Queens Student Helps Launch “Campaign for CUNY”

When Chancellor Matthew Goldstein last month announced the $2.6 billion “Campaign for the Colleges of the City University,” an Honors College student from Queens was on hand to put a human face on the ambitious undertaking.

Andre Harding, a history major who expects to graduate in 2005, is no stranger to public speaking, having previously appeared before the City Council Higher Education Committee and at recruitment events for both Queens College and the CUNY Honors College. But on this occasion he confessed to being a bit more nervous than usual.

“When I walked into the room I could feel that this event was big,” said Harding. “There were representatives from the mayor, the governor. A lot of people in the audience were trustees from different corporations and so on.”

It was big.

“To do greater things, CUNY must have money it doesn’t have now,” Goldstein told those present at the CUNY TV studios. “It needs to generate the kind of investment it must have to attract and retain the most able faculty and scholars.”

Expected to be completed over eight years, this first universitywide campaign will encompass 19 separate campaigns keyed to the needs of each CUNY college. The university (continued on page 5)

Once and Future Grads Appear in New Ads for the City University

“Once and future grads appear in new ads for the City University,” says Susan Isaacs ’65, author of ten best-selling novels, including Compromising Positions and the just-published Any Place I Hang My Hat.

Isaacs, who sits on the board of the Queens College Foundation, is one of a number of prominent alumni donors featured in a new series of promotional ads for CUNY called “Investing in Futures @ City University.” The ads highlight the achievements of CUNY schools by pairing outstanding alumni with outstanding current students.

“The college is getting fantastic students,” says Isaacs, and that description certainly applies to Sofiya Akilova, a student in the Queens Honors College and Isaacs’ partner in one of the ads. A theatre and English major, Akilova came to this country from Uzbekistan at age 7. After graduating from the Performing Arts High School, she wavered between a career in theater and one in medicine. “I realized I am more passionate about the humanities,” says Akilova, who has just completed a run in the college’s production of The College Plays. She expects to graduate in 2006 and work toward a graduate degree in theatre.

“I enjoyed meeting an alum and getting some idea of what can happen to you after Queens College,” she says of the recent photo-shoot.

Part of CUNY’s outreach campaign, the ad will be highly visible, appearing before long in subway cars and buses citywide. “It’s a little daunting,” says Akilova of the prospect of having her face seen all over New York. “I’ll be waiting to get the phone calls from people I haven’t seen in years.”
SUPPORT A SOLDIER
Georgine Ingber (Design Services) is putting together a holiday care package for a reservist serving in Iraq, Duane Cayea, a custodian at her daughter’s school, P.S. 165, was called to service this summer on his wedding day. You can make a monetary donation toward shipping costs or purchase one of several items on a list she will provide. To help, send an email message to georgine_ingber@qc.edu with “care package” in the subject area.

LADY KNIGHTS KEEP WINNING
The Lady Knights swept the Golden Lions of Dowling College in the final of the NCAA Division II Women’s Volleyball Tournament. They next take on the winner of the South Central region in the NCAA Elite Eight Tournament, slated to begin Dec. 2. In a vote among NYCAC head coaches, senior Anna Bondarenko was selected as Women’s Volleyball Player of the Year and Knight’s coach Pascale Lubin was named Coach of the Year.

CAMPAIGN MEMORABILIA
A handbill from the one-time candidacy of QC’s own Barry Commoner (CBNS) can be found among the many relics of presidential campaigns past collected by retired Finance VP Hratch Zadoian. Buttons, handbills, and other memorabilia extending back as far as Wendell Wilkie’s unsuccessful run for office are on display outside the Political Science Department (Powdermaker 200).

KAUFMANN LECTURES
This past October Hugo Kaufmann (Economics and European Union Studies Center) lectured at the International Law Weekend 2004 of the American branch of the International Law Association in New York. Earlier this year he gave a number of lectures in Israel on the European Union. He spoke May 30 and June 1 at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and June 3 at Tel Aviv University.

EXTENDED LIBRARY HOURS
During exams, the Rosenthal Reading Room will be open 24 hours commencing at 7:30 am, Wed., Dec. 15 through 6 pm, Thu., Dec. 23. Library service hours remain the same: Mon. – Thu., 9 am – 10 pm; Fri., 9 am – 5 pm; Sat. and Sun., 12 noon – 6 pm.

College Honors Long-Serving Faculty and Staff
The college saluted 47 of its longest-serving employees at the annual Service Award Ceremony on November 3, presided over by President James Muyskens and Provost Evangelos Gizis. The college celebrated those who are marking their twentieth or thirty-fifth anniversary at the college this year. Among the 35-year awardees are (above, front row l-r) Charles Lloyd (Undergrad Scholaristic Standards Comm), Alem Habtu (Sociology/SEEK), Emilio De Torre (Hispanic Languages), Jessica Harris (English/SEEK), Fern Sisser (Math), Omayemi Agbeyegbe (Political Science/SEEK), Alan Townsend (Student Personnel/SEEK), Maria Romero (Hispanic Languages); second row: Provost Gizis, Jack Zevin (Secondary Ed), Jesse Vázquez (Educ & Community Progs), President Muyskens, Joseph Klarfeld (Physics), Tina Moreau (Psychology), and Bette Weidman (English). Those being honored for 20 years at the college included (front row) Nancy Falcon (Security), Lisa Flanzraich (Library), Marylin Burgmaier (Human Resources), Natalie Jones (Library), Lana Yee (Family, Nutrition), Ellen Bland (Continuing Ed), Gloria Newberg (Bursar), and Tesfaye Asfaw (Career Devel). Second row: Provost Gizis, Arthur Chitty (Library), Dean Tully (Bursar), Michael Wilson (OIT), Craig Sands (Budget), President Muyskens, Harry Feiner (Drama), Azriel Genack (Physics), Thomas Surprenant (Library & Info Studies), and Claire Poulson (Psychology). Top row: Gregory Mantsios (LEAP) and Frank Gobright (Reprographics).
CUNY Charity Drive to Help Those in Need

The posters around campus implore: “Give Till It Helps.” That’s the theme for this year’s CUNY Campaign for Charitable Giving. Jane Denkensohn (Special Counsel) is again the college chair for the annual appeal to the generosity of faculty and staff.

“Last year, we exceeded our goal, raising just under $22,000 for the Charitable Campaign,” says Denkensohn. “However, our rate of giving is still below all but one college in CUNY. I know we are people of compassion and that we can do much, much better,” she exhorts, noting that 97 cents of every dollar donated goes to a charity designated by the giver.

Faculty and staff received a booklet listing over 1,000 agencies to which donations may be directed. Pledge forms accompanying the booklet allow individuals to donate via payroll deductions or a one-time charitable gift. The forms also include a Sweepstakes Entry. Anyone donating a minimum of $5 per pay period or making a one-time donation of $130 or more by Dec. 3 is eligible to win airfare and accommodations for two for three nights in Las Vegas or a DVD player.

The campaign continues through Dec. 10. If you have questions or did not receive the pledge package, call 5725.

FACULTY PROFILE

Heath Legacy Plays on in Antonio Hart

“My idea of immortality,” Jimmy Heath often said, “is continuing my music through students.”

The jazz great can rest easy on that score, as one of his students has been making his idea a reality, continuing a tradition of music education and performance that took root at the college with Heath’s arrival in 1987 to head up the nascent Jazz Studies program.

As a musician, Antonio Hart is at the top of his game with a well-received new CD and a busy schedule of performances as leader of his own group and as a member of several renowned jazz ensembles. But his students have come to know him as a dedicated teacher—someone who practices what he preaches, and who preaches practice.

“I try not to lecture too much,” Hart says in a phone conversation as he prepares for a European tour with the Dizzy Gillespie All Stars. “But sometimes I have to tell them how important practice is. I tell them, ‘Even though I’ve been on the road and you know me from this, this, and this, I’m still practicing as many hours a day as I can.’”

Asked why he devotes so much of his time to education, Hart, a graduate of Boston’s famed Berklee College of Music, quickly points out, “My undergraduate degree was in education.” He continues, explaining his desire to offer students an alternative to some bad experiences he had as a student with teachers who fell into education after failing as performers. “The way they taught wasn’t always positive. They would come in with that vibe that you knew they didn’t want to be there.”

Hart was an established performer but still thinking about teaching when he read about the new Jazz Studies program at Queens in Downbeat magazine. He soon found himself in a classroom with an excellent role model both as performer and teacher. “I learned the most from Mr. Heath. He has a way of teaching that’s not intimidating and kind of friendly, but he makes you want to work, too.

“I like my students to be curious,” he continues. “I tell them to consider my classroom a laboratory where we’re trying to put different chemicals together and see what kind of formula we come up with.”

“Antonio is unique,” says Michael Mossman, the current director of Jazz Studies and a former bandmate when he and Hart played with Slide Hampton and the Jazz Masters. “His music is very, very modern, but his training is very traditional—which makes him ideal for an academic.”

Hart is enthusiastic about the Jazz Studies program. “The education you’re getting at Queens is comparable to, and at some levels better than, some other jazz programs, like Manhattan School of Music or Eastman, because it is a small program and you’re getting personal attention you might not get at other programs. And you’re getting that experience of someone who’s been out there and done it. You’re getting the best of both worlds.”

Samples of Hart’s recordings can be heard at www.artistdirect.com/nad/music/artist/card/0,,441695,00.html
New Program Helps Teachers Master Students’ Literacy Needs

Seeking to meet the growing need for more classroom teachers who can address declining literacy levels among secondary school students, the college has initiated a new master’s in literacy program. The program, explains director Carole Rhodes (Secondary Education), is also the result of state-mandated changes to the traditional K–12 master’s in literacy sequence.

“Secondary Ed. decided to create a program for grades 5 through 12,” says Rhodes. “I think this is especially important because, typically, reading support services are offered to young children. But always—no matter how good these support programs are—some students fall through the cracks.

“If the teachers in the upper grades are not equipped to handle students with reading problems, then these students get further and further behind. And that’s a problem in all aspects of their learning.”

Jacqueline Darvin (SEYS), who has come to Queens to teach classes in the new program, knows firsthand what these teachers are experiencing, having previously taught at a high school in Nassau County: “I had kids in my eleventh grade Regents English courses who were reading at second-, third-, and fourth-grade levels,” she recalls. “There was no possible way they were going to pass the Regents; they couldn’t even read the tests. The average high school teacher does not have the literacy training to know what kind of strategies to use with these kids.”

“The problem,” explains Rhodes, “is that math teachers don’t think that they’re reading teachers. Science teachers don’t feel that they have anything to do with reading. But the reality is—especially since New York State has taken the math test and put more word problems in it—so many students who formerly did well on the math test, now can’t read the word problems, and they do poorly in math. As I work with teachers in the schools, the biggest complaint I hear from them is: ‘I give the students textbooks, and they can’t read them.’

To further emphasize the need for the literacy program, Darvin observes, “Five years ago students didn’t have to take a Regents exam. They could take a Regents Competency Test for a local diploma. Now, there’s no such thing. The Regents has become mandatory.”

Eight teachers from school districts in New York City and Long Island comprise the first cohort pursuing the 36-credit program over the next 2 1/2 years. Rhodes and Darvin both believe that as word of the program spreads, more and more teachers will be interested in pursuing the new master’s in literacy at the college.

Darvin explains that the state requires teachers to have a master’s degree, and, in the past, most have opted to get one in their subject area or, perhaps, special education. “This,” she says, “is yet another option. If you’re interested in literacy and you want to be able to help the students in your classes with the problems they’re having with reading, this degree makes perfect sense.”

Fourth Annual Poetry Fest

This year’s Poetry Fest, held on November 17 in Rosenthal Library, featured many of the college’s and the borough’s finest poets, including (l-r) Queens’s first poet laureate, Stephen Stepanchev (Emeritus, English), Peter Caravetta (European Langs), Ali Jimale Ahmed (Classical Langs), George Held (English), Pierre Gazarian, David Cohen (Friends of the Library), Marie-Lise Gazarian (St. John’s Univ.), Carolyn Raphael (Queensborough CC), and Maria Terrone (Communications).
QC IN THE NEWS

ANDY BEVERIDGE (SOC) offered his analysis of Election Day voter turnout in Queens and elsewhere for a Nov. 11 story in the Queens Times Ledger . . .

Director TOM CRACOVIA described the merits of the Continuing Education Programs at the college for an Oct. 19 Daily News feature . . . An item highlighting The College Plays directed by SUSAN EINHORN (DRAMA) appeared Oct. 21 in the Queens Chronicle . . .

Sept. 23 Italian Voice carried a report that MARIA FOSCO (CALANDRA) was conferred as Dame of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem . . . The Jerusalem Post on Nov. 2 featured a story about a production in Israel of NORA GLICKMAN’s (HISPANIC) play Two Charlottes, which weaves together the stories of two real-life women at Auschwitz . . . An appreciation of the long-time contributions to political discourse by ANDREW HACKER (POL SCI) appeared Nov. 7 in the education supplement of the New York Times . . . SAMUEL HEILMAN (SOC) was quoted in a widely distributed AP story about a senior Israeli rabbi’s endorsement of George Bush’s candidacy . . . Indian immigrants’ transplantation to the U.S. of their caste system was the subject of an Oct. 24 New York Times story that quoted MADHULIKA KHANDELWAL (A/AC) . . . Yasir Arafat’s death prompted several news outlets to seek the Middle East expertise of MARK ROSENBLUM (HISTORY). These included Canadian Broadcasting on Nov. 1, WNYW-TV on Nov. 5, WABC-TV on Nov. 4, 8, 10, 11, and WPXITV on Nov. 14. He was also interviewed in the Nov. 18 Queens Chronicle. The Daily News offered a feature on Oct. 24 describing Rosenblum’s provocative course, “The U.S. and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.” The Nov. 19 Chronicle of Higher Education offered a similar story . . . An Associated Press story about plans by Spokane, WA officials to sell two vehicles previously owned by serial killer Robert Yates featured a quote from HAROLD SCHECHTER (ENG) . . . SUSAN WEINER (NUTRITION) was quoted in an Oct. 26 Newsday story about men who are dieting . . . Stories about the Math for America program in which participants planning to become math teachers in city high schools receive scholarships toward a one-year master’s program at Queens College appeared Nov. 17 in the Daily News and Nov. 18 in the New York Sun, and ran on the AP wire.

(continued from page 1)

is encouraging all the colleges to expand their fund-raising efforts and will offer resources and marketing assistance

The “quiet phase” of the $1.2 billion private fund-raising campaign has raised $460 million during the last four years. The $1.4 billion city- and state-approved capital construction budget will provide additional opportunities for private matching gifts. Raising private support in this unique effort will promote investment in each CUNY college while also strengthening and enhancing the university as a whole, Goldstein said.

In support of the campaign, Governor Pataki and Mayor Bloomberg issued special proclamations declaring November “CUNY Month.” The campaign will “uphold the high standards of its distinguished alumni and enhance its ability to provide the highest quality education to its students,” noted Pataki.

This ambitious fund-raising goal, noted Goldstein, is made possible because of the academic renewal that has taken place at CUNY under the leadership of the Board of Trustees. “Admission standards have been re-established, graduation requirements have been strengthened, remediation has been ended at the senior colleges, and a renewed emphasis has been placed on producing alumni who are ready for graduate school or the workplace.”

In many regards, Andre Harding is the personification of those goals. He offered his experience in the Honors College as an example of what CUNY students have done in recent years and, with proper financial support, can continue to do. A graduate of the High School of Economics and Finance in lower Manhattan, Harding recounted how he experimented with a chemistry major at Queens before switching to history, in which he’s considering earning a PhD. During his sophomore year he landed an internship with Smith-Barney and, more recently, has worked in a Bronx assemblyman’s office.

He spoke eloquently of his fellow CUNY students, some of whom juggle work, family, and other responsibilities while pursuing an education. “They’re determined and tough. These are people who take the education and training that they receive and put it to good use.”
Each day, Colin John takes the subway and three different buses to attend classes at Queens College, a trip that he says can take up to an hour-and-a-half.

“I don’t mind the trip so much,” he says. “I sometimes read a book and try to get some work done between stops. So it’s not so much of a problem for me.”

His journey to campus actually involves a considerably greater distance—extending all the way back to his native St. Vincent and the Grenadine Islands in the Caribbean. In his first semester, the 30-year-old teacher has taken a 16-month leave from his position teaching chemistry and integrated science at the Cemden Park Secondary School in St. Vincent to come more than a thousand miles to pursue a master’s degree in chemistry. The degree, he hopes, will permit him to become an instructor in a new baccalaureate program his school is considering offering.

A graduate of the University of St. Augustine in Trinidad, John says his brother, Edsworth, a doctor at Woodhull Hospital in Brooklyn, helped him to find the program at the college and is also providing him a place to stay until he completes his studies in December 2005.

“I like it,” he says of his new academic environment. “The instructors are competent and the ambience of the students, in general, seems to be very amiable.

“One of the things I find amazing is the wide cross-section of people that I’ve met from all over the world,” he observes with a hint of excitement in his voice. “I’ve never met such a variety of people in all my life.”

Along with meeting new people he is also acclimatizing himself to a new and very different climate: “It will be my first experience of winter,” he says.

“It’s getting colder, but I feel I’m coping pretty well. I take vitamins, I exercise and all that. And I go to the gym.” Asked if he finds time for leisure activities, John says that he tries to, but he really wants to devote as much time as he can to his studies: “You know, it’s not a walkover,” he says of his program. “Especially in chemistry.”

Americans, by all accounts, are getting fatter, and Ashima Kant (Family, Nutrition & Exercise Sciences) wants to find out why.

“We don’t think our activity levels have changed a whole lot. It’s not that we are less active than we used to be,” she says in explaining the impetus for her new two-year study, Trends in Food Consumption Patterns of Americans, for which she has received a grant of $154,000 from the National Institutes of Health.

Using food consumption data gleaned from a series of four National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) of the American public conducted over the last three decades, Kant hopes to gain a better understanding as to why obesity is spreading throughout our culture. Each of the NHANES surveys contains data collected over periods of four—and, in one instance, six—years, beginning with NHANES I (1971–75).

“My study looks at changes in diet-related behavior from 1971 to 2002. What proportion of our calories are we consuming during the evening compared to 1970 or ’71? Are we eating bigger meals relative to what we were eating earlier? Are we eating different kinds of food? Are the foods’ nutrient densities or their calorie densities different? Are the patterns in which foods are combined different? How long is our meal time? How many meals do we consume in a day? Are we consuming fewer meals or more meals?”

Kant is looking at a representative sample of the U.S. population “so whatever conclusions we can draw we can apply nationwide. It’s called nutritional epidemiology,” she explains, “the kind of research where you take large populations and study some aspect of their diet and its relation to health.

“People are getting overweight, clearly, because they’re eating more calories than they’re spending. That’s no secret. My study will look at which particular food-related behaviors are suspect that make someone eat more calories. Then we can open a window for intervention.”
DECEMBER EVENTS

2 THU
ELECTRONIC MUSIC CONCERT:
Hubert S. Howe, director. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.


3 FRI
CONCERT: Henry Gudino, trumpet, and Donald Moy, clarinet. LeFrak Hall, 3 pm.

5 SUN
CONCERT: Ki-Sui-An Shakuhachi Dojo, 27th Annual Recital, with guest artists Henry Horaku and Mutsumi Takamizu. Music Building Recital Hall (Room 226), 1 pm.

6 MON
CONCERT: QC Nota Bene Contemporary Ensemble, Michael Lipsey, director. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.


LECTURE: “Celebrating the 350th Anniversary of Jewish Life in America,” Leo Hershkowitz (History), Library, 5th floor, President’s Conference Room #2, 12:30 pm.

RECITAL: Rachel Lumsden (MA ’04), flute, and Wei-Hsien Lien (MA ’98), piano. LeFrak Hall, 4:30 pm.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: In celebration of Ralph Allen (Emeritus, Drama). The Promenade Theater, 2162 Broadway, between 76th and 77th Streets, 5:30 pm. All are invited. For information call 718-596-3677.

7 TUE
CONCERT: Graduate Composers’ Concert, Bruce Saylor, coordinator. LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. $10 donation to the Copland School Scholarship Fund requested.

8 WED

CONCERT: QC Orchestra, Maurice Peress, music director, Ya-Yun Tseng, bassoon. Mozart’s Bassoon Concerto and Brahms’s Symphony No. 4. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.


9-12 THU–SUN
DANCE CONCERT: Directed by Yin Mei Critchell, featuring choreography by guest artists Eiko & Koma. Goldstein Theatre Mainstage. Thu, Fri & Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm. $13/$10 QCID, srs., alumni. Box Office 2788.

Clara’s Dream, December 12

CONCERT: “An Evening of Choral Music,” QC Chorus & Choir, Cindy Bell and James John, directors. LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. $10 donation to the Copland School Scholarship Fund requested.

11 SAT
CONCERT: QC Choral Society, James John, director, Haydn’s Lord Nelson Mass. Colden Auditorium, 8 pm. $18, $16; $5 students with QCID.

12 SUN
DANCE CONCERT: Clara’s Dream: A Jazz Nutcracker. Colden Auditorium, 7 pm. Adults $15; children 12 and under $12.

13 MON
LECTURE: “La novella nun e’ bella, se sopra nun ci si rappella’: The Art of Storytelling from Luigi Capuana to Italo Calvino,” Gina M. Miele (Montclair State University). Calandra Institute, 25 W. 43rd St., 17th floor, 6:30 pm. Seating limited, call 212-642-2042.

14 TUE

16 SUN
KIDSCLASSICS: WOODWINDS. LeFrak Hall, 3 pm. $12.

19 SUN
KIDSCLASSICS: STRINGS. LeFrak Hall, 3 pm. $12.

22 SAT
PERFORMANCE: Chinese Folk Dance Company. LeFrak Hall, 2 pm. $12.

JANUARY EVENTS

16 SUN
KIDSCLASSICS: STRINGS. LeFrak Hall, 3 pm. $12.

The next issue of FYI will appear February 3. Items should be submitted by January 12 to Maria Matteo, Kiely 1310, x 5590. Items longer than one paragraph must be submitted via email to mmatteo@qc.edu.