Mayor Celebrates Disability Awareness Month at College

On Monday, April 14, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg held a reception in honor of Disabilities Awareness Month in the Student Union Ballroom. Among the several hundred guests were City Councilmen Jim Gennaro and David Weprin, NYC Commissioner for Cultural Affairs Kate Levin, former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, many members of the disabled community, and college faculty and staff. This reception, which celebrated disability art and culture, featured a display of artwork by disabled students at the college.

Hailing the college as “a place where disability art and culture thrive, enriching all our lives,” President James Muyskens noted in his welcoming remarks that “Queens College has a rich history of accommodating people with disabilities, extending back to the post-World War II period, when it served as a haven for veterans with disabilities who looked to the college for new careers and the promise of a better life.” He also announced that “Over the next year, in partnership with DASNY, the college plans to invest $1.2 million to improve on-campus accessibility.”

Don Passantino, chair of the Committee for Disabled Students, stated that over 9,000 CUNY students have disabilities, including 500 students at Queens. Passantino presented the mayor with a college sweatshirt and then introduced Matthew Sapolin, the executive director of the Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities, who

Student Josh Kryshka exhibited his artwork  
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Dealing with Disruptive Students

The Counseling and Advisement Center has prepared a brochure on the best way to deal with troubled students in the classroom. Entitled “Distressed and/or Disruptive Students in the Classroom,” the brochure lists distress signals to watch for and offers strategies for dealing with these students. For a copy, call the center at 5420.

Wanted: Student Articles for Nucleus

Are undergraduates conducting research in your laboratory? If so, encourage them to write up their results and submit a manuscript to Nucleus. The editors are seeking material for the next volume of this journal of undergraduate research. For information, submission guidelines, and requests for copies, contact P. Chabora (Biology) at peter_chabora@qc.edu or 3426.

Music School Students on TV

Two students from the Aaron Copland School of Music—Zohra Adrian and Haig Mardirossian—will be featured in the broadcast of the “Mark Kyrkostas: Remember Me with Music” recital that took place on March 9 at the college. The recital will be broadcast on Monday, April 21 at 12 noon on Channel 57, and be repeated on Thursday, April 24, at 9 pm on Channel 34. Kyrkostas, a pianist and composer who merged the music of the West with the music of the Near East, died in 1990. Each year the Copland School awards a Mark Kyrkostas Scholarship to a piano student.

Perchance to Dream

Perhaps Shakespeare’s most produced and sunniest play, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, featuring an all-student cast, ran for seven performances this April at the Goldstein Theatre. The production was set in the 1920s at a movie studio, and featured such characters as Theseus, a strict movie mogul who dominates the studio, and warring studio divas Oberon and Titania. The cast was directed by Jane Page, who currently teaches in the Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance.

Summer Camp

The QC Summer Camp is gearing up again for kids ages 5–14. As it has for the past 12 years, the camp will offer a menu of programs, sessions, and even transportation to children who come to take a kid-sized break from school.

There are two main programs: the all-day sports academy and an education program that combines a day of group activities and sports options. Sports include competitive choices, like tennis and ballgames; swimming in the Olympic-standard pool; and indoor games like ping-pong. The education program offers a variety of activities in art, theatre, science, math, reading, and games. The camp runs from June 30 to August 22 with choices of two-, four-, six-, and eight-week sessions, normally lasting from 8:30 am until 4 pm (early start and late day programs are provided at no extra charge). Kosher and non-kosher meals are offered.

Applications are being accepted now. For information, call 2768.

Health Service Center News

Family Health Plus is visiting the campus so students may inquire about their eligibility for free health insurance. Representatives will be available at the cafeteria entrance on an ongoing basis to answer questions and determine eligibility . . . A Health Fair will be held on Wednesday, May 7 from 10 am to 3 pm in the Student Union. Free cholesterol, blood sugar, hearing, vision and skin cancer screenings will be available.

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was accompanied by his seeing-eye-dog Compass. Sapolin praised Queens College for providing “an outstanding example of accessibility and inclusiveness.”

Mayor Bloomberg told the audience that “We have to break down barriers, level the playing field and make sure that New York is available to all.” In support of the city’s efforts to ensure access for all, the mayor noted that 80% of Manhattan intersections now have curb ramps. During the reception, Bloomberg also presented awards to two arts-related programs for the disabled: Theatre Access Project, part of the Theatre Development Fund, and Theatre by the Blind.
Governor’s Family Visits POW Exhibit at Calandra

Son James Spinelli (far right) accepted a certificate of recognition on behalf of his father, which was presented by Dr. Joseph Scelsa (far left), QC vice president of institutional development and president of the Italian American Museum. Next to Dr. Scelsa are Louis Pataki, the governor’s brother, and Concetta Macchia, a master’s student at the college who curated the show.

The exhibit, which documents all aspects of GI life in the POW camp, can be seen through May 16. The Italian American Museum, in temporary residence at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute of Queens College, is located in Manhattan at 28 W. 44th Street, 17th Floor, (212) 642-2048.

STUDENT PROFILE

Taruna Sadhoo '03

Taruna Sadhoo, who will graduate with a B.A. in psychology and a BALA minor, knows what the future holds for her. For the next two years she will be in Boston, thanks to a Steppingstone Fellowship. These fellowships are awarded by Steppingstone Academy, where Taruna will gain teaching and administrative experience working with underserved fourth and fifth graders, preparing them for admission to private and competitive public schools. After this, she plans to get her master’s degree in education.

A native of Guyana, Taruna came to this country when she was three and grew up in Flushing. She is the first member of her family to attend college. Among other honors, she has made the National Dean’s List, the Golden Key International Honor Society, and the college’s Dean’s List. She was also chosen for the 100 Black Women Role Model Program, in which professional black women mentor undergraduates. With her major in psychology, Taruna was assigned role models in clinical psychology from Harlem Hospital and Columbia University’s School of Social Work.

Taruna is also the recipient of a Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship. This fellowship funds internships for 15 NYC undergraduates, who must demonstrate leadership, academic excellence, and a commitment to building a better society. Each student is paid a stipend for three summers while completing internships.

On her first summer assignment Taruna worked for the New York State Criminal Supreme Court, where she studied case records and prepared digests to assist judges. Although she had thought of becoming a lawyer, reading through the evidence of already badly damaged lives proved too distressing. “I would rather play a role in the beginning of someone’s life, as a mentor or teacher,” she concluded.

She next interned at the Institute of International Education in New York, where she assisted with the Lucent Technologies Global Science Scholar Program. Taruna worked on the Lucent Global Summit, which brings international students to Lucent Technologies and Bell Labs, where they meet scientists and do scientific projects in teams.

In her third summer Taruna interned in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, working with Save the Children’s education program for pastoralists, people who pursue a nomadic life style based on raising livestock. Save the Children’s program works, Taruna believes, because “the teachers move around with the students.”

Taruna also moves around to find students. Last year she volunteered with Cross-Cultural Solutions in Shanghai, where she taught English to elementary students.

Staying open to new experiences is doubtless one of the keys to Taruna’s success. Some advice she gave herself? “Don’t just sit back and let everything pass you by.”

If you know a special student you would like FYI to profile, please send information to mterrone@qc.edu.
The Whydah’s Gold, Opera about a Pirate Ship, Docks at College April 30 and May 1

The Whydah’s Gold, a new opera with a libretto by Assistant Provost Bob Weller and music by Richard Faith, will be performed in concert at LeFrak Hall on April 30 at 7:30 pm and on May 1 at 2:00 pm. Admission to the performances is free.

The Whydah’s Gold is based on the true story of American colonial pirate “Black Sam” Bellamy, his love for young Mariah Hallett, and the doomed pirate ship Whydah [pronounced widda]. The enormous wealth of the Whydah, which was lost in a storm off the coast of Wellfleet, Cape Cod, in 1717, lay hidden offshore until discovered in 1984 by Barry Clifford, a maritime salvager and archaeologist. The story of the pirate ship and its recovery was the subject of a recent “National Geographic” television special and was featured in the New York Times.

Weller notes that his interest in sea lore developed while he was a professor of English at Annapolis in the 1970s, where he originated several courses in sea literature. Prior to that, he served as an officer in the navy and worked with Armed Forces Radio/TV. In 1976 Weller (along with noted bibliophile Myron Smith) produced Sea Fiction Guide (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press), a comprehensive study of book-length, English-language nautical fiction.

Composer Richard Faith has written numerous solo piano works and chamber music, four piano concerti, nearly 100 songs, several orchestral works, a Mass, a cantata, and three other operas. Doris Lang Kosloff, the head of the college’s opera workshop, will direct the singers for the two performances. Kosloff has held numerous positions in the opera world, including executive director of the Hartford Camerata Conservatory and artistic director and managing director of the Connecticut Opera and the Waterbury Opera Theatre.

Task Force to Examine the Goals of Education at the College

In tandem with a CUNY initiative, President Muyskens has announced a plan for eliciting ideas from faculty, students, and alumni about the goals and framework for general education at the college. To facilitate this discussion and ensure that it leads to proposals for change, the president has appointed a General Education Task Force, made up of faculty from each academic division and coordinated by Social Sciences Dean Donald Scott.

At stake is the question of how the college should educate students for the new century. “The world of knowledge and ways of gaining information have changed dramatically in the last 25 years,” notes Scott. “The world for which we’re trying to prepare students is a very different and dynamically changing one.”

In an April 7 letter to faculty, the task force described this effort as “a chance to think deeply and instrumentally about higher education that, at best, we as faculty will have once in our academic careers.” The task force hopes faculty and students will seize this opportunity to pose fundamental questions. As Scott puts it, “You start with: What really are your educational goals? What are the things you really want students to know and do? What are the best strategies for implementing general education goals that take into account what is special about the institution and our students?”

Faculty and student forums will lead to an initial report to the community. This will provide a framework for more focused discussion next fall, when the task force plans workshops, forums, focus groups, lectures, and panels with outside speakers. Final discussions will culminate next spring with the presentation of proposals for debate and action by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the Academic Senate. “The goal is to come up with something that has a workable blueprint for action,” says Scott.

Forums for faculty are scheduled for April 28, 12 noon – 2 pm (Pres. Conf. Room #2 in the Library) and May 1, 3 – 5 pm (Renssen 300). A forum for students will be held on April 30, 12 noon – 2 pm (Renssen 300).
APRIL EVENTS

22 TUE
CHAMBER MUSIC LIVE: Gerald Robbins & Donald Pirone, duo-pianists; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 10 am (for info, call 3802).

23 WED
HEALTH SERVICE CENTER: “Curves,” Exercise Program Informational Session; FitzGerald 204, 12 noon & 1 pm.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY & LEARNING PROCESSES COLLOQUIUM: “Neural Substrates of Complex Learning,” Bill McIlvane, Univ. of Massachusetts Medical School; Science Bldg. E308, 4 pm.

SEMINAR: Marcus Borg’s “Reading the Bible Again for the First Time,” Alan Bentz-letts, moderator; Student Union 203, 7:30 pm (for info, call 261-1550).

25 FRI
LECTURE: Dr. Joseph Scalsa & CUNY Trustee Hon. Wellington Chen, “Support for Our Ethnic and Cultural Institutions,” Asian American/Asian Research Institute, 25 West 43rd Street, 6 pm. For information, visit www.aaari.info

26 SAT
CONCERT: Dionne Warwick & the Duke Ellington Orchestra; Colden, 8 pm. Tickets: 718-793-8080

28 MON
MATH COLLOQUIUM: “Some Mathematical Conversation Starters,” John de Pillis, Univ. of California, Riverside; Kiely 242, 12 noon.


PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE: “Comparative Psychology of Time Perception,” Nancy Hemmes (Psychology); Dining Hall, Patio Rm. South, 12 noon (RSVP to 5559).

29 TUE
CHAMBER MUSIC LIVE: “From Medieval to Baroque”; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 10 am (for info, call 3802).

LECTURES: Spring 2003 Junior Faculty Series featuring Dallas McCurley (Drama) and Sameer Pandya (English); Rosenthal Library, 3 pm.

QC EVENING READING: David Grossman, with interviewer Leonard Lopate; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 7 pm ($8).

30 WED

QC WIND ENSEMBLE: Michael Lipsey, director; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 12 noon.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY COLLOQUIUM: Kenneth Perrine (Psychology); Science Bldg. E308, 4 pm.

CONCERT PERFORMANCE: Whydah’s Gold, opera by Richard Faith, libretto by Robert Weller; Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm.

SEMINAR: Marcus Borg’s “Reading the Bible Again for the First Time,” Alan Bentz-letts, moderator; Student Union 203, 7:30 pm (for info, call 261-1550).

MAY EVENTS

1 THU
FACULTY RECITAL: Jan-Piet Knijff, organ; works by Sweelinck, Bach, Smaldone, and Valkesijin (US premiere); Music Bldg., LeFrak Hall, 12 noon.

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.