Powdermaker Hall Reopens

RENOVATION COMPLETED IN TIME FOR FALL SEMESTER

Following two years of design and three of construction, the renovated Powdermaker Hall greeted its first students on September 2.

The old Powdermaker had a 1960s curtain wall design of glass and metal. There was no central air and the windows weren’t soundproof. “When planes flew overhead to LaGuardia, everyone stopped talking for a few minutes,” recalls Robert Landsman (Campus Facilities). After 30 years, the building was “nearing obsolescence,” he says. So it was taken down to the concrete structure (floors, columns, and beams), then built up again “almost like a new building.”

The results of the renovation are spectacular. The new Powdermaker keeps the E footprint of the original with some design twists. Whereas a new building would likely be shaped as a rectangle, which has only four corners, Powdermaker has 18 corners “and a lot of perimeter,” says Landsman. As a result, “over 90 percent of the faculty in the building have outside offices with windows.” Two internal courtyards feature birches, native grasses, and granite monoliths. The architects also provided a dozen lounges where students can meet and work.

There are many comforts and efficiencies in the new Powdermaker, from the walls of glass at the ends of corridors to the use of triple-glazed, (continued on page 4)

New Dean for Division of Education

Penny L. Hammrich has been appointed Dean of the college’s Division of Education. She comes to Queens from Temple University’s College of Education, where she was associate dean for research. “Dr. Hammrich’s work on equity in science education is nationally respected,” notes President Muyskens. “She brings with her extensive experience in K–12 classrooms, teacher training, and collaborative, grant-funded research.”

Says Hammrich: “Queens College is positioned as one of the best colleges in an urban environment to tackle the big issues that are facing urban education.” She likes that it is located “in the heart of a diverse urban community,” and hopes to play a role in helping it “become a premier college and national leader in urban education.”

Hammrich taught in Temple’s Department of Curriculum, Instruction, and Technology in Education. She was also affiliated with the university’s Women’s Studies Program, and was a senior research associate at the Mid-Atlantic Laboratory for Student Success.

Much of Hammrich’s research involves developing and field-testing innovations in science education that address barriers to student achievement, especially as concerns gender, race, disabilities, and income. Her recent accomplishments include the innovative programs “Sisters in Science,” “Sisters in Sport Science,” and (continued on page 6)
NEW APPOINTMENTS & ASSIGNMENTS

Over the summer President Muyskens announced the following organizational changes.

JOSEPH SCELSA, former Vice President for Institutional Development, is now Vice President for Outreach and Cultural Affairs. He will be working from the Calandra Institute in Manhattan and coordinating a number of growing activities, including Worker Education, the Women and Work Program, the Asian American/Asian Research Institute, and the development of the Italian American Museum.

Acting Dean ANN COHEN (Academic Support and Development) now reports directly to the Provost. Her responsibilities have expanded to encompass those previously handled by Robert Weller, the recently retired assistant provost. Her office is now on the eleventh floor of Kiely.

THE CENTER FOR THE BIOLOGY OF NATURAL SYSTEMS has become part of the portfolio of Interim Dean Robert Engel (Research and Graduate Studies).

THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE now reports to the Provost.

Executive Assistant to the President SUE HENDERSON has assumed oversight of the offices of Affirmative Action, Alumni Affairs and Special Events, the Louis Armstrong House and Archives, Athletics, Study Abroad, and the Godwin-Ternbach Museum.

MARI A TERRONE, who joined the college last winter as Acting Director of Public Relations, has the new title of Acting Director of Communications. She reports to the President’s Office. Included in the Office of Communications are Design Services, Editorial Services, News Services, Reprographics, Photo Services, and Media Production.

QC IN THE NEWS

A front page article in the June 1 “City” section of the New York Times looked at recent QC graduates. YANA KHAIMOVA, a psychology major who had a 3.6 index, has decided to end her job search and pursue a master’s degree this fall; computer science graduate AARTI KASHYAP, who tutors math and computer science part time, is still looking for work; and former airline mechanic JIM BARREZUETA, an honors graduate in accounting, is now an auditor for Price Waterhouse Coopers. Career Development Director TES ASFAW was also quoted in the piece . . . ANDREW BEVERIDGE (Sociology) compared socio-economic patterns among Africans, African Americans, and West Indians in the June 28 issue of the New York Times. Beveridge has also been seen recently in the city’s subways and buses with student Yolanda White as part of CUNY’s “Study with the Best” advertising campaign . . . On Thursday, July 17, WNYC’s “Soundcheck” was devoted to the music of Queens, including 10 minutes on Louis Armstrong and the reopening of the Armstrong House, and an interview with MICHAEL COGSWELL, director. You can hear the interview online at /www.wnyc.org/shows/soundcheck/episodes/07172003. Articles about the Armstrong House also appeared in the June 20 Queens Chronicle and the June 29 Chicago Sun-Times . . . ANDREW HACKER (Political Science) was interviewed about race relations in the United States on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered” on August 4. The occasion was a reexamination of W. E. B. Du Bois’s classic, The Souls of Black Folk, on the 100th anniversary of its publication . . . STEVEN MARKOWITZ (CBNS) was featured in a July Associated Press article that described his work screening the health of nuclear workers in Paducah, KY . . . A June 20 article in the Queens Chronicle quoted President JIM MUYSKENS about the opening of Powder-maker Hall. He was also interviewed for a profile on Queens College in the June 20 Queens Times-Ledger. ELIZABETH HENDREY (Economics) and MAUREEN PIERCE-ANYAN (Minority Student Affairs) were also quoted . . . JOSEPH SCIORRA (Calandra Institute) was quoted in the July 16 and 17 issues of the New York Times on community shrines and monuments related to festivals in Italian neighborhoods of Brooklyn and Staten Island. Sciorra was credited with getting Staten Island’s Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel added to the National Register of Historic Places . . . On June 8 the Daily News ran a story about young children who attend science programs at the QC Center for Environmental Teaching and Research at Caumsett, and on June 18 WNBC’s 6 PM news featured an interview with Center Director PETER SCHMIDT . . . The July 17 Daily News reported on TIMOTHY SHORT’s (Biology) collaborative research with Mohsin Patwary of Medgar Evers College into how plants respond to light conditions. Stories also ran in News India and Desi Talk . . . Several QC students spoke about the effects of the CUNY tuition hike in a WABC-TV feature that aired on the June 23 evening news . . . Spring 2003 graduates VASILI BYROS and commencement speaker GRAZIELA IONESCU received top billing in a May 28 New York Times story on outstanding graduates . . . Newsday also highlighted ACE graduate ADA SAYETTA, 85.

SAVE THE DATE! Faculty and Staff Assembly, Wednesday, October 22, at 3:30 in LeFrak Hall. Introduction of new faculty and administrators, presentation of President’s Awards, and a State of the College address by President Muyskens.
INTERESTED IN BUDDHISM?
Roberta Koepfer (Biology) and Howard Wasserman (Computer Science) would like to form a Queens College Buddhist Association. They envision developing links with off-campus affiliates representing various schools of Buddhist thought and practice, and hope the club might engage in weekly group meditation, plus practice-oriented discussions. If you are interested, send an e-mail to roberta_koepfer@qc.edu or call 4560.

CIVIL LIBERTIES AT QC
On Wednesday, Oct. 1, at 11 am, a symposium, Civil Liberties at Queens College Violated, 1947–1955, will be held in Rosenthal Library, Room 230. Chaired by Joshua Freeman (QC and CUNY), the symposium will feature speakers Ellen Shrecker (Yeshiva), Alice Kessler-Harris (Columbia), Bert Silverman (Hofstra, Emeritus), and Barbara Bowen (PSC).

The symposium coincides with an exhibition, McCarthyism at Queens College, 1947–1955, in the Barham Rotunda of the Library now through Oct. 18. Its official opening is Oct. 4, Homecoming Day. A video by independent filmmaker Sophie-Louise Ullman-Vidal, featuring interviews with Oscar Shaftel, Vera Shlakman, and others affected by McCarthyism at Queens College and elsewhere, will be shown Oct. 8 at 7:30 pm in Rosenthal Auditorium. The video material is from a work in progress entitled Dreamers and Fighters: New York’s Teacher Purges.

HOLIDAY REMINDER
In observance of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, no classes will be held Saturday, Sept. 27, Sunday, Sept. 28, and Monday, Oct. 6.

SOMETHING FISHY
People claiming to represent the Special Events Office have gained admission to classrooms, where they have tried to sell tickets—most recently, cruise tickets. Faculty are reminded that Special Events does not send representatives into classrooms, and they should not admit anyone claiming to be from that office.

SEEKING FACULTY GRADUATES OF LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS
As part of a campaign to connect the college with local high schools, Admissions Director Vinny Angrisani asks faculty who have graduated from a high school in Queens or Nassau County to let him know their school and year of graduation. You can reach him at 5608 or vincent_angrisani@qc.edu.

CDC Accreditation
The Child Development Center (CDC) has joined an initiative to seek accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Fewer than 100 of 1,800 licensed child care programs in the city are accredited by NAEYC. According to CDC Director Betty Pearsall, New York’s licensing standards are already so high that few programs in the city have pursued NAEYC accreditation. However, although it is voluntary, it has become a standard across the nation and is something funding agencies look for. “There is talk of tying funding into accreditation,” says Pearsall, which could have a huge impact on early childhood programs that rely substantially on grants and government agencies.

The initiative is being led by Quality New York, which both facilitates the process and provides some funding support for it. Pearsall, who calls accreditation “a long, daunting process,” likens it to the Middle States review (in which she has been involved as well). She is now in the self-study portion of the process, to be followed by a visit from a validator. The end result will be nationally accepted accreditation.

QC Cybrarians Take Prize
Thomas Surprenant and Claudia Perry (GSLIS) wrote the winning essay in a contest that asked librarians to predict what college libraries will be like in a few years. Their paper, “The Academic Cybrarian in 2012: A Futuristic Essay,” predicted a future where librarians don virtual reality helmets to work as teachers and guides in a cyberuniverse. “The traditional view of the library as a static and reactive facility that houses books and basically awaits student and faculty initiatives has shifted to that of a highly interactive, proactive, digitally based cybermix of staff, activities, and services inhabiting what we formerly called (and for nostalgic reasons still call) the library,” they wrote. The winners received an award of $2,500 from contest sponsors Fairleigh Dickinson University and the New Jersey Association of Colleges and Research Libraries.

Library Information Update
Click here to learn about library services: www.qc.edu/Library/info/faq_faculty03.html
Powdermaker’s renovation adds an attractive, state-of-the-art building to the quad, updating the familiar hall named for former QC anthropologist Hortense Powdermaker. The renovation involved the efforts of many on the college staff, the architectural firm of Mitchell/Giurgola Associates, CUNY, and the State Dormitory Authority.

There is still some fine-tuning to be done. The building opened with a temporary certificate of occupancy; any deficiencies will have to be remedied before the city will issue a permanent certificate. The 11 departments that will call Powdermaker home are moving in on a staggered basis. Nonetheless, those responsible for renovating Powdermaker Hall are proud of all that has been accomplished.

Homecoming Day 2003

The fun begins on Saturday, October 4, with registration and continental breakfast at 9 am in the Music Building, and continues with lectures, exhibits, campus films, lunch with classmates, and tours. President Muyskens will present 50th Anniversary Medals to the Class of ’53 and there will be special hospitality for the classes of ’43 and ’53. The day ends with a reception at 4 pm.

Dress is casual. To attend you must register by Tuesday, September 23. For more information visit www.qc.edu/Alumni_Affairs or call 3930.
Carl Riskin Named Distinguished Professor

Carl Riskin has been appointed Distinguished Professor of Economics by the City University of New York. Riskin is known throughout the world for his analysis of the effects of China’s economic development policies. His work has set the standard for research on social and economic trends in developing countries.

“It is rare for a scholar to command the attention of the leaders in his own country,” President James Muyskens noted after Riskin’s appointment on June 23. “So how much rarer is Carl Riskin’s achievement in commanding the attention of the leaders of China? His research has on several occasions led the Chinese government to act in the best interests of its people. His facts speak so eloquently, and he himself speaks Chinese so fluently, that he was invited to work with some of China’s leading scholars on a project that revealed just how widespread poverty is in that country.”

Riskin’s 1987 book China’s Political Economy: The Quest for Development since 1949 (Oxford University Press) is the definitive study of the interrelations of politics, ideology, technology, and economic incentives in China’s recent history. He has also produced development studies on China and other nations for the U.N. Development Programme, documenting the effects of globalization on Asian countries and the republics of the former Soviet Union. Much of his recent work has been devoted to helping international agencies understand the challenges of the global economy.

Riskin, who holds a PhD from the University of California, is also a senior research scholar and adjunct professor at Columbia University’s Weatherhead East Asian Institute.

STUDENT PROFILE

Adina Leon ’05

“I like heights,” says Adina Leon, an art student who is also a volunteer EMT and firefighter in West Hempstead. Describing her training at the Fire Service Academy, Adina enumerates its challenges matter-of-factly: “You’re climbing on the roofs, hitting things with hammers and axes, climbing up ladders, going into a building with a fire in it, and putting it out.”

A junior in the CUNY Honors College, Adina doesn’t let categories limit her. She is a studio art major with a minor in honors in the humanities. At the same time she is a premed student who hopes to specialize in obstetrics. Adina finds that the sort of thinking demanded by art offers her “mental relief” from the hours she devotes to science and lab work. “Art really balances my schedule,” she says. “You rejuvenate yourself by going back and forth.”

Adina brings that same can-do confidence to her volunteer work. As a student at the Nassau County Emergency Medical Services Academy, she initially planned only to pursue its medical training. But while going on calls in the fire department ambulance, she decided to learn firefighting. “I saw, hey, I can do that, too! I figured I might as well try it.” Now a Class A firefighter, Adina has resolved to continue with more advanced EMT training as well, returning to the Academy this fall to become certified in critical care.

She credits her family with helping her stay grounded despite a demanding schedule. “I love being in New York. My whole family’s here. I know a lot of people want to go away from their homes, but I’m really close with my family.” Indeed, Queens College has become a bit of a family tradition. Adina’s grandmother, Alice Dolnane, has her MA in education from QC. Her aunt, Janet Fein, completed her BS in history in 1972 and MS in secondary social studies education in 1975; while her mother, Karen Leon, earned her BA in history in 1976. Last year, Adina’s sister Rachelle completed her own BA in art and English.

As a student in the Honors College, Adina has flourished. “It’s a good deal,” she says. “Moneywise, if I went away, I would be working all my free time and I wouldn’t have time to do the things I want to do.” At Queens she has joined the fencing team and photography club, and signed on as layout editor of Nucleus, the undergraduate science journal. She also founded Knitting It Together, a club that knits and crochets items for needy people with funding from Hillel, and leads the group as club president.

Despite her schedule, Adina maintains a 3.9 GPA, is a Presidential Achiever, and is on the Dean’s List. This summer she landed an internship in the press office at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, a perfect site for her love of art and science. On the side she volunteered as a costumed interpreter at Old Bethpage Village.

Adina does not worry about straying from a conventional premed program. Although she expects ultimately to specialize in obstetrics, she sees all her studies as important preparation for medicine. “Nowadays medical schools really want humanities students. They like the students who aren’t all premed – who have the 4.0 in science and nothing else. They want students who have other interests and ideas.”
Klein Urges Teaching Fellows to “Push the Envelope”

When Janet Caraisco (EECE) decided to invite Schools Chancellor Joel Klein to visit her classroom, she sat down and wrote him an e-mail at 11:30 at night. By 8 the next morning she had his answer: he’d be there. So on July 29 Klein arrived and was introduced by President Muyskens to a class of Teaching Fellows who had just completed their first year of teaching in the city schools. These students, many from industry and other backgrounds, have been teaching while taking courses toward their education degrees and certification. They had questions about the school system and how the chancellor could improve it. Klein encouraged the students to speak up about real issues they face, saying, “In our system the whole theory is, keep your head down. People are afraid to push the envelope, but that’s the only way it’s going to change.”

New Dean of Education (continued from p.1)
“Daughters with Disability,” which all stress the importance of addressing the educational needs of young urban women. She has held major research grants from NSF, the U.S. Dept. of Education, and the Space Telescope Science Institute.

Hammrich holds a BS in biology from South Dakota State University (1985), where she also obtained her teaching certification, and earned her MS in biology at Mankato State University in Minnesota (1988). She completed a PhD in curriculum and instruction at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis (1994), with a concentration in science education. She is on the steering committee of the American Association of University Women, and serves on several boards.

Commencement Webcast Reaches Viewers Across the Globe

Queens College history was made at the 79th commencement on May 29, when the Office of Information Technology (OIT) successfully webcast the entire graduation ceremony. Nearly 190 visitors watched at least part of the live event, connecting to the quad from the U.S., Europe, Egypt, China, and Australia. “One student from Pakistan told us he was thrilled we were webcasting because it allowed his parents to watch his graduation although they couldn’t travel here to attend in person,” says Donna Lipper, OIT’s Acting Vice President. Eric Shamow, Assistant Director for UNIX and Educational Technologies, developed the streaming video infrastructure needed for the webcast, and acted as technical director. Casey Williams, a support technician with video experience, directed the camera crew: Jennifer Chow, Sergio Cruz, Markus Erndl, and Onkei An. The webcast is now accessible from Quick Links on the home page. Rich Billay (Communications) also videotaped the ceremony, which was attended by 10,000 on one of May’s few sunny days. His 7½-minute video of commencement highlights can now be accessed from the college’s home page.
SEPTEMBER EVENTS

9 TUES
EXHIBIT OPENING: Traces on the Wall; Works on Paper by Metka Krasovec; QC Art Center, Rosenthal, 6th flr., 9 am (through Oct. 22).


17 WED
QUEENS ROYAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: Chang Seok Choi, conductor; Constance Beavon, mezzo-soprano; works by Copland and others; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm ($10 donation requested).

18 THUR
ACADEMIC SENATE: Special meeting; Kiely 170, 3:35 pm.

19 FRI
QC WOMEN’S CLUB AUTUMN DESSERT RECEPTION: Renssen 300, 12 noon–2 pm (for info, call 4479).

QUEENS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: Tito Muñoz, conductor; Gerard Gordon, marimba, Avid Williams, tenor, Allan Stromquist, horn; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm ($10 donation requested).

OCTOBER EVENTS

1 WED
PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE: “China and the Dimensions of World Poverty”; Carl Riskin (Economics); Dining Hall, Patio Rm. South, 12 noon–1 pm (RSVP to sima@qc.edu or 3770).

FYI will now appear monthly, publishing on the first Thursday of every month. Items should be submitted by the 12th of the preceding month to Maria Matteo, Kiely 1310, x5590. Items longer than one paragraph must be submitted via e-mail to mmatteo@qc.edu.

QUEENS PHILHARMONICA: Dong-Hyun Kim, conductor; works by Stravinsky and Bach; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm (voluntary $10 donation to the ACSM Scholarship Fund requested).

METKA KRASOVEC: Traces on the Wall: Works on Paper. Sept. 9–Oct. 22, QC Art Center, Rosenthal, 6th flr. Open Mon–Thu, 9 am–5 pm when classes are in session; Mon–Fri, 12 noon–5 pm (for info, call 3770).

22 MON
WOMEN’S STUDIES COLLOQUIUM: “Gender, Piety & Religious Knowledge in an Omani Town”; Mandana Limbert (Anthropology); Student Union, Union Grill, 12 noon–2 pm (reservations required – call 3098).

AFRICANA STUDIES LECTURE: “Take Care of Your Master: A Reading of Octavia Butler’s Kindred,” Ferentz Lafargue; Student Union 301, 12 noon (call 3098).

24 WED


POETRY READING AND DISCUSSION: poets Maria Terrone (Communications) and Peter Carravetta (European Languages & Literatures). A celebration of Italian and Italian American identities. President’s Conference Room #2, 5th flr., Library, 12 noon–1 pm.

QUEENS PHILHARMONIA: Dong-Hyun Kim, conductor; works by Stravinsky and Bach; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm (voluntary $10 donation to the ACSM Scholarship Fund requested).

SALUTE TO ALUMNI: Permanent exhibit, curated by Joseph R. Brostek, Jefferson Hall Lobby & Welcome Center display cases.


POETRY READING AND DISCUSSION: poets Maria Terrone (Communications) and Peter Carravetta (European Languages & Literatures). A celebration of Italian and Italian American identities. President’s Conference Room #2, 5th flr., Library, 12 noon–1 pm.
