Armstrong House Acquires Jack Bradley Collection

When the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation was founded in 1969, the much-beloved jazz trumpeter said, “I want to give back to the world some of the goodness the world gave me.”

Among the many things the foundation gave back to the world was Louis’s home and many of his personal possessions, which were donated to the city of New York after Louis and his wife, Lucille, died. This enormous gesture of love and generosity became the Louis Armstrong House & Archives, now administered by Queens College.

Last month, in another gesture of love, the foundation announced it was awarding the college a grant of $480,000 to acquire the world’s foremost collection of Louis Armstrong memorabilia from Armstrong's friend and personal photographer, Jack Bradley. The sum represents a fraction of what it might fetch were the collection to be put up for bid among private collectors.

“Jack Bradley loved Louis Armstrong, and Louis loved Jack,” said an obviously elated Michael Cogswell (Director, Armstrong House) as, with Bradley at his side and samples from the collection on display, he announced the acquisition to a gathering of journalists, officials, and friends of Armstrong in the very room where Louis and his wife entertained guests. “The Jack Bradley–Louis Armstrong collection will have a permanent home here; it will be preserved; it will be catalogued; it will be available to the public in perpetuity,” he continued.

“Jack has been offered truckloads of money by private collectors in Japan and others for his collection; it is beyond value,” said Cogswell, emphasizing the generosity of Bradley’s gesture. By way of further demonstrating its worth, Cogswell cited last February’s Guernsey’s Auction of Jazz Memorabilia in Manhattan, where a 32-page letter written by Armstrong sold for $25,000.

But Bradley didn’t want the collection to go to an individual, Cogswell explained. “He wanted it to have a home with Queens College, to be a part of the exhibit here at the Louis Armstrong House.”

For more than 50 years Bradley has been a loving and astute collector of Armstrong-related material. His vast personal collection includes dozens of 16-mm films; almost every commercially released Armstrong recording; letters and others for his collection; it is beyond value,” said Cogswell, emphasizing the generosity of Bradley’s gesture. By way of further demonstrating its worth, Cogswell cited last February’s Guernsey’s Auction of Jazz Memorabilia in Manhattan, where a 32-page letter written by Armstrong sold for $25,000.

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First National Conference on Gender Equity in Math and Science Held at the College

Perhaps President James Muysskens best set the tone for last month’s well-attended gathering of distinguished women scientists and educators at the college when, noting our country’s increasing reliance on a steady stream of scientists from poorer nations, he said: “With all our resources, we should be a nation that’s exporting scientists, not importing them. And the major reason we are such a nation is that we have for so long neglected to encourage half of our population from going into the most challenging fields. We’ve chosen to be a society that feels it can make all the progress that we need to make with one hand tied behind our back. This is a formula for disaster.”

Organized under the auspices of the college’s Equity Studies Research Center (ESRC), Fostering Women’s Success in Science was the first national conference to address the issues that impede female students from pursuing careers in math and the sciences. Collaborators included the federally funded Minority Access to Research Careers program at the college, and the International Cell Death Society.

“Today’s conference is specifically focused on achievement, success, and strategies we can all use to help women and girls achieve success as they move
CONFERENCE (continued from page 1)

forward in their academic pursuits and careers,” said Penny Hammrich (Education Dean and ESRC Director) in her welcoming remarks. “I challenge you to reflect upon your own desires and achievements.”

The event’s principal organizer, Hammrich moderated a panel discussion among a group of prominent women scientists and educators that sought to tackle questions about what works in fostering women’s success in science.

“There are many barriers in our own minds as well as society’s which influence and have the outcome of low representation of women in the sciences,” observed Judith S. Bond (Penn State) in pointing out how some women “self-select” themselves out of the sciences because of “life choices” they have to make, such as those related to childbirth. Or, she said, they are discouraged by societal prejudices.

“I personally blame Maureen Dowd,” said Patricia Campbell, the president of Campbell-Kibler Associates and an expert on sex discrimination, eliciting laughter from the audience. She was referring to the New York Times columnist’s much-talked-about recent article describing how some women feel compelled to “dumb themselves down” in order to attract the interest of the opposite sex.

Sandra Kazahn Masur (Mt. Sinai School of Medicine) reminded the panel that minority women face a “double whammy” in dealing with issues of discrimination. She also emphasized the need to “humanize the workplace” by making it “more welcoming” to women with families.

Kathryn Scantlebury (Univ. of Delaware) spoke of issues raised by the implementation of No Child Left Behind policies in public schools, to which Masur added, “If we are dealing with people who are undereducated in the scientific method, we have some sitting right in the White House.” She also mentioned how much more attention the issue of gender equity was receiving since Harvard President Lawrence Summers’ controversial remarks to the effect that women are genetically disinclined to be mathematicians and scientists.

Ruta Sevo (National Science Foundation), the panel’s discussant, revisited the Harvard controversy: “Every person,” she urged, “has a role to play in becoming aware of this issue and participating in change that will improve the participation of women and build the science and engineering workforce in the United States.”

“Encouraging Girls in Math and Science, Past, Present and Future” was the subject of the keynote address given by Kim Tolley (Univ. of Notre Dame de Namur in California). Among the areas she addressed was the advocacy by some policymakers of a return to single-sex schooling at the pre-college level. Some, she said, drawing from recent findings in brain research, advocate a differentiated science curriculum designed to address gender differences.

Tolley also drew from historical pre-college enrollment trends to argue against prevailing myths about the pre-college education of girls. Examining trends in the early 20th century, she asked, “Why did a lot of all-girl schools make science an elective subject and require girls to take Latin and the classics?” The answer had to do with gender-differentiated admissions requirements of colleges that were opening their doors to women.

Following the keynote address, attendees broke into a half-dozen “strands” on a variety of topics. Zahra Zakeri (Biology) chaired a strand devoted to women scientists. Susan Kirch (Elementary Educ.) chaired another that examined “The Teacher as Researcher.”

At a strand devoted to “Formal Science,” Hammrich offered a presentation on the Sisters in Science Equity Reform Project, which addresses the need for urban girls, K–12, to gain equitable access to science and mathematics education. Assistant Dean of Education Michelle Myers presented on Early Sisters in Science, which aims to improve science literacy for girls in grades K–2.

NCATE Accreditation Marked by Several Firsts

The visit by an assessment team from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) this October was the occasion for a number of firsts, according to Dean of Education Penny Hammrich.

For one thing, it was the first time Queens College was submitting to the comprehensive review, typically done every five years to ascertain the quality of programs at schools preparing students to become teachers. Hammrich is delighted to report that, after five days of careful scrutiny of every component of the college’s education program, the division received its NCATE accreditation.

“They conducted 50 interviews with over 500 faculty and administrators. They visited our partner schools: PS 499, Louis Armstrong, QSI, and Townsend Harris, and they met with our candidates and our graduates. They met with students and observed classes while they were here. The logistics were incredible.”

The review, explains Hammrich, is the result of a directive issued a few years ago by the New York State Board of Regents that all schools within the state offering teacher education programs be accredited by one of the major accrediting bodies. CUNY elected to go with NCATE. “All the CUNY schools have gone through it,” she says, “except York and Medgar Evers, and they’re going through it in the spring, I believe.”

The review also marked the first use of a significant new computer-based data (continued on page 5)
When 45 Queens College “pioneers”—members of the classes of 1941 to 1955—attended a reception on a beautiful October afternoon at the president’s house in Douglaston, it was just one of many initiatives being undertaken by the college to encourage alumni to contribute to the most ambitious fundraising drive in QC history.

“We are reaching out to as many graduates from the first 10 to 20 years as possible,” says Mario DellaPina, Director of Development. “After all, these are the people who went on to successful careers in every possible field and so established Queens College as a wonderful place to receive an education. We wanted the pioneers to hear firsthand from President Muyskens about campus goings-on, new programs, and his vision for the future of the college,” he continues. “Their feedback would be invaluable in helping us decide how to present ourselves in the coming campaign. If we can interest them in our plans, there is a good chance that they and other graduates will support our projects.”

Leading the American Dream: The Campaign for Queens College is the college’s new fundraising initiative. As part of this drive, departments, programs and divisions will be organizing events to encourage alumni to visit the campus in hopes of creating among them a greater sense of investment in the programs that helped launch their careers.

For example, the business programs have been hosting roundtable discussions featuring successful graduates. These business leaders hold off-the-record conversations with students about what they look for when they are hiring. The Media Studies Department has also been active, offering tours for alumni and inviting them for class visits and lectures. Media Studies, the Art Department, and the BBA program are all developing advisory boards to encourage alumni to take a stronger interest in the programs from which they graduated.

“The idea with all these projects and events is to do two things,” says DellaPina. “First, we want to draw more alumni back into the institution. And second, we want to get alumni to make a contribution—no matter how small it might be initially—so that we create a habit of giving. When they make out their checks during the major part of our fundraising season—which will also be tax season—we want to be sure they automatically think of Queens College.”

The Community Counseling Service, a professional consulting service with much experience in helping higher education institutions raise funds, will also be working with the college to help it meet its ambitious goals. Pi-Isis Ankhra is serving as coordinator between the college and CCS.

“No” to Domestic Violence
Led by Ruth Frisz (Counseling and Advisement Center), students, faculty, staff, and local politicians participated in a silent march near Frese Hall on October 27 to draw attention to the ongoing problem of domestic violence against women.

Among other projects, the college is preparing a long overdue World War II Plaza that will celebrate those alumni between the years of 1941 and 1951 who were affected by or participated in the war. “The Plaza,” Ankhra notes, “will be located behind Jefferson Hall on the Quad, and is being sponsored by Beverly and Arnold Franco ’43. It will carry a plaque that will bear the names of other project supporters.”

Other major capital projects the college will be highlighting during this drive include the Open Theater, a visitors center for the Louis Armstrong House Museum, the Athletics Center, and the LeFrak Concert Hall renovation.

“People don’t like to give generically,” explains DellaPina. “They love to give to particular programs—whether it’s a department, a center, the library, the Alumni Plaza or the World War II Plaza. And we in the Office of Development are available to assist all the departments in their outreach efforts.”
Sue Henderson: Vice President for Institutional Advancement

There is a particular calculus essential to the effective administration of a large, multifaceted institution such as Queens College. So it is fortuitous that Sue Henderson, the newly named Vice President for Institutional Advancement, is not only a master of the form, but she also teaches its mastery to others.

“It’s what I enjoy most,” says Henderson, who teaches a class in business calculus for accounting and economics majors. “It’s about problem-solving and ways of approaching problems,” she says, describing capabilities that are also essential to her new role.

“She will be working closely with me to advance the mission of the college,” President James Muyskens said in announcing the promotion of his former Executive Assistant. He noted that Henderson would be supervising Communications, Development, Alumni Affairs, Continuing Education, Converging Technologies, and Athletics. She will also work to support major arts initiatives, including Colden Center, the Armstrong House Museum, and the Godwin-Ternbach Museum.

The president and Henderson have, in fact, been working together closely for years. Both arrived at QC in 2002, having already collaborated at Gwinnett University Center. “He was the CEO of the center, which housed two institutions, and I was the COO of one of those institutions.” Henderson was Provost/COO of the two-year Georgia Perimeter College campus (GPC), a “bricks-and-clicks” institution with 60 faculty and over 5000 students. Previously she had been interim academic dean of GPC and chair of its math department for seven years.

“We were building something new,” Henderson says, “so we were able to take advantage of innovative ideas rather than make incremental steps as you would at an established campus. Because of that experience, I find it is useful now to ask, ‘What would you do if you were building a campus from scratch?’”

Since arriving here, Henderson and Muyskens have worked assiduously to cultivate elected officials who can influence matters of concern to the college, such as funding. “A good relationship with our political leaders at the city, state, and federal levels is key,” she says.

Funding immediately comes to mind as Henderson assesses her new role. This funding can come from interested donors, foundation grants, and various government sources, she explains. The challenge of this process Henderson chooses to put in a question: “How do you take all of those various funding sources and fold them into something that at the end of the day helps advance the institution?”

Initially, funding has been used to meet immediate needs, such as giving the campus a much-needed facelift. “Thanks to a large gift from one of our donors,” she notes, “we are now in a position to improve some of the arts complexes on campus.”

In recent months Henderson has been heavily involved in the campuswide push toward greater integration of technology. Working with the Office of Converging Technologies, Intel, and other companies, she helped to bring the Tablet Project to the Freshman Year Initiative community. She was also able to bring new software to the campus with an assist from OCT and Computer Associates.

“The City University is currently going through an initiative called the Enterprise Resource Planning,” Henderson says. “As a member of the steering committee for ERP, I hope to be able to use my past experiences for the benefit of CUNY and our own campus.”

Asked about her impressions of Queens College, Henderson says, “I find this to be an incredibly energetic and diverse institution. We have such a stellar faculty and terrific students from all over the globe. It really is a privilege to be here and to help the college move to the next level.”

PEOPLE

RIKKI ASHER (SEYS) notes that students in the “Graduate Printmaking for the Classroom Workshop” will have an exhibition entitled Printed Possibilities in the Clarence Bunch Gallery (PH 101) through Dec. 14, with a closing reception from 5:30-7 pm. For more information, call 5157 or email rasher@qc.edu . . . At October’s annual conference of the Continuing Education Association of New York TOM CRACOVIA (Director, Continuing Ed) was designated Vice President/President-Elect of the organization. Currently Vice President, he will become President in 2008. CEANY is the organization that represents the Continuing Education Programs at over 80 CUNY and SUNY campuses across the state . . . The January 2006 issue of Booklist magazine names the three-volume Encyclopedia of Racism in the United States, edited by PYONG GAP MIN (Sociology), as one of the 23 best books of 2005. The November issue of FYI includes an article about this book (available at www.qc.cuny.edu/nis/newsletter_archive/) which includes essays by many QC professors . . . KATHERINE SNYDER (Anthropology) has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant for 2005-2006. She is at the University of Nairobi in Kenya doing research and lecturing on the subject “Anthropology, Gender and Development: The Role of Civil Society Organizations that Focus on Gender Issues in Effecting Social Change and Political Reform” . . . JAMES VACCA, who received a master’s degree in Urban Studies from Queens College in 2001 and currently teaches in QC’s Weekend College, was elected this November to the City Council in District 13, which covers several Bronx neighborhoods including Morris Park, Pelham Bay, Throgs Neck, City Island, and parts of Allerton. He defeated Republican opponent Philip Foglia, who had the backing of Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former mayor Rudolph Giuliani, by winning 64 percent of the vote. Vacca has been the district manager of Community Board 10 for the past 25 years . . . JACK ZEVIN, DAVID GERWIN, and JOHN GUNN (SEYS) are partners in a major grant for the “improvement of the teaching of American History to secondary school students in regions 3 and 4 of Queens County.” Two awards of 982,000 were provided by the U.S. Department of Education covering three years of workshops, seminars, and related activities from 2005 to 2008. These awards have been granted for the professional development of teachers in association with The American Social History Project of the CUNY Graduate Center.
Managing the profile of a large, urban campus such as Queens College might seem an unusual occupation for a poet, but for Maria Terrone, newly named Assistant Vice President for Communications, public relations and poetry are not incompatible.

“I think of poetry as another form of communication, but one that’s distilled and says what prose cannot,” she says. “There isn’t a complete divorce between these two lives, though. I like to think that being a poet—where every word matters—makes me a sharper prose writer and editor.”

Terrone’s recent promotion follows nearly three years as Executive Director of Communications, where she has been responsible for raising the profile of the college and improving internal and external communications. She supervises the work of News Services (media/public relations), Editorial, Design, Photo Services, Video Production, and Reproductions. She is also responsible for overseeing the marketing/advertising function collegewide, and plays a major role in shaping our communications on the Web.

Previously, Terrone directed public relations at Hunter College for 12 years. She also spent eight years working in communications and public relations at two Fortune 500 corporations, and was a writer and editor at national magazines.

Her work, she acknowledges, presents constant challenges. “Communications professionals have to find ways to cut through the information clutter of this electronic era,” she says. “Getting people’s attention is not easy, and that applies both to the QC community and to the many external audiences we’re trying to reach—the media, prospective students and donors, alumni, etc. Another big challenge is to fine-tune the college’s messages and be consistent in communicating them in all media channels we use, including the Web.”


Approaching her third anniversary at QC after having spent more than a decade at Hunter, she has, not surprisingly, both prosaic and poetic observations about the two CUNY schools. “There’s an undeniable energy and excitement in Manhattan, which is contagious,” she notes. “But space is at a premium, and, for Hunter, that means a crowded, vertical campus. By contrast, I now work in a beautiful setting where I enjoy watching the seasons change on the Quad and the thrill of seeing our resident red-tailed hawk soar past my window.”

Working at a college like QC offers particular benefits. “I consider it a privilege to work in an academic environment where there’s such a concentration of intelligent people,” she says. “Knowing that my colleagues share a passionate commitment to public higher education is a bonus. I’m also incredibly fortunate to have the best and most talented staff that anyone could ask for.”

And there’s another benefit: “I’m grateful to have the chance to read my poetry here—at last year’s Phi Beta Kappa induction and the annual Poetry Fest, and next spring, in Nicole Cooley’s graduate creative writing class. That would never happen if I were back in a corporation or working at a magazine!”

NCATE (continued from page 2)

assessment tool that was designed and implemented entirely at Queens College. Explains Hammrich, “The database, Quality Candidates Technology Enhancing Academic Management System (QC:TEAMS), is a multifaceted, technology-driven, data-capturing and management system that enhances the flow of information between faculty and candidates [students].” Hammrich gives credit for the development of the novel system to Michelle Myers (Asst. Dean, Education) and a team from OCT headed by Cyrilene Mathurin. “NCATE says QC:TEAMS is one of the best—if not the best—electronic assessment system they’ve ever seen and that we should patent it,” declares Hammrich.

The Queens assessment also marked a first for NCATE. “NCATE was in transition for the last five years,” explains Hammrich. “They used to look at inputs—faculty and the kinds of things you put into your program. Now they look at outputs or what comes out of your program. Their whole review is now outcome-based, and Queens is one of the first schools they reviewed in this manner. So if we say, ‘We’re good,’ they say: ‘Prove it!’”

As a result, she notes, “Queens College got one of the most rigorous reviews of all the CUNY schools going through the NCATE process.” That rigor led to some real benefits. “The process brought a significant and positive change to the culture in the education unit. It unified us and led to the development of the QC:TEAMS system.”

And, no doubt, the system will be significantly helpful when in five years the college applies to NCATE for re-accreditation.
First QC Business Forum Looks at Dynamic Queens Economy

Left: Dean Furbush, CEO of FreshDirect, with Student Association president Joseph Bernstein

“It’s true that Wall Street is the great economic engine of our city, but so is Main Street right here in Flushing,” declared Seth Bornstein, Director of Economic Development for the Queens Borough President’s Office, as he described the vital economic activity in a number of Queens communities.

Bornstein was addressing dozens of Queens businesspeople and QC students at this year’s first Queens College Business Forum, entitled “Queens: A Catalyst for Success,” held October 21 in the Student Union.

Following welcoming remarks from President James Muyskens, Bornstein offered an address punctuated with colorful anecdotes about his experiences as a consumer patronizing small businesses in the world’s most ethnically diverse county. “It’s in Queens neighborhoods that the global economy is truly functioning and expanding. I didn’t have to go far in my own neighborhood this morning to see this,” he said, relating a trip in pursuit of breakfast that included buying a croissant in a French bakery run by a woman from India and bagels from a shop owned by Russians but sub-contracted to Mexicans.

The economic dynamics of Queens was explored in similarly anecdotal fashion by principal speaker, Dean Furbush, CEO of FreshDirect, a leading online fresh-food manufacturing and delivery service headquartered in Long Island City. Furbush is a former economist who once wrote a section of a policy paper for President Ronald Reagan describing the important economic advantages of immigration. He explained how his company has thrived by working with, rather than around, the ethnic characteristics of its 1500-person workforce.

“One of the things I learned early on was that about half of the workforce primarily speaks Spanish. And so I said ‘Fine, let me start learning Spanish.’ And that’s an aspect of my life each day,” he said. A willingness to receive and respond to feedback from customers was another factor contributing to his company’s success.

The large turnout and enthusiastic response—both speakers’ presentations were frequently punctuated by laughter—suggested that this first of three anticipated business forums for 2005-06 was a success.

According to Social Sciences Dean Elizabeth Hendrey, the moderator and principal organizer of the event, the business forums fill a longstanding void in the borough’s community dynamic. “Chase and PricewaterhouseCoopers,” she says, mentioning two of the event’s principal sponsors, “were interested in getting a discussion series going modeled after something they had done at other colleges, such as Hofstra, to bring the Queens business community together. On Long Island, for example, there’s a Long Island Association, but there’s no similar forum for Queens.

“We invited students who are interested in going into business or going on to business school so they could interact with businesspeople. The ones who were there were a little shy,” she says, referring to the students’ reluctance to participate in the Q & A portion of the event. “As we revisit how this first forum went, we’re going to look at ways to incorporate more students into the events and better facilitate their interaction with the speakers.”

Hendrey believes a combination of factors led to the college being selected as the catalyst for the new borough business forums. “Some of the sponsors are alums and they thought of having it here because of the business programs we have on campus. I also think they thought Queens College is a logical focal point because we draw students from all over the borough. So it makes sense for us to act as a unifying force for the business community.”

QC Authors

Welfare Warriors Receives Franklin Prize

Most of the social upheavals of the 1960s have been analyzed from every possible angle in dozens of books and films. But one battle that has received almost no attention is the struggle for welfare rights that was fought by women.

History professor Premilla Nadasen’s book Welfare Warriors: The Welfare Rights Movement in the United States (Routledge) is a ground-breaking look at a group of women, predominantly poor and black, who fought to bring about changes in welfare policy. Hailed for being “carefully researched and fully documented” and a “must-read for anyone interested in social change politics, feminism or the black freedom movement,” Welfare Warriors recently received the John Hope Franklin Publication Prize from the American Studies Association, a prize given annually for the best book published on the topic of American Studies.

Nadasen notes that when it comes to the subject of welfare, everyone, “including people who have never met a welfare recipient but suspect that the lady across the street with six kids must be on welfare, all have opinions about public assistance. Conspicuously muted in the public debate are the voices of welfare recipients.”

The welfare warriors of Nadasen’s title are a group of poor black women who decided to make their voices heard in the debate on welfare, some through the National Welfare Rights Organization and others through smaller grassroots groups. Although the movement failed to achieve many of its goals, it did succeed in establishing legal protections for welfare recipients and forced the country to take a harder look at such topics as economic justice and the government’s responsibility to its poorest citizens. Welfare Warriors is as much an intellectual history as the history of a movement, as Nadasen analyzes what feminism, class politics, and racial liberation meant to women on welfare.
A report by Clive Belfield (Economics) on how the state of Pennsylvania could save $100 million in future special education costs by making pre-kindergarten classes more available was the subject of a Nov. 1 article on blackenterprise.com. An editorial about Rosa Parks in the Oct. 26 New York Sun mentioned an article by Andy Beveridge (Sociology) that pointed out that whites make up a disproportionate number of the students attending the city’s private and Catholic schools. Nick Coch (Earth & Env Sci) was quoted extensively in a Nov. 3 article in the Washington Post about the likelihood of a major hurricane hitting the northern Atlantic coast between New England and Virginia. Andrew Hacker (Sociology Emeritus) was interviewed on WNYC’s “The Brian Lehrer Show” on Nov. 16, during which he talked about students who went on to successful careers after deciding to attend a public college instead of an Ivy League school. Work by Jeffrey Halperin (Psychology) to identify the factors that will predict which children will have ADHD was the subject of a feature in the November issue of Brooklyn Family. The story of how Derek Ivery (Biology) decided to donate a kidney to Nidha Mubdi has received much media coverage. The two met at the college when they were both involved in the Peer Advisors program. When Ivery read how Mubdi was having trouble finding a kidney donor, he had himself tested and found that he would qualify as a donor. The story, reported by the New York Times, was subsequently picked up by the Daily News, Queens Chronicle, and UPI. On November 26 the Times did an update on the two friends. The Nov. 23 Time Out New York featured a listing of the Center for Jewish Studies’ presentation of the film Tell Me a Riddle, which included a discussion of the film by director Lee Grant and co-producer Rachel Lyon (Media Studies). Mark Rosenblum (History) was quoted in articles in the Daily News (Nov. 9) and Queens Tribune (Nov. 17) that focused on how teachers and students have been responding to the Godwin-Ternbach Museum’s exhibit This Land to Me: Some Call it Palestine, Others Israel. The Oct. 27 Times Ledger carried an article on the college’s recent business forum on Queens: A Catalyst for Success. The Nov. 1 Daily News and Nov. 3 Queens Tribune and Times Ledger covered the college’s Oct. 27 silent march against domestic abuse. NY1 and the Nov. 9 Queens Gazette covered the opening of the new exhibit at the Louis Armstrong House Museum, I Can’t Give You Anything but Love: Treasures from the Jack Bradley Collection. The editors of the Queens Chronicle recently called the Armstrong House Museum “the most intriguing museum” in the borough.

Staff Profile

New SEEK Assistant Director Plans to Introduce New Initiatives

For Thomas Gibson, the transition from his old job to his new job here as Assistant Director and Academic Coordinator for the SEEK program has been relatively easy—a process made less complicated by the many similarities of the two positions.

Prior to his arrival last April, Gibson spent eight years at the University of Connecticut, principally at the Stamford Campus. “I ran a program called Student Support Services,” he says. “I was responsible for every factor of the program—recruitment, counseling, administration, hiring of faculty—everything to assure that our students were successful.

“The program here,” he continues, “is slightly larger, but it has the same purpose: working with first-generation, low-income college students or those that I like to call ‘students with uneven performances.’”

There’s one difference he can cite, though: “Queens College is much, much more diverse than the University of Connecticut in terms of race and ethnicity and the age of students. There are more traditional college-age students here.”

In the SEEK program, which has nearly 900 students, Gibson is also responsible for academic support services. “Supplemental instructors work in the classroom with the instructors, giving the students additional support,” he says. Classes are smaller than the average QC class, he notes, and students receive free tuition. First-year SEEK students also attend workshops that introduce them to the rigors of college life and to all available resources.

“The retention rate for our students over a five-year period is 87 percent,” says Gibson, who holds a doctorate in Higher Education Administration and Educational Leadership, and has taught leadership seminars. “My goal is to see that this level of excellence continues and also to bring to the program what I previously found successful. I’ve been fortunate that Frank Franklin (Director, SEEK) has given me a lot of latitude to try new initiatives.”

One initiative is a mentoring program. “I want to match SEEK alumni with our current participants. I’m hoping this could address some of the non-academic issues that many of our students face. Often, students leave college not for academic reasons, but because they feel isolated or feel they don’t belong. Some may not be sure what major they want to pursue, so they question their existence on campus.”

Gibson has just concluded a series of personal development and enrichment workshops in which students, both in SEEK and the general campus population, earned CLIQ (College Life Introduction at Queens) points for attendance. He also recently submitted a book chapter to a publisher. “It’s about student persistence; what really makes a difference in having students stay in college and succeed,” he says.

Gibson, who is single and lives in Rye, enjoys all types of music and, when he can, “I love to get away,” he says. Last year, he got away to Naples.
Sean Talisman: Triumphing Over Tragedy

Talisman’s grief was so profound that he withdrew from all his classes. Although he returned to school that fall, he dropped out again around the time of the anniversary of her death. Feeling lonely and longing for intellectual stimulation, he eventually re-enrolled and began taking courses in the humanities and social sciences. “By the time my grandfather died in spring 2001, I had learned to face sadness with strength,” he says. As evidence of this, he graduated magna cum laude/Phi Beta Kappa with a BA in sociology in June 2004.

Talisman’s life took on new meaning after an experience working as a poll monitor in Bethlehem, PA, where his job was to ensure the voting rights of people from economically disadvantaged areas. Talisman decided to become a public interest lawyer. He applied to, and was accepted by, eight law schools. With the help of the graduate scholarship, which gives him $50,000 a year for up to six years, Talisman is today studying at Columbia Law School.

ARMSTRONG HOUSE  

[continued from page 1]

manuscripts penned by Armstrong; Armstrong postage stamps from 14 nations, as well as sheet music, lobby cards, posters, figurines, commemorative coins, and even Armstrong’s bedroom slippers and sport coats. Especially exciting are hundreds of photographs, many of which capture Armstrong backstage or at home and have never been seen by researchers or the public.

“The Bradley–Armstrong Collection cannot be replicated,” says Dan Morgenstern, director of the Institute of Jazz Studies and a guest at the event. “It is the result of a very special relationship between its subject, Louis Armstrong, and its compiler, and of decades of dedicated work by that compiler.”

“That compiler” was the subject of gentle ribbing and reminiscences from longtime friends in attendance, including Armstrong’s publicist Phoebe Jacobs, whose own personal collection of Armstrong papers, correspondence, photographs, and ephemera is part of the Armstrong Museum & Archives.

December 6 Award Ceremony Will Honor Those with Long Service to the College

On Tuesday, December 6 the college will hold a Service Award Ceremony to recognize members of the faculty and staff who have been at the college for 35 and 20 years. The event will take place at 3:30 pm on the fourth floor of the Student Union. Those being honored include:

Thirty-Five-Year Service Awards

Art: Brian R. Percival; Biology: David W. Alsop; B&G: Edward Betheta; Chemistry: Gerald W. Koeppl and Burton E. Tropp; Computer Science: Christopher C. Vicker; Earth & Environment: Patrick W. Brock and Hannes K. Brueckner; Elementary Education: Lila Swell; English: Frederick H. Buell, David H. Richter, and Evan Zimroth; Finance & Administration: James M. O’Hara; Financial Aid: Sydney A. Lefkoe; Hispanic Languages: Nora Glickman; History: Mark W. Rosenblum; Mathematics: Wallace Goldberg, Steven J. Kahan, Joseph Kahane, and Gerald J. Roskes; Philosophy: James N. Jordan and Frederick Purnell; Physics: Marion J. Dickey; Political Science: Michael Krasner; Psychology: Bruce L. Brown; Sociology: Lauren H. Seiler; Accounting: David Erlach; Art: Arthur M. Cohen; Arts & Humanities: Carol A. Sapienza; Biology: Helen R. Koepfer and Carla M. Pisko; Budget Office: Ernest S. Jew; B&G: James Alongi, Esther Belton, Evelyn V. Diaz, Deborah E. Houston, Winston McLennon, Eric B. Miles, Matthew J. Skurka, and Maria Valdez; Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies: Effie Lekas; Chemistry: Joseph I. Badalamenti; Classical: Phyllis Silverman; Communications: John Cassidy; OCT: Alan P. Bartow; Counseling & Advisement: Jane M. Nevins-Schade; Educational Placement/Teacher Certification: Christine I. Howard; Elementary Education: Marcia J. Baghban and Myra S. Zarnowski; English: Barbara E. Bowen and Michael G. Sargent; English Language Institute: Margaret Mehran; Financial Aid: Bettie Mann; History: Elena Frangakis-Syrett and Francine A. Kapchan; International Student Services: Silvia Coppi; Library: Nancy Macomber, Joann Mallozzi, Manuel Sanudo and Evelyn I. Silverman; Library & Information Studies: Virgil L.P. Blake and Harry M. Kibirige; Physics: Robert Bunch and Grigory German; Political Science: Iris Braun; Psychology: Joan C. Borod; Registrar: Gertrude R. Tammany; Secondary Education: Alice Artz; Social Sciences: Marie Rafanelli; Sociology: Joanne Miller; Student Affairs: Diane L. Liebowitz.

