An Environmental Institute Takes Root in Queens

Mention the name Theodore Kheel and many New Yorkers will easily identify him as the man who helped mediate some of the great labor conflicts of the last half century. But lately Kheel, who recently turned 90, has turned his attention to a conflict even greater than that between labor and management: the battle between Earth and its seven billion inhabitants.

“In the long run,” Kheel believes, “the destruction of the environment through industrial development is more serious than terrorism.”

To help mediate this conflict, Kheel’s foundation, Nurture New York’s Nature (NNYN), is donating $1 million to help fund a City University urban environmental institute to be based at Queens College. “For us, the Institute to Nurture New York’s Nature truly is a match made in heaven,” says President James Muyskens. “It builds on our resources, including our own eminent scientists, and focuses on the challenges of living in an urban environment.”

Announced last November by CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, the institute will promote sound management of the city’s natural resources; conduct and sponsor research on such pressing topics as the region’s changing climate and aquasphere (wetlands, shorelines, etc.); educate the community, including teachers and their students, about the urban natural environment; organize conferences for specialists and the public; and work closely with policymakers, government officials, and scientists to preserve New York’s natural environment.

While the institute is still in the formative phase, with its location on campus yet to be determined and a nationwide search for a director to be held, the college recently hired two scientists who will have critical roles in advancing the institute’s goals.

John Waldman (Biology) spent 20 years with the Hudson River Foundation and is an expert on the environment and management of New York Harbor and the Hudson River estuary. A self-described “CUNY product” who got his undergraduate education at Lehman College and his PhD at the CUNY Graduate Center, Waldman believes he was selected for this project because “I had this in-your-own-backyard experience with our endlessly fascinating and challenging water bodies and could bring that to the students here and maybe develop a research program, too.”

Waldman, who is teaching a graduate seminar this semester on “Urban Conservation Biology,” has contact with grassroots and national environmental organizations. “We want to listen to all and take a rational middle-ground role,” he says. “It’s also up to us to become effective in tapping available funds from private foundations and government agencies.”

The other new hire, George Hendrey (continued on page 6)

Safety a Focus of New CEP Programs

Large airplanes roaring overhead are a familiar sight at the college, positioned as it is in the LaGuardia Airport flight path.

So it should come as reassuring news that among the many new programs being initiated by the Continuing Education Programs (CEP) is one that will help make air traffic controllers and government officials, and scientists to preserve New York’s natural environment.

Waldman who is teaching a graduate

...program. “Air traffic controllers and airport managers around the world only need to know 250 words of English. But as of 2008 they’re going to be required to learn more.” Offered in conjunction with the Aviation Institute at York College, the program, one of only a few nationwide, will begin this summer. “We’ll be bringing controllers and managers from around the world here.” says Cracovia. “China is very interested. They have the Olympics in 2008 and many people in their industry need training.”

(continued on page 2)
Aline-Pascale Lubin: Winning Volleyball Coach

It was quite a season for QC women’s volleyball and coach Aline-Pascale Lubin.

The defending New York Collegiate Athletic Conference champion Lady Knights were undefeated approaching postseason play, only to be abruptly dropped from contention when several wins were disqualified over the question of a new player’s eligibility. An investigation confirmed her eligibility and, just as abruptly, the Knights were back on top.

Then, en route to an anticipated successful defense of their conference title, the team’s star, NYCAC Player of the Year Anna Bondarenko, injured her ankle and the Knights fell to Dowling. A week later, with Bondarenko back, they swept Dowling in the Northeast Regional finals, moving into the Elite Eight of NCAA Division II for the second straight year. Although eliminated in the quarterfinal round by Truman State University, the team members, as Newsday noted in a recent profile, “have made a name for themselves in national volleyball circles.”

For her remarkable season, Lubin, for the second consecutive year, was selected both NYCAC Coach of the Year and American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II Northeast Coach of the Year.

A former player, Lubin honed her championship instincts at Newtown High School in nearby Elmhurst, where her teams won four league championships and twice went to the city championships. She played for a year at QC, but a knee problem curtailed her collegiate playing career. Soon her ambitions as a player were overtaken by a desire to coach.

It was at summer camp in upstate New York that she met her husband, Karl Pierre. A former pro player and member of the Haitian national team, he now coaches the QC men’s volleyball team. This match made on the volleyball court produced two talented daughters. The eldest, Ariel Pierre, made headlines by playing on the varsity squad at St. Francis Prep as a freshman.

