Asian/American Center Celebrates New Immigrants and Old Americans Project

MAYOR COMMENDS TWO DECADES OF RESEARCH ON LOCAL NEIGHBORHOODS

More than 130 people filled the fourth floor of the Student Union on March 25 for a panel discussion by researchers from the New Immigrants and Old Americans Project based at Queens College and led by anthropology professor Roger Sanjek. The project, which spanned two decades (1982–2002), studied white and black established residents and new Latin American and Asian immigrants in Elmhurst–Corona (Community District 4), which New York’s Department of City Planning calls “perhaps the most ethnically mixed community in the world.” Team members also branched out into Flushing, Jackson Heights, North Corona, East Elmhurst, and other Queens neighborhoods.

Sayu Bhojwani, NYC Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs, brought a letter of commendation from Mayor Bloomberg, who wrote: “Our city’s diversity is our greatest strength, and your findings proved that we can learn from one another and come together to create a stronger and better New York for all.”

Six books were published from the research findings, including Sanjek’s The Future of Us All: Race and Neighborhood Politics in New York City (Cornell University Press), winner of the J. I. Staley Prize for 2002. The $10,000 award, given annually by the School of American Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico, is considered the most prestigious book prize in the field of anthropology.

Hosted by the Asian/American Center, the event also celebrated the publication of the latest books to emerge from the research: Becoming American, Being Indian: An Immigrant Community in New York City by Madhulika S. Khanddelwal, director of the A/AC, and Hispanics de Queens: Latino Panethicnicity in a New York City Neighborhood by Milagros Ricourt and Ruby Danta, a QC alumna who worked on the team as an undergraduate and then as a faculty member.

FYI
QUEENS COLLEGE FACULTY & STAFF NEWS
APRIL 7, 2003

STAFF NEWS

New Master of the Web

The Queens College Web site will soon have a new look and be easier to navigate, thanks to the efforts of Angel Arcelay, the recently appointed director of Web development and training. Many on campus will remember that from 1993 to 1998, Arcelay was the manager of the Help Desk and laboratory and classroom operations. “I feel like I’ve been away at school somewhere, and now I’m back home,” he notes with pleasure.

Arcelay is no stranger to the needs of higher education. Not only at Queens but also at the New York Institute of Technology, New York University, and Lehman College (where he completed his B.S. in computing and management), he has been involved in the gamut of academic computing: managing and providing technical support, evaluating and introducing new technology, writing manuals, and teaching undergraduate courses. Last year he obtained his master’s in computer science from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT.

The changes envisioned for the college’s Web site will require all of Arcelay’s years of experience. He will be working with departments and administrators to help them expand their presence on the Web. The new Webmaster would also like to see the college use much more of the Web’s capabilities, such as video and sound. Another priority is designing Web pages for ease of access under federal disability guidelines. “We want to make sure that what we design can be enjoyed by everyone,” says Arcelay.
OIT Training Seminars

The following training seminars are still available to faculty and staff. Class size is limited to 20 and preregistration is required. For a form, go to http://www.qc.edu/OIT/schedule.html.

INTRO TO WEB AUTHORING: Learn the basics of creating simple Web pages using Netscape Navigator’s free authoring program, Composer. Basic computer skills and experience with Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer browser are required. Friday, April 11, 9:30 am–12 noon, I Building 213. Instructor: Ben Eichler

INTRO TO EXCEL: A two-session seminar emphasizing the basics of this spreadsheet program. You must sign up for both sessions. Fridays, May 2 & 9, 9:30 am–12 noon, I Building 213. Instructor: Salvador Morales

INTRO TO ACCESS: This class is intended for staff and faculty needing basic database skills for their college work. You must sign up for both sessions. Fridays, May 16 & 23, 9:30 am – 12 noon, I Building 213. Instructor: Tom Smith

LSAMP Conference

The NYC Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Mathematics, Engineering and Technology (LSAMP) is holding its 6th Annual Urban University Conference Series on April 11 at York College. The keynote speaker will be Dr. John Ruffin, director of the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the NIH. For information, contact Evelyn Silva at 4140.

Library Book Sale

The Friends of the QC Library will be holding its Spring Book Sale in the lobby of the Rosenthal Library, April 7 to April 10, 9 am–5 pm. All proceeds go to fund special needs of the library. For more information or to donate books, call 3626 or send an e-mail to davide@qc1.qc.edu.

Women’s Club Reception

The QC Women’s Club will announce its spring gifts to the college at the annual Salute to Spring & the Staff, to be held on Friday, April 11, between 12 noon and 2 pm in Remsen 300. All are welcome to attend.

Commencement Update

Volunteer marshals are needed for Commencement and Baccalaureate ceremonies. Faculty and staff are asked to return the yellow forms they were sent without delay so plans can proceed on schedule. If you have questions, call Joe Brostek at 3600.

RFP Forms Available

Robert Engel (Research and Graduate Studies) has hard copies of the revised CUNY Faculty Development Request for Proposals (RFP) for anyone who could not download the form from the Graduate Center Web site at http://web.gc.cuny.edu/provost/apit/facdev/rfp/index.html in PDF format. For a copy, call 5190. The deadline for submitting proposals is Friday, April 18 at 5 pm.

QC MAKES NEWS

JOE BROSTEK (Alumni Affairs & Commencement) was recently the subject of a Newsday “Everyday Heroes” feature that highlighted his volunteer activities in his church and local schools. 

MARSHA REID and CINDY SCHERER were interviewed on March 10 by WABC News about the impact of the proposed TAP Award reductions on CUNY students. BERNARD COHEN’S (Sociology) class was shown briefly in a lead-in shot to the story. 

FRED KAPLAN (English) was quoted in a March 16 Newsday article about Mark Twain’s antiwar parable “War Prayer.” He noted Twain would probably have some “satiric words to say about our preparations for war with Iraq.” Kaplan’s biography of Twain will be published this fall.

MADHULIKA KHANDELWAL (Asian/American Center) was profiled in Newsday’s “The New New Yorkers” column on March 26. She and ROGER SANJEK (Anthropology) were also quoted extensively in the March 20 Queens Times-Ledger and March 27 Queens Chronicle for their involvement in The New Immigrants and Old Americans Project (see FYI, page 1).

PYONG GAP MIN (Sociology) was cited in a March 26 New York Times article about Asian immigrants in Queens. In a March 23 Newsday article about how Korean Americans view North Korea, Min noted that “A lot of people have the same mentality, the Cold War mentality. We should see North Korea more objectively, we should see America more objectively”.

ANDREW HACKER (Political Science) has received coverage in the New York Times and Newsday for his latest book, Mismatch: The Growing Gulf Between Women and Men.
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graduate student in urban studies.

Other books published from the project are Chinatown No More: Taiwan Immigrants in Contemporary New York by Hsiang-shui Chen, now a professor at National Tsing Hua University in Taiwan who flew to New York for the event; The Korean American Dream: Immigrants and Small Business in New York City by Kyeyoung Park of UCLA, who arrived from Los Angeles; and Black Corona: Race and the Politics of Place in an Urban Community by Steven Gregory, a professor at Columbia University.

The research team included white, African American, Chinese, Korean, Dominican, Cuban, and Indian researchers, and covered civic politics, small business, houses of worship, public festivals and ceremonies, immigrant associations, family life, and interethnic relations.

The rich intercultural mix of team members strengthened the research, observes Sanjek. “We learned and saw things we wouldn’t have noticed without the benefit of so many different backgrounds and perspectives,” he says.

In the mid-eighties, the research approach taken by the New Immigrants and Old Americans Project was considered a trailblazer by the Ford Foundation, which gave the project $100,000 and solicited national proposals for similar research on the theme of “changing relations in U.S. communities.” Ford ultimately funded university research in six cities undergoing ethnic transformations.

Among other funding sources were the National Science Foundation, which provided $260,000, and the Elmhurst Economic Development Corporation.

When Khandelwal, a native of India, came to the U.S. in 1987 to document Asian Indians in New York City, she had no idea she would make this her long-term research focus—or that she would make America her home. “Virtually no research was being done on South Asians,” she says. “During this time, the Indian population in the U.S. was undergoing many changes, and South Asians were forging new identities.”

Khandelwal, who considers herself an “interdisciplinary historian,” focused her research on the Asian Indian communities in Jackson Heights, Flushing, and Richmond Hill, and explored how ethnic cultures are impacted by their interaction with other groups in the United States. One intriguing question she attempts to answer is how various cultures become simplified through this association.

Among the attendees on March 25 were 19 members of the media, ranging from “mainstream” press such as the Daily News and Queens weeklies to El Diario, India Abroad, three Chinese newspapers, and Korean print and television.

**CLINTON HILL: 1980–2002**

The Godwin-Ternbach Museum’s latest exhibition, CLINTON HILL: 1980–2002, looks at the artist’s long and distinguished career. A professor emeritus of art at the college, Hill was one of the first to explore the possibilities of handmade paper as an art form. The exhibition features 70 works, including handmade paperworks, paintings, and wood-and-plastic relief constructions. Hill’s art has been shown in major collections. Hours: 11 am–7 pm, Tuesday through Thursday through May 23. (Above: Crest and Fall.)

**STUDENT PROFILE**

**Maria Doulis ’03**

Maria Doulis came to Queens College determined to be a history professor. “And then I realized someone with a bad memory shouldn’t be a history professor!” she says, laughing. “So I switched my major to political science, which is very related but not as into details—more conceptual.” Maria’s switch has paid off as she recently was admitted to the nation’s top-ranked master’s in public administration program at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

Maria has a long history with the college. Her father, James, who emigrated from Chios in Greece, graduated from Queens with a B. A. in history and political science in 1979. Maria also attended Townsend Harris High School.

Besides her numerous campus activities (among other things, she has been business manager of the Knight News), Maria is active in the Greek-American community in Astoria. She is executive vice president of the cultural chapter of the Chian Federation and was a cofounder and editor-in-chief of the Dialogue, which focuses on Greek-American issues.

Maria, who expects to graduate summa cum laude this spring, is also minorng in Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies. She has been a Presidential Scholar, Queens College Scholar, a member of the Golden Key Honor Society and Pi Sigma Alpha (the political science honor society), and a recipient of scholarships from CUNY and the Byzantine Center.

Pursuing a public administration degree will broadly support what she deems “my chief interest: public policy, its implementation, how programs work, how policy is created.”

If you know a special student you would like FYI to profile, please send information to mterrone@qc.edu.
APRIL EVENTS

7-10 MON–THU
FRIENDS OF THE QC LIBRARY SPRING BOOK SALE: Rosenthal Library Lobby, 3rd flr., 9 am–5 pm.

7 MON
ALUMNUS RECITAL: Robert Woodcock, double bass; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 12 noon.

8 TUE
CHAMBER MUSIC LIVE:
Actor/folk artist Theodore Bikel; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 10 am (subscription series—for information call 3802).

QC EVENING READING:
Novelist Jamaica Kincaid, with interviewer Leonard Lopate; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 7 pm ($8).

9 WED
BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM: “Oxidative Stress-induced Calcium Signaling & Survival in Aspergillus nidulans,” Diana Bartelt, St. John’s University; Science Bldg. B137, 11 am.

AFRICANA STUDIES LECTURE:
Ammiel Alcalay (Classical Languages); Student Union 301, 12 noon.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY COLLOQUIUM:

CONCERT: New York Philharmonic, Roberto Minzuk, conductor; Golden Auditorium, 7 pm. Special: Two free tickets with a Queens College ID.

10 THU
QC CHOIR & CHORUS: James John & Cindy Bell, directors; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 12 noon.

B.MUS. RECITAL: Geoffrey Hull, trumpet; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 3 pm.

THE NEW CUNY+ CATALOG WORKSHOP:
Rosenthal Library, Room 225, 5:30 pm. Sign up at the Information Desk on the main floor of the library.

MENC PRIVATE STUDENTS RECITAL:
Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 7 pm.

11 FRI
QC WOMEN’S CLUB SPRING RECEPTION:
Salute to Spring & the Staff; Remsen 300, 12 noon–2 pm.

STUDENT CHAMBER CONCERT:
Chang Seok Choi, director; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 3 pm.

12 SAT
FAMILY THEATRE:
The Little Mermaid; Golden Auditorium, 2 pm ($11).

NEW YORK CITY DAY OF PERCUSSION:
Special guests/performers/ensembles in master classes and performances; Music Bldg., 3 pm (for info, call 3809—free admission for students).

DAY OF PERCUSSION CONCERT:
Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm (for info, call 3809—free admission for students).

13 SUN
CONCERT: Kyoko Takezawa, violin; Music Bldg., LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm ($34/$32 with discount).

14 MON
SEMINAR WORKSHOP ON WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY:
Co-hosted by Computer Science Dept., Gateway Computers, NYC Wireless, Parsons School of Design. For more information contact Bon K. Sy at bon@bunny.cs.qc.edu, 3566 or Xiuyi Huang at xiuyi@turing.cs.qc.edu, 3566. Register online by April 11 at http://bonnet2.geol.qc.edu/wireless_reg.html. NSB A225, 9:30 am–1:30 pm.


15 TUE
BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM: “Determining the Building Blocks of Neuronal Networks,” Joshua Brumberg (Biology); Science Bldg. B137, 11 am.

Exhibits

RE: CONNECTIONS BY NÜTRÓ (a group of Russian-American artists):
Through April 15, QC Art Center, Rosenthal, 6th flr. Hours: Mon.–Thu., 9 am–8 pm; Fri., 9 am–5 pm; for info/weekend hours, call 3770.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG IN CONCERT:
Through May 8, Louis Armstrong Archives, Rosenthal 332. Hours: Mon.–Fri., 10 am–5 pm (hours may vary); for info, call 3670.

To Our Readers: Please submit items for FYI at least two weeks in advance to Public Relations, Kiely 1310, 5590. Items longer than one short paragraph must be submitted on disk or via e-mail to mmatteo@qc.edu.