Twenty-Year Service Awards

Accounting: David Erlach; Art: Arthur M. Cohen; Arts & Humanities: Carol A. Sapienza; Biology: Helen R. Koepfer and Carla M. Pisko; Budget Office: Ernest S. Jew; B&G: James Alongi, Esther Belton, Evelyn V. Diaz, Deborah E. Houston, Winston McLennon, Eric B. Miles, Matthew J. Skurka, and Maria Valdez; Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies: Effie Lekas; Chemistry: Joseph I. Badalamenti; Classical: Phyllis Silverman; Communications: John Cassidy; OCT: Alan P. Bartow; Counseling & Advisement: Jane M. Nevins-Schade; Educational Placement/Teacher Certification: Christine I. Howard; Elementary Education: Marcia J. Baghban and Myra S. Zarnowski; English: Barbara E. Bowen and Michael G. Sargent; English Language Institute: Margaret Mehran; Financial Aid: Bettie Mann; History: Elena Frangakis-Syrett and Francine A. Kapchan; International Student Services: Silvia Coppi; Library: Nancy Macomber, Joann Mallozzi, Manuel Sanudo and Evelyn I. Silverman; Library & Information Studies: Virgil L.P. Blake and Harry M. Kibirige; Physics: Robert Bunch and Grigory German; Political Science: Iris Braun; Psychology: Joan C. Borod; Registrar: Gertrude R. Tammany; Secondary Education: Alice Artz; Social Sciences: Marie Rafanelli; Sociology: Joanne Miller; Student Affairs: Diane L. Liebowitz.
DECEMBER EVENTS

1 THU
Electronic Music Concert: Hubert S. Howe, director. Works by student composers. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

Allen Michael Cohen Memorial Scholarship Concert: Michael Lipsey, coordinator. LeFrak Hall, 8 pm. $10, $5 students with QCID.

1–4 Thu-Sun
Faculty Dance Concert: Goldstein Theatre. 12/1: 7 pm; 12/2: 8 pm; 12/3: 2 & 8 pm; 12/4: 3 pm. $14, $12 with QCID & Seniors. Call 997-2788 for tickets.

7 WED


8 THU
Concert: Hui-Ping Lee, violin. Works by Schumann, Glinka, and Hindemith. LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

Student Chamber Music Concert: Morey Ritt and Marcy Rosen, coordinators. LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm.

9 FRI
Concert: George Cataldo, composer. LeFrak Hall, 3 pm.

12 MON
Presidential Roundtable: “Bringing Antarctic Research to Queens College and Expanding CUNY Research & Educational Programs to Governor’s Island,” Stephen Pekar (Earth & Environ Sci). Corner Bistro, Student Union, 12:15 pm.


Concert: Jason Wingate, violoncello; Mikael Karlsson (BA/MA ‘05), piano. Music of Debussy, Messiaen, Rathaus, Ravel, Stravinsky, and Tower. LeFrak Hall, 8 pm.

14 WED

15 THU
Lecture and Presentation: “The Art of Islam—A Glorious Tradition,” Professor Nasser D. Khalili ‘74, scholar and founder, The Khalili Collections. LeFrak Hall, 3:30 pm. RSVP by December 8 to 5556 or qcpres@qc.edu

17 SAT
American Holiday Concert: QC Choral Society. Pinkham’s Christmas Cantata, Bernstein’s Chichester Psalms, and Saylor’s With Anthems Sweet and Star of Wonder. LeFrak Hall, 8 pm. $18, $5 for students with QCID. Call 718-793-8080 for tickets.

Exhibits


This Land to Me: Some Call it Palestine, Others Israel. Photos and narratives by Barbara Grover. Godwin-Ternbach Museum, Mon–Thu 11 am–7 pm; Sat 11 am–5 pm. Through Dec 15.


I Can’t Give You Anything but Love—Treasures from the Jack Bradley Collection. Louis Armstrong House Museum, 34-56 107th Street, Corona, Queens. $8 adults, $6 students and seniors, members free. Tue–Fri 10 am–5 pm, Sat–Sun 12 noon–5 pm. Information: www.louisarmstronghouse.org.

Items should be submitted to Kiely 1310, x 5590. Items longer than one paragraph must be submitted via email to mmatteo@qc.edu.