What led to the Lady Knights’ last two outstanding seasons? Lubin credits the program is funded by a $285,000 grant from the NYS Department of Health secured by Cracovia’s predecessor, Barbara Ritchin. Russian, Korean, and Mandarin Chinese will be the initial focus.

Last August Cracovia traveled to Shanghai to lay the groundwork for a new TESOL certificate program whereby students from China would come here and learn how to teach English to other Chinese, or teach other Chinese how they can teach English. The program, Cracovia explains, is also available to anyone from abroad who would like to learn to teach English in their own country.

OTHER NEW CEP OFFERINGS

- Online courses ranging from nutrition, gourmet cooking, catering, and interior decoration to court reporting, dog obedience, wildlife and forestry conservation, and professional landscaping.
- Online courses for teachers to satisfy professional development requirements.
- Digital fashion design.
- Gifted child program for children ages 7-12 to include astronomy, digital animation, Shakespeare, business and computer skills, and more.
- SAT training for St. Francis Prep students.
- Extra help program for high school students.
Jessica Polish: A Voice for CUNY


That line from an ad some years back has found a disciple in freshman Jessica Polish. Returning to her Bayside home from French class one day last November, she turned her radio on to Brian Lehrer’s talk show on WNYC. The conversation was about the awarding of Rhodes Scholarships to two CUNY students, which apparently struck some people as surprising.

Polish picked up the phone. On the air she quoted the Queens College ad and expressed her feeling that “as someone who values the ideals of learning and wisdom for learning and wisdom’s sake alone, the CUNY system fulfills these ideals more in its understated environment than the Ivy League schools do.” The Ivies have name recognition and enormous funding advantages, but as far as Polish is concerned, “The CUNY system has just as many opportunities.”

One important opportunity is the CUNY Honors College, in which, Polish notes, she receives full tuition and a yearly stipend to cover all her related expenses. She’s also looking forward to an expense-paid semester abroad, possibly in France.

As for the Ivy League, “I think there is a disparity between what is presented within their glossy brochures and what you actually get when you go there,” she says. Polish also “felt very offended” when she interviewed at Columbia and a counselor commented that CUNY students were “like stumps on a log.”

For Polish, the choice to come to Queens was literally a case of finding what you’re looking for in your own backyard. She is graduate of nearby Townsend Harris High School and her father, Jonathan, is a QC graduate. He didn’t discourage her from considering other schools. “You can seek out very difficult courses at Queens,” he told her, “and get just as good an education as you could get anywhere else.”

As for her high school guidance counselor about Queens and the CUNY Honors College, Polish recalls being told, “Jessica, I think this just might be something you would like.” Apparently, she likes it enough to tell a New York radio audience. But speaking on the radio is not a new experience for Polish, who hosts her own political talk show, “The Filibuster,” on WQMC, the college’s radio station. It’s an apt title, she explains, given the difficulty she sometimes has in landing guests. “I have this talent, I’m not very proud of it, but I can talk to myself for about an hour.”

Polish plans to double major in philosophy and history and would like to teach one of those subjects. Could future QC students find themselves being taught by a Professor Polish?

A Month to Celebrate Black History

With the recent arrest and charging of a former Ku Klux Klansman with the 1964 murder of QC student Andrew Goodman and two other civil rights workers, the campus celebration of Black History Month this February takes on special significance.

“We have planned the events to take a clear-eyed view of the past, with the goal of building bridges among people today,” says Premilla Nadasen (Africana Studies) of the thought-provoking and entertaining series of events she helped organize with the theme of “Queens College Reflects on the Black Freedom Movement, 1954-1968.” A full list of events can be found at www.qc.cuny.edu/bhm.

Among the series of special events is a Feb. 9 Presidential Roundtable devoted to Alice Walker’s novel about a civil rights worker, Meridian. And a series of films, including Mississippi Burning and Eyes on the Prize will examine the civil rights movement and the violence it faced. On Feb. 17 PBS producer Tamara Robinson will address the state of minorities in the media today and screen excerpts from her new series “Slavery.” Music and dance performances will highlight African (continued on page 6)

IN MEMORIAM

MERVYN MEGGITT

Mervyn Meggitt, distinguished professor of anthropology emeritus, died on November 13, 2004. Mervyn was born in 1924 in Warwick, Australia. Following military service with the Royal Australian Navy (1942-46), he enrolled at the University of Sydney, receiving his BA with first class honors in psychology and anthropology in 1953 and his PhD in anthropology in 1960. He taught at the University of Sydney and the University of Michigan before joining the college’s anthropology department in 1967, teaching here until his retirement in 1993. Mervyn served as chair of the department from 1968 to 1970 and as executive officer of the CUNY PhD program in anthropology from 1970 to 1973. He was named distinguished professor in 1980.

The author of eight books and over 40 articles, Mervyn is best known for his long-term fieldwork among the Walbiri in Central Australia and among the Enga of the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea. He was a meticulous ethnographer, and his detailed description of Walbiri social organization in his book Desert People and his fine-grained account of New Guinea warfare in Blood Is Their Argument have become anthropological classics. In addition to his major works, he leaves a body of significant publications on a variety of topics, from Australian aboriginal sign language, games, dogs, rituals, and foods, to social organization, salt manufacture, horticulture, time reckoning, gender relations, dream interpretation, and sorcery in the western New Guinea Highlands.

Sara Stinson
Anthropology Chair
Scott to Head New Office

President James Muyskens recently announced that Donald Scott will become the director of the new Office of Teaching and Learning. “As dean of the social sciences, Don has successfully worked to develop innovative teaching pedagogies and to provide support to new faculty embarking on their careers as teachers,” said Muyskens in announcing Scott’s new position. “The college’s general education requirements, which have been reviewed under his thoughtful leadership, are central to the mission of the office.” Scott will step down as dean at the end of this academic year and take a one-year fellowship leave before assuming his new teaching and administrative roles.

Holocaust/Genocide Essay Contest

The Jewish Studies Program is seeking entries for its Holocaust/Genocide studies essay contest. A $200 prize will be awarded for the best essay on the Holocaust or other forms of genocide. Entries will be judged by a panel of faculty experts and the winning essay will be considered for publication in the Queens College Journal of Jewish Studies. Entries must be submitted in duplicate by April 15 to Benny Kraut, Director of Jewish Studies, Jefferson 311. Guidelines and additional entry information are available there.

Making the Legal Case for Diversity

A recent report in the Boston Phoenix about the first African-American capital defendants in Massachusetts since 1973 highlights an important contribution Andy Beveridge (Sociology) made to the defendants’ case. Their attorney, Patricia Garin, is arguing that the state’s method for selecting jurors vastly underrepresents African-Americans. She commissioned Beveridge, who presented a report and 19 accompanying tables, to support her claim. According to Beveridge, jury challenges in capital murder cases is one of three areas where he’s often asked to offer his expert analysis of demographic data.

In housing cases, he’s usually called upon by Legal Services and other advocacy groups to determine if a “government action has a disparate impact on the poor.” On Long Island he was involved in a case that would have changed the formula used to determine the receipt of rent vouchers by the working poor. “It basically meant that folks would have lost their homes,” he says. Beveridge also participates in political redistricting challenges, having worked most recently with the city councils of Yonkers and New Rochelle to ascertain if voting districts accurately reflect demographics. “In New Rochelle we won a court case this past summer,” he says.

Kudos for Cohen

The New York Library Association paid tribute to David Cohen (Ethnic Materials Information Exchange) at its Oct. 22 meeting in Rochester, NY. He was awarded the President’s Award of the New York Library Association “In grateful recognition of over 75 years of leadership in intellectual freedom and multicultural librarianship, and for his impish humor, passion for excellence, and mentorship of generations of librarians.”

Rosenberg Edits Foucault Journal

Allen Rosenberg (Philosophy) is one of three principal editors of a new international online journal, Foucault Studies, devoted to providing a forum for discussion of the work of the French thinker Michel Foucault. The project was organized by Rosenberg, who has written extensively about Foucault. The journal is accessible at www.foucault-studies.com.

QC Faculty Honored

At the New York Public Library on Dec. 1, the 2003-2004 CUNY Faculty Honorees were acknowledged. They comprise those individuals and creative artists who have won prestigious national awards or who have been accorded national recognition. The honorees from Queens College are: Robert Bitman (Chem), Andrew Beveridge (Soc), Richard J. Bodnar (Psy), Joshua Brumberg (Psy), Sophia Catsambis (SOC), Barry Commoner (CUNS), Tarry Hum (Urban Studies), Ashima K. Kant (Family, Nutrition), Stuart Liebman (Media Studies), Steven Markowitz (Center for Biology of Natural Systems), and James M. Saslow (Art).

