from page 2

Kelly

Kim
Stephen Steinberg, an expert on race and ethnicity, has been appointed distinguished professor of urban studies by the City University of New York. The author of six books—including three that are considered classics—Steinberg has influenced not only scholars in his field, but also historians, legal scholars, and policymakers.

“In addition to his prodigious, powerful work that has advanced the cause of social justice, Dr. Steinberg has been an active and affirming presence on our campus for over 30 years—a professor respected and beloved by students and colleagues alike,” says President James Muisksens.

Steinberg has challenged prevailing ideas about racism with a theory that places the blame for racial inequality on major political and economic institutions. He reasons that racism in America—particularly as it applies to African-Americans and other non-white individuals—has been caused not by differences in race and culture, but by racism in labor markets, which prevents minority workers from gaining access to jobs that pay a living wage. This in turn undermines families and generates crime and other forms of social disorganization.

In 1981 Steinberg published The Ethnic Myth: Race, Ethnicity and Class in America, which is ranked among the 50 all-time best sellers in sociology. The Ethnic Myth debunked the notion that ethnic groups who languish in poverty do so because they have defective value systems. Criticizing some of the most iconic figures in the field of American race relations, Steinberg argued that the assimilation of new immigrants in the United States during the late 19th and early 20th centuries overlooked those who were not from European or westernized countries and completely ignored our country’s history of black enslavement.


Steinberg obtained his PhD in sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. Since 1978 he has taught in QC’s urban studies department, as well as the PhD program in sociology at the CUNY Graduate Center.

Provost Stellar’s Introductory Course

Colorful Thoughts to Catch the Mind’s Eye

Just around the corner from the portrait of Dean Margaret Kiely, this beautiful mural graces a wall in the first-floor lobby of Kiely Hall. The painting by students—most of them New York City public school teachers—in Rikki Asher’s (SEYS) mural-making class is entitled The Life of the Mind and presents their collective representation of images that pass through our minds.
Francine Peterman, an innovative educator and administrator, has joined Queens College as dean of the division of education. For Peterman, whose family lived in Woodside for her first five years, this is both a return to her roots and a chance to be “a part of the important work that needs to be done here in Queens.”

As she familiarizes herself with the QC community—and New York City’s “incredible cultural milieu”—Peterman is aware of the college’s history of partnering with schools and other agencies. She defines her agenda as helping “to build, support, and expand the partnerships that Queens College has and to have even a more positive impact on the children and families we serve.”

She notes that the borough of Queens incorporates “wonderfully rich communities” that challenge the college “to create programs, to respond to needs, and to make things happen.” Peterman views herself as a facilitator, dedicated to working with students and faculty and helping them to achieve their goals.

She is pleased that the division’s conceptual framework of “Equity, Excellence, and Ethics” matches her own sensibilities. “It’s a really big part of how I define myself as an educator. We have to have the integrity of our convictions. Are we being kind, just, and caring in the ways we are delivering services? We are here to be responsive to the community and to act in a caring, responsible, and respectful manner.”

Before coming to QC, Peterman spent 13 years at Cleveland State University, where she served as a teacher, department chair, and associate dean. She earned her PhD in secondary education at the University of Arizona at Tucson. Her undergraduate studies were at the University of Miami, and she also holds an MS degree in administration and supervision from Nova University in Florida.

In her 30-plus-year effort to develop educational programs and practices that support socially just community renewal, Peterman has participated in numerous research projects and school-university partnerships to recruit, prepare, and retain urban educators. Her publishing record includes Partnering to Prepare Urban Teachers: A Call to Activism (2008), which she edited, and Designing Performance Assessment Systems for Urban Teacher Preparation (2005). She is also on the editorial board of the Journal of Teaching Research.

As dean, Peterman succeeds Penny Hammrich, who will continue to direct the college’s interdisciplinary Center for Equity Studies, which she founded to advance equitable academic and employment opportunities for urban youth.

Judith Summerfield Named Acting Dean of General Education

In undergraduate education, “The great intellectual challenge is to create a curriculum that makes sense in this age. This isn’t an ivory tower. We have to live in the real world.” Sounding that clarion call is Judith Summerfield, QC’s new acting dean of general education. With great enthusiasm, the longtime professor of English will guide faculty and students in appreciating why a liberal education matters in both a career and personal life.

QC’s enhanced general education requirements, Perspectives on the Liberal Arts and Sciences, made its debut this fall. President James Muyskens, who views it as a high institutional priority, has already asked that it not be abbreviated to “PLAS.” Acronyms, Summerfield observes wryly, can be the kiss of death. She suggests “Perspectives” as a short form to refer to these courses on areas of knowledge and inquiry and on contexts of experience.

Summerfield spent the past six years as CUNY Central’s university dean for undergraduate education. Through the General Education Project, she created a forum for CUNY colleges to “make visible the ground on which we were standing,” as she wrote. They discovered in some cases that gen ed had turned into higher ed’s “abandoned lot.” However, “we know what can be done with abandoned lots in this vast city,” she wrote, and “we can, perhaps, with the right leadership, build a common garden.” A book she co-edited, Reclaiming the Public University (2007), examined how CUNY’s initiative has been taking root.

Across the country, colleges are defining and refining liberal education as they seek ways to combine scholarship with teaching and to engage their most experienced professors in freshman classes. “It’s a tremendous challenge in a public university as resources dwindle and faculty are pressed to do their research,” she explains.

Summerfield came to QC in the 1970s. She helped establish the campus Writing Center and contributed greatly to the Freshman Year Initiative, which she believes “became the ideal: a community of colleagues who had the common mission of teaching first-year students.” In 1998 the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching named her New York State Professor of the Year, praising her “extraordinary dedication to undergraduate teaching.” She also has received a Ford Foundation Diversity Grant and a Mellon Fellowship.

“I’ve lived through extraordinary changes in the culture,” Summerfield observes. “I see my work contextualized in terms of these great forces that affect our students’ lives.” Drawing from her teaching and scholarship, she approaches general education as a group study on a project that’s far from finished. “It has to be a college-wide effort,” she acknowledges. “I think we can do it. We have to do it. It’s not the 1940s any more when Harvard wrote its great Red Book,” which defined “the objectives of a general education in a free society.” She adds, “It’s one thing to have a curriculum written down on paper, and another to put it into practice. None of this happens through the force of one person. All of this has to be built out of collective voices.”
Making the Campus a Greener and Friendlier Place

The fall finds a cleaner and greener Queens College, thanks to a number of facilities improvements made since the spring.

With the installation of 140 hands-free sinks and automatic-flush, low-flow toilets in bathrooms campuswide, QC is both moving ahead in its sustainability goals and helping to mitigate the spread of germs at the beginning of this year’s dreaded flu season. “These improvements also help with sustainability by reducing our use of water, and because it’s more hygienic, it’s helpful with issues like H1N1,” says Kathy Cobb (VP Finance & Admin.).

The campus is also literally greener, she notes, as part of efforts in conjunction with Mayor Bloomberg’s One Million Trees NYC initiative. “We’ve planted some 60 trees, with another 70 still to be planted in the fall.”

In addition to renovations of a Kiely Hall lecture hall and bathroom and the routine replacement of desks and chairs, Cobb says there’s been a continued emphasis on making the campus a friendlier place. “We’re trying to create spaces to facilitate informal interactions between students and faculty,” she notes, citing the upgrading of the math department lounge in Kiely Hall and the psychology department lounge in the Science Building.

“In King we did two faculty workspace upgrades and also created an adjunct office around the concept of shared space,” she continues, explaining the creation of 12 new shared workspaces with accompanying lockers.

One of the more stunning successes in this area, Cobb reports, has taken place in Powdemaker Hall. “We brought in furniture for the lobby spaces near the elevators, and the next day students were all over them. It was like bees to honey. One day it wasn’t there, and the next day it was completely lived in. It told us that our strategy of looking to create spaces where students can congregate is correct.”

Scheduled to be complete in time for the spring semester, the Remsen Hall addition, which is on schedule to open for the spring semester, are distinctive features of the Remsen Hall addition, which is on schedule to open for the spring semester.

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Scheduled to be complete in time for the spring semester, the Remsen Hall addition offers the promise of still more attractive lounge space, Cobb says. As a preview, she describes its glass-walled corner lounges providing views of the Quad and the Manhattan skyline. “The lounges will have a new public artwork space designed to have a science theme.”

QC’s new residence hall also adds to the possibilities for creative use of space. Not only was The Summit designed with exercise and lounge areas for the residents, but it contains a multilevel flexible use space in front. “I call it ‘The Cube,’” Cobb says, referring to it’s box-like dimensions, “and it’s a space that’s available to the entire campus community.”

Glass-walled corner student lounge areas are distinctive features of the Remsen Hall addition, which is on schedule to open for the spring semester.

QC People

MAGNUS O. BASSEY (SEYS) published “What Would John Dewey Say About the Educational Metamorphoses of Malcolm X?” in Education and Culture, Vol. 25: 1 (2009) . . . THOMAS E. BIRD (ELL) has been named to a three-year term on the selection committee for the Christian Gauss Award, which is given annually by Phi Beta Kappa . . . In August JOSHUA BRUMBERG (Psychology) received the Ruby S. Couche Mentorship & Leadership Award from School Eleven of the Office of Adult and Continuing Education of the NYC Department of Education. The award was given “in recognition of outstanding scholarship, distinguished leadership, and for providing training and support to diverse student populations for the promotion of scientific research as a mentor.” ADESH BAJNATH, a neuroscience major working in Brumberg’s lab, received a Rockefeller Fellowship for summer undergraduate research. He also recently received a travel award from the college’s faculty for undergraduate neuroscience: $750 to help defray his costs to attend a Society for Neuroscience meeting in Chicago . . . A neuropsychology student working in NANCY FOLDI’S (Psychology) lab, KATHLEEN VAN DYK, was selected for the Public Interest Policy Internship Program in the American Psychological Association’s Public Interest Government Relations Office. She will be lobbying and interacting with Congress . . . The Irish Voice newspaper selected CLARE CARROLL (Comp. Lit./Irish Studies) for inclusion in its Irish Education 100, their listing of “the leading figures in education across North America.” Her profile appeared in a supplement published in the paper’s July 15 edition . . . MICHAEL COGSWELL (LAHM) appeared at the 9th annual Satchmo Summerfest in New Orleans, July 30–Aug. 2 where he gave three presentations on Armstrong . . . As keynote speaker at an international conference in Gothenberg, Sweden, in June on the topic of victims and martyrs, ALYSON COLE (Pol. Sci.) presented her work on the politics of victimhood . . . Over the summer HELEN GAUDETTE (History) taught two courses utilizing the Reacting to the Past pedagogy for the Study Abroad Program. Society and Politics in Ancient Greece focused on the history of 5th-century Athens and took place May 31 to June 28 at the University of Indianapolis’s Athens campus. The second course, The French Revolution, took place July 26–August 9 in Paris . . . JOSEPH GROSSO (Calandra Institute) has published his fifth edition of Il Giornalino. The journal highlights the writings of NYC students studying Italian at the college and high school levels . . . STEVEN KAHAN (Mathematics) has published a book to challenge your mind. For the latest information on the H1N1 flu, visit www.qc.cuny.edu and click on QC Fights H1N1 Flu.
**Working with Ecuador’s Huaorani People**

Judith Kimerling (Pol. Sci.) uses her compassion, intellect, and legal expertise to aid indigenous communities in Ecuador’s Amazonian rainforest, whose living area is shrinking due to oil exploration and subsequent development activities.

A Yale Law School graduate who holds simultaneous appointments at QC and CUNY’s Law School, Kimerling is an internationally known expert on environmental law and the oil industry. She experienced a life change when, after reading about the rainforest, she decided to work for its preservation. (As an assistant attorney general for New York State in the 1980s, she litigated environmental cases, including the infamous Love Canal.) In 1989, without a specific project but with the determination to get to know the local people, Kimerling moved to Ecuador and began studying Spanish.

She soon saw how Texaco’s search for oil was doing catastrophic harm to the country’s rainforest and the people who lived there. Kimerling also became aware that a coalition of oil company executives, Ecuadorian government officials, and Christian missionaries had pressured communities in the Huaorani tribe to leave the areas Texaco wanted to explore.

“I realized early on,” she says, “that the best hope for rainforest conservation is to work with local communities that want to protect their environment.” She started building relationships that led to the Huaorani and other affected groups giving her tours of their despoiled lands. There were huge oil spills, toxic wastes, and deforestation by colonists and loggers who used the roads built by Texaco to gain access into the previously inaccessible region.

These discoveries, and additional research, led Kimerling to write her acclaimed book *Amazon Crude*, which was called “the Silent Spring of Ecuador” by the *New York Times*. Kimerling made sure the book was translated into Spanish so that Ecuadorians would be able to read it. Showing the indigenous people documents, research, and her book was critical in earning their trust. “I think,” she says, “that this was the first time anyone ever shared information with them.”

As a result of Kimerling’s research, U.S.-based attorneys lodged a class-action lawsuit against Texaco to compel them to clean up the lands they had ruined. The case was dismissed by the federal court as the judge decided the case should be heard in Ecuador, where the legal fight now continues. In addition, a large rainforest area was set aside for a Huaorani group that lives in voluntary isolation. No oil exploration or other development is allowed here.

In this “Intangible Zone,” which is within a Biosphere Reserve established by UNESCO, there are three contacted Huaorani communities with whom Kimerling has established ongoing relationships. She currently represents them in litigation before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

This summer Kimerling spent five weeks in Ecuador. To reach the Huaorani she took a fleet of planes, boats, and trucks, and then traveled half a day on foot. Among her activities was helping the Huaorani organize a two-day workshop for neighboring communities. Kimerling also spent time talking with Huaorani village elders to hear their history of what has been happening in the rainforest.

Texaco is now owned by Chevron, but the troubles caused by the original exploration continue. Recently, three colonists were believed to have been killed by the Huaorani group that lives in isolation. This confrontation graphically demonstrates Kimerling’s belief that “conservation issues are interrelated with human rights, economic, and other issues.” The Huaorani are passionately seeking to defend their way of life; to them, Kimerling notes, what is at stake is whether “they are going to be able to pass on their culture to their children.”

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**An Innovative Approach to ADHD Treatment**

**Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)** is a chronic condition that can impede a child’s development. The disorder, characterized by inattention and hyperactivity/impulsiveness, is estimated to affect 6–10 percent of school-age children.

Jeffrey Halperin (Psych.) has been studying the neural, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of ADHD for years. He recently was awarded a two-year, $425,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to develop the methodology for a new intervention designed to alter the clinical trajectory of ADHD.

Scientists have already concluded that, in young children, this disorder results in slower developing and typically smaller brains. Halperin believes that the more children normalize their brain development, the better off they will be.

**Typical ADHD treatments** include medication and behavior modification. But as soon as medication or therapy is stopped, symptoms reoccur. Halperin and his staff are developing a new approach. His team is confident of their research methodology because, as Halperin notes, “What the data are beginning to suggest is the more their brains [those with ADHD] seem to normalize, the better they seem to do. So the real question becomes what can we do to make their brains normalized?” Halperin’s response is **TEAMS treatment** (Training Executive, Attention, and Motor Skills), which is based on four core assumptions:

1. ADHD is a brain disorder and impacts many brain regions.
2. Brain development is affected by environmental stimulation.
3. Brain development will be best enhanced within a social context.
4. Activities for children must be “intrinsically rewarding” (or fun).

Working with small groups of four- and five-year-olds, Halperin is designing a menu of games and physical exercises and will determine if TEAMS can make a difference in behavior. Parents will be trained to encourage their children to play these games with siblings and friends in a “real world” context to supplement the time spent with researchers.

Participating children will be assessed three times within the six months following the conclusion of treatment. If the hypothesis is validated, NIH will fund a second three-year grant in which a clinical trial can be undertaken.
Chartwells to Offer Campus a Diverse Menu

The opening of QC’s first residence hall has had an unanticipated—but welcome—consequence for the rest of the campus: the arrival of a food service offering more options than any of its predecessors. Explains Joe Bertolino (VP Student Affairs), “We were looking for a company with experience serving schools with residence halls. We also wanted a larger company with more flexibility to provide additional staffing to meet our needs; a company that could provide more variety; that had more catering, healthy food, and programming options.”

That company turned out to be Chartwells, the largest provider of dining services to schools in North America. Its size and reputation aside, Chartwells still had to pass muster with a selection committee that, in addition to Bertolino, included Kathy Cobb (VP Finance & Admin.), Ann Davison (English), and several students.

“Eight food service vendors submitted bids, significantly more than we’ve had in years,” says Bertolino. “It was terrific to have that many to choose from. We narrowed it to four finalists and then we did site visits at various of their locations.”

The visits included Chartwells-serviced schools SUNY-Stony Brook, Mount Saint Vincent, and nearby St. John’s. “The students on the committee really liked Chartwells and their presentation,” says Bertolino. “We also asked students at schools we visited for their opinions.”

“One of the biggest challenges for us was coming into a campus that had never previously been serviced by a large-scale food vendor,” says Maria Bernard, Chartwells’ director of events and marketing, describing the many modifications that had to be made to accommodate their way of doing business. “Also,” she says, “there are some things at this campus that make it a little different from our other locations, such as the availability of Kosher and Halal cuisines.”

The QC community will see a number of novel changes, among them waiter service at the Agora Café. “We have the ability to take reservations for the Agora,” says Bernard. “If you are doing interviews or want to take your staff to lunch, we’ll have the table ready for you. You can even give us your budget code and charge it to your department through our online catering system.”

Bernard urges people to visit the Chartwells QC website at www.dineoncampus.com/queenscollege. In addition to information about food plans for students, faculty, and staff, visitors will learn about the company’s commitment to better nutrition and wellness, as well as its sustainability practices. They’ll also find bios of QC chefs, coupons, and calendars of special events. Bernard will maintain an office in the Student Union. Of coming to QC, she says, “It’s been a really smooth transition. The people here have been great.”

Jang Receives Faculty Early Career Development Grant

Even in a dark, frozen Antarctic lake, purple bacteria are astoundingly efficient at turning light into chemical energy. Seogjoo “Suggy” Jang (Chemistry and Biochemistry) eagerly investigates this light harvesting—what his lab terms the “great mystery” of photosynthesis. He does so not by boarding icebreakers but by breaking ground with quantum mechanical models. But that’s only the tip of Jang’s curiosity about the fundamentals of energy and charge flow dynamics in liquids, solids, and biological systems.

To fund his research on soft optoelectronic molecules, the National Science Foundation recently awarded Jang a $600,000 (over five years) Faculty Early Career Development grant. Each year, of the 300 or so U.S. junior faculty members in science and engineering who receive these prestigious CAREER awards, only two or three are theoretical chemists. “I can now support postdoctoral research and students, and plan long-term research that will have significant impact,” he notes.

Jang aims to discover “what’s going on at the molecular level.” His research involves energy transfers—chemical and photoelectric—as well as large-scale computation and the modeling of complex spectroscopic data.

“One good thing about theoretical chemistry,” Jang has found, “is that you can do work wherever there is a place to sit down.” Beyond the lab, among his favorite places to ponder resonance energy transfer processes are his home and on trains. He gained doctoral teaching experience at CUNY’s Graduate Center and research expertise at MIT and the Brookhaven National Laboratory.

The ripples of his deep thoughts are spreading. Their practical applications could include optical, electronic, and sensor devices; solar antennas; and new methods for converting the Sun’s rays to chemical and electrical energy. Solar energy has long been a focus for Jang.

As a child in Seoul, Korea, Jang reflects, “I enjoyed reading about people going to far places. After I grew up, I realized there were not so many places left that I could explore, but I found there were so many things to explore intellectually.”

Fifteen years ago, when he came to the U.S., he was still developing his English skills. He earned his PhD (1999) at the University of Pennsylvania and is now fluent in terms like “multichromophoric Forster resonance energy transfer” and “nonequilibrium Green function formalism.”

In 2005 Jang accepted a QC faculty position over a more lucrative offer in Florida. “QC in a sense had all the things I needed,” Jang explains. “I felt it was a great chance to really prove myself—that’s all I wanted.” Not long after, he began a seminar to network CUNY theoretical and computational chemists and graduate students. He enjoys mentoring QC and high school students, and in 2007 led the effort for QC’s hosting of a regional math and science olympiad for Korean-American students.

With some of his NSF funds, Jang will set up a website to encourage students to take part in scientific discussion. “QC students really are eager to learn,” he notes. “I feel a joy in helping each one.”
With a new logo and a new pledge to students, Queens College is redefining itself in the public mind as an institution on the move, keeping stride with the needs of a vibrant student population.

With fanfare (and food), the new pledge, “Meet Your Future,” was unveiled to the campus community during free hour at a festive September 9 “Q Day” ceremony on the Quad, where President James Muyskens introduced a video calibrated to capture the vibe of an exciting institution with its eye on the future.

Addressing the crowd, he said, “Every now and then a college goes through a process of self-evaluation in which it looks at itself and tries to communicate to the world what kind of institution it is. We recently went through such a process, spending countless hours talking to faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community leaders about what they think of the college and what they feel this college should be.”

The impetus to reinvigorate the college’s image was a by-product of the president’s Strategic Plan, which called for a reevaluation of the college’s role in the community, says Sue Henderson (VP Institutional Advancement). Shortly after the plan was introduced, Henderson says she made a fortuitous discovery: “I learned that a QC alumnus with extensive marketing experience was interested in helping us re-shape our brand in the public mind to more accurately reflect who we are and where we’re going.”

This process, she explains, involved bringing together representatives of every segment of the campus community for a one-day retreat, during which they participated in brainstorming exercises designed to produce a consensus about the college’s identity today and going forward.

Eva Fernandez (Linguistics), a retreat participant, says, “I was really impressed by the breadth of opinions that were part of the process, ranging from students to the highest administrators.”

Participants were asked to think about the image projected by the college, which led to ideas for a new Q logo. Fernandez, a linguist, laughs and says, “I think that a Q will never look the same to me again.”

The product of these efforts is a Q logo that is decidedly sleeker than its predecessor and suggests forward movement that is in keeping with the college’s “Meet Your Future” pledge.

Henderson notes that she’s received mostly positive comments about the new Q logo and pledge.

“This eye-catching logo is dynamic and dramatic with a color scheme that’s primal. It resonates for the viewer,” offers Thomas Bird (ELL).

Affirms Fernandez, “‘Meet Your Future’ is so upbeat and so perfectly fitting for the things that we’re doing at Queens College.”

“The theme of ‘Meet Your Future’ will drive our advertising and marketing this year and be integrated into a variety of communications,” notes Maria Terrone (AVP Communications). “It has also been gratifying that students, faculty, and staff have reacted positively to our new video, which visualizes this pledge in a very lively way.”

**If you missed the Q Day showing of the new video, you can view it at http://www.qc.cuny.edu/welcome/seeqc/QCVideos/Pages/Default.aspx**
Tolerance Is the Theme of Upcoming Art Exhibit and Concerts

This fall the Godwin-Ternbach Museum will host Common Ground, an exhibition of 30 paintings, drawings, and prints by American artist Fitz Maurice that celebrates the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and reunification of Germany. Opening on Monday, November 2, Common Ground will be on view through Saturday, December 19. This free exhibition is being presented by the college in conjunction with a program of events promoting tolerance.

“I captured Berlin as it underwent a metamorphosis from the war-riddled city to a modern metropolis,” comments Fitz Maurice. “The message of Common Ground is: Let’s take down all the walls standing between countries and begin to live as one people on one planet. Tolerance is the first step towards peace.”

On Thursday, November 5 at 6:30 pm, the artist will give a talk in the museum, followed by a benefit concert in LeFrak Hall. Tickets are $35. A second tolerance concert is being planned. For information on both events, call 718-793-8080.

In the Media

The Jewish Daily Forward (the online version of the weekly Forward) carried a feature June 10 about QC’s resident South Asian rock star SALMAN AHMAD (Music); the piece included observations from MARK ROSENBLUM (Jewish Studies) . . . ALICE ARTZ (SEYS) was quoted in stories June 2 in the Daily News and June 4 in the Queens Chronicle concerning TIME 2000, the math education program she directs, receiving $190,000 in federal funds . . . The mural created on a Kiely Hall lobby wall by RIKKI ASHER’S (SEYS) graduate art education students—many of whom are NYC public school teachers—was the subject of stories in the May 28 Queens Courier and June 4 Queens Tribune . . . FOX 5 News’s “Good Day New York!” aired a segment July 30 about HARVEY BAKER’S (Psychology) research concerning people with small-animal phobias . . . JOE BERTOLINO (VP Student Affairs) was quoted in an Aug. 13 article appearing on the TimesLedger’s YOUNRABE.com website about the opening of The Summit. He also was interviewed for a Sept. 5 NY1 story; a Summit story quoting SUE HENDERSON (VP Institutional Advancement) appeared Sept. 3 in the Queens Courier. A story also appeared Sept. 11 in the Queens Chronicle . . . The online magazine Science Daily featured a report Aug. 19 about the complex geologic history of Guatemala that quoted HANNES BRUECKNER (EES) . . . A story appearing on the MyNC.com website about a study of the differences of opinion between men and women as to what constitutes attractiveness in the opposite sex quoted CLAUDIA CHLOE BRUMBAUGH (Psychology) . . . MATTHEW CASANOVA (Financial Aid) and student NATASHA BERRY were interviewed on NY1 for a segment concerning the struggle to pay college tuition in today’s economy . . . MELISSA CHECKER (Urban Studies) participated in a segment June 19 on WNYC’s “Brian Lehrer Show” concerning toxic sites on Staten Island . . . QC’s April Business Forum, featuring a panel of experts including DIANE COOGAN-PUSHNER (Economics), who discussed the country’s credit-worthiness in the current economic climate, merited stories in the May 7 editions of the Queens Chronicle and TimesLedger . . . NICOLE COOLEY (English) and ROGER SEDARAT (English) were mentioned in a story in the June 11 Queens Tribune as poets who would be participating in the Jackson Heights Poetry Festival. Cooley was also quoted in a story in the July 10 edition of the Chronicle of Higher Education concerning women who balance their academic . . .

Exhibits Offer Art From Near and Far

A detail (above) from Franca Marini’s site-specific installation, Universal Language, part of the exhibition The Poetics of Transcultur currently on view at the QC Art Center that also features a site-specific installation by Nicos Alexiou (Sociology). It offers stark contrast to this ancient Andean textile work (below) from the exhibition Natural and Supernatural: Andean Textiles and Material Culture now on view at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum.
In the Media from page 10
careers with motherhood . . . PAMELA
DEGOTARDI (Macaulay Honors College) and
JEFF MASKOVSKY (Urban Studies) were quoted in a May 13 Los Angeles Times article about CUNY’s Macaulay Honors College . . 
MARIA EPELENT (Media Studies) offered her insights to Advertising Age for a story in their May 11 edition about marketing efforts by American churches . . . A July 10 column in the Jerusalem Post concerning Randi Weingarten’s retirement as head of the United Federation of Teachers quoted JOSHUA FREEMAN (History) . . . KIMIKO HAHN’S (English) recent collection of poems, Toxic Flora, inspired by articles in the “Science Times” section of the New York Times, was the subject of a column July 14 on the paper’s blog . . . The May 14 Pittsburgh Tribune-Review featured an article concerning ANTONIO HART’S (Music) efforts as both a working musician and educator on behalf of jazz education . . . A tongue-in-cheek study about the mythical Sasquatch in the “NatureNews” section of Nature.com received wide coverage, including a May 28 report on the BBC Radio News. A July 31 feature in the Daily News about free summer events in Queens included concerts at the LAHM, and a podcast about the museum was included by the MTA in July on its online podcast site, TransitTrax.

Media Love Satchmo!
NY1 featured coverage May 20 of the Louis Armstrong House Museum’s “Pops is Tops” concerts. On July 31 Newark’s public radio station devoted to jazz, WBGO-FM, held an event and tour for its members at LAHM; the event was covered on the air. Additionally, LAHM was featured Aug. 2 in a live 20-minute segment heard worldwide on the BBC Radio News. A July 28 feature in the Daily News about free summer events in Queens included concerts at the LAHM, and a podcast about the museum was included by the MTA in July on its online podcast site, TransitTrax.

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In Memoriam: George Priestley

George Priestley, a longtime member of the college’s faculty, died on June 28 of complications from diabetes.

Born in the Republic of Panama, where he graduated from the Instituto Pan-Americano, Priestley came to the United States in the 1960s. He graduated from Brooklyn College, studied at the University of Lisbon, and received his master’s and doctoral degrees from Columbia University.

Priestley joined the QC faculty in 1969 and taught in the SEEK program until the early 1980s. He then assumed the directorship of the Latin American Area Studies Program (now Latin American and Latino Studies) and took on full-time teaching responsibilities in the Department of Political Science, where he was promoted to full professor in 2005.

The author or co-author of several books, including *Piel Oscura Panama: Ensayos y Reflexiones and Ethnicity and Class in Central America*, Priestley served on the editorial boards of the *North American Report on the Americas and Tareas* (Panama’s leading social science journal). He received numerous awards, including a Gulbenkian Fellowship, a Ford Diversity Initiative Grant, and a Mellon Foundation Award. He presented his work nationally and internationally and was frequently interviewed by the media.

A scholarship fund has been established in Priestley’s name for a student in the LALS program. Checks should be made out to the Queens College Foundation, indicating “The Dr. George A. Priestley Memorial Scholarship Fund” in the memo field, and sent to the Queens College Foundation, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Kiely Hall 306, Flushing, NY 11367.

The MyQC portal, the jumping-off point to many current and future applications—such as those entailed in the CUNYfirst initiative—that members of the QC community will need to do the college’s business.

“We’ve done the marketing side of the project, some 2,500 to 4,000 pages,” he says. “What lies ahead is the administrative side: What’s in qcpages? It’ll probably take 18 months to two years to complete the entire migration. In that time, we need to make sure that all the web content managers in all the departments are trained in SharePoint and can maintain and migrate their content in a timely manner.”

As work gets up to speed, users may encounter a few speed bumps.
Coaches Bring Their Winning Ways to QC

The new school year finds three new coaches leading QC athletic teams.

Tom Sowinski is the sixteenth coach in the 69-year history of Knights baseball. He has 21 years of coaching experience, beginning at Adelphi, where he served as associate head coach/pitching coach from 1985 to 1999. His Adelphi teams participated in four Division II College World Series and seven National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Regional Tournaments (winning four). Sowinski also coached three Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Champions, six New York Collegiate Athletic Conference (NYCAC) Champions, and three Knickerbocker Conference Champions. In 1996 Adelphi finished third in the College World Series, one win away from playing for the National Championship.

After Adelphi, Sowinski spent a year as head coach at Queensborough Community College before moving on to Manhattan College as associate head coach/pitching coach. In his five years at Manhattan (2000 to 1999), he was the sixteenth coach of Knights baseball. He played in the 69-year history of Adelphi the 21 years of coaching experience, beginning at Adelphi, where he served as associate head coach/pitching coach from 1985 to 1999. His Adelphi teams participated in four Division II College World Series and seven National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Regional Tournaments (winning four). Sowinski also coached three Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Champions, six New York Collegiate Athletic Conference (NYCAC) Champions, and three Knickerbocker Conference Champions. In 1996 Adelphi finished third in the College World Series, one win away from playing for the National Championship.

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Another QC First

As a vanguard college for the CUNYfirst initiative, Queens College will be the first to deploy the new system. Here Human Resources’ Haydee Macropoulos receives instruction from CUNYfirst team member Ron Knight.

QC Authors

The worldwide extension of capitalism is not the best hope for the world’s women. That’s the argument of HESTER EISENSTEIN (Sociology) in Feminism Seduced: How Global Elites Use Women’s Labor and Ideas to Exploit the World (Paradigm). In a complex and historically informed analysis, Eisenstein shows how the mainstream feminist push for women’s paid employment has served the interests of capital, from welfare “reform” and the elimination of the family wage in the United States to the rise of export processing zones and the promotion of microcredit in the Third World. She argues that women’s “empowerment” has become a substitute for genuine state-led economic development, and pointing to the example set by Nordic countries, asks, “What is wrong with looking to government, as people did in the 1930s, for protection from a raging and violent corporate system?” She concludes her study with a series of strategies international feminists can pursue to recapture the radical essence of the women’s movement.

ULDIS ROZE (Emeritus, Biology) drew on field and lab work to write the North American Porcupine (Cornell University Press), published in 1989. Now, with his second edition, he revisits his prickly subject, a rodent esteemed by some Native American cultures but reviled by the people who displaced them. Roze gained new insights into the animal’s behavior during the half-year he spent rehabilitating an orphaned baby porcupine, whom he released in the wild. Louise Emmons of the Smithsonian Institution calls the book “A comprehensive and sympathetic description of the life and biology of porcupines.”

American Porcupine

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Correspondence

Science and education are vital to human rights. That’s why, this year, the IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) recognized 17,500 museums, 119,000 libraries, and 123,000 archives as part of the nation’s cultural heritage. The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums and will continue its mission to preserve and present the Godwin-Ternbach collections. The IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s 123,000 libraries and 17,500 museums.

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A Dunking for a Cause

Joe Bertolino (VP Student Affairs) comes the pitch from Sue Henderson (VP Inst. Adv.) at the 19th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act BAR-B-Q held July 15 at the Student Union by the QC Committee for Disabled Students.
New Coaches from page 13

2005), the team earned its first Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) playoff berth ever, while 14 players—eight of them pitchers—signed contracts to play professional baseball.

Sowinski is a graduate of St. John’s University, where he still holds several pitching records as a player, including most wins in a season (11) and most shutouts in a season (7). In his three years on the varsity, he compiled a won-loss record of 41–7 and was named an All-American in 1968 while earning a spot on the College World Series All-Tournament Team on the strength of a 2-0 record (including a shutout) in World Series play. Sowinski went on to pitch professionally in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization, winning 16 games against seven losses in three seasons.

A recent graduate of Brooklyn’s St. Francis College, new water polo coach Or Gil brings more than 15 years of experience in swimming and water polo to QC.

His career began with the Kibbutz Givat Hayim Swimming and Water Polo Club in Israel. He moved on to the Israeli junior and senior national teams, playing in the European Championship Qualifications in 2000–01.

At St. Francis, Gil was a member of their NCAA Division I water polo and swimming teams from 2005 to 2009 and competed in the NCAA Division I Final Four in 2005. In 2008–09 he was named captain, leading his team to a second place finish at the Northeast Conference championships. Gil’s honors include the Northeast Conference’s 2007–08 MVP award for swimming.

Kerry Hausdorf is the first coach of QC’s new Lady Knights lacrosse team. The team is playing as a club this fall before beginning competition at the varsity level in 2010. Hausdorf spent the last two seasons as an assistant coach at American International College, having served in the same capacity at Springfield College in 2007. She also was head coach of the girl’s lacrosse team at the Dalton School in New York City from 2005 to 2007, where she taught health and physical education.

In her playing days, Hausdorf was an All-Conference lacrosse player and team captain at Springfield College, where she graduated with a BS in movement and health education in 2004; she earned her master’s in physical education (concentrating on athletic administration) five years later.

Athletics Director Rick Wettan happily notes that coaches Sowinski and Gil have gotten off to quick starts with their aggressive recruiting efforts: “Even though only here a short time, each has already managed to bring in five or six new players, and they’re coming here from all over the country and the world.

Summer Research from page 1

adaptation of Sophocles’ classic tragedy Oedipus at Colonus—on location in Greece (see photo on front page). “Bob led a special seminar, Drama 397, in which he taught the student actors and the other students how he adapted this work, studying the origins of Greek drama and other historical and cultural underpinnings, in the process,” says Einhorn. “Guest artist David Little [a Broadway veteran] performed the role of Oedipus in a residency funded by the Greek Ministry of Culture.”

The National Science Foundation was the funder of a field trip that Hannes Brueckner (EES) took to East Greenland with colleagues from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and University of California, Santa Barbara. As the fifth member of the team, QC geology major Richard Bubbico mapped rocks and collected rock samples, which he’ll analyze as part of his senior project. The objective is to gain greater understanding of a mountain system formed about 400 million years ago, explains Brueckner, seen at upper left in what he calls “the bleak, but spectacular, landscape” of his study area. The difficult terrain made it imprudent for researchers to work—and walk—alone.

Conditions in Ethiopia, where Stephane Boissinot (Biology) explored conservation biology with nine undergraduate and graduate students, were equally challenging. During three weeks in which they bivouacked in three national parks, participants endured strenuous hikes in freezing temperatures and extreme heat, without access to modern luxuries like plumbing and electricity. The payoff: “They had a hands-on experience in which they learned how to look at nature,” says Boissinot, whose crew can be seen at one of their base camps (at left). “We had a blast. It’s one thing to learn information in class; it’s another to see it.”

Archaeological digs in Israel and Turkey offered a different type of hands-on education. Michael Nelson (Art), accompanied by QC undergraduates Nancy Bruno and Zhen-Ron Kuo, joined representatives of other institutions in excavations at a Roman and Early Byzantine settlement in northern Israel. In the photo on the third column, Bruno (at left)—who discovered a large statue base—and a University of Minnesota student take a break from the hot work of clearing the paved courtyard surrounding a Roman-period temple.

In Turkey, Alexander Bauer (Anthropology) led a QC delegation to a series of digs and UNESCO World Heritage sites. Students also had a chance to see artisans practice regional crafts. At a studio in the town of Avanos (below), Jennifer Sharma gets a feel for the skill involved in making pottery, a local tradition dating to antiquity.