QC Middle East Class Captures National Media Attention

WNYC radio featured Mark Rosenblum’s (History) groundbreaking course “The Middle East and America: Clash of Civilizations or Meeting of the Minds” on its “Morning Edition” news on Dec. 6, and later that day, its “Brian Lehrer Show” devoted 30 minutes to interviews with Rosenblum and his students. In addition, Jewish Week published a lengthy feature Jan 12. But the pilot project moved into the national spotlight on January 8, thanks to a “CBS Evening News” feature taped at the college. A link to the feature is currently posted under “News and Announcements” on the college’s home page, www.qc.cuny.edu.

Photo Exhibit

Motion, an exhibition of black-and-white photographs by Charles Martin (Comp. Lit.), will be on display through Feb. 19 at the June Kelly Gallery, located at 591 Broadway (between Houston and Prince). You can see some of his work at www.junekellygallery.com. Martin’s photographs have been shown in numerous one-person and group exhibitions in the United States, Europe, and Brazil. Martin is the curator of photography for the Portuguese Language Web site at Yale University and co-director of the Hybrid Media Project-CUNY. His work is part of museum and public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art.
IN MEMORIAM

Jolyon Hofsted, a professor of art who taught at the college for 37 years and headed the ceramics program, died of cancer on October 12. He came to New York in the early 1960s on a Max Beckman Memorial Scholarship to the Brooklyn Museum Art School and quickly became a full-time instructor at the school, as well as director of the ceramics program in 1967. He set up arts programs in a number of prisons, including the Brooklyn House of Detention and Riker's Island.

Hofsted is listed in Who's Who in American Art and Who's Who in the World. His works in clay and bronze were featured in 23 one-person shows in New York, and more than 100 invitational exhibitions. His art can be found in numerous collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto, the Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York City, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore. His book Ceramics, printed in six editions and four languages, is considered a definitive text in its field. He was also a frequent contributor to magazines such as Ceramics, Ceramics Monthly, and Craft Horizons.

Jolyon Hofsted is survived by his wife of 22 years, Janet Hofsted, of Woodstock, NY; his mother, two sons, a stepson, and two grandsons.

QC IN THE NEWS

Daily Nation, a newspaper in Barbados, quoted MARCIA BAYNE-SMITH (SOC) in a story about students of Caribbean origins attending CUNY schools. The TIME 2000 Program, under the direction of ALICE ARTZT (SEYS), was the focus of stories appearing Nov. 25 in the Queens Ledger, Dec. 5 in the Daily News, and Dec. 19 in Newsday.

ANDY BEVERIDGE (SOC) offered his observations on Afghanistan's patriarchal culture and its effect on women's education for a Nov. 28 story in the New York Times.

MADHULIKA S. KHANDELWAL (A/AC) addressed the difficulties of cultural adjustment encountered by Guyanese immigrants of Indian descent in two separate articles in the New York Times which appeared on Dec. 5 and Dec. 17.

The Jewish Sentinel and the Jewish World both featured photos in their Nov. 26 editions of BENNY KRAUT (JWST) receiving the 2004 Excellence in Teaching Award. Also pictured were President JAMES MUYSKENS and Sen. Frank Padavan. The December edition of Queens Business Today carried a photo of Muyskens at the 2004 Building Awards and Dinner at Terrace on the Park. Powderrmaker Hall received kudos for its outstanding new design.

Geological research on hidden seabed chasms by CECILIA MCHUGH (SEES) was cited in a Jan. 1 article in Science News. The most recent edition of Educause Quarterly features an article by CLAUDIA PERRY (GLIS) on the integration of information technology across the curriculum at the college.

An article on the December meeting of the nation's top labor leaders and activists, sponsored by QC's Labor Resource Center and the New York Labor Forum, was distributed nationwide by Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service.

The QC Art Center exhibited Yianne: Ceramic Sculpture, which was the subject of stories in the Nov. 4 Queens Ledger and the Nov. 18 Times Ledger.

The announcement of two Rhodes Scholars from Brooklyn College and City College was the subject of a Nov. 22 New York Times story that recalled the last CUNY Rhodes Scholar in 1982, QC's RAYMOND PARETZKY.

The Times Ledger described the contributions of sophomore BRADD WIERZBICKI to the success of the Knights' basketball squad. A Dec. 14 Daily News story described QC student SAM CHRISTOPHER'S loss of relatives and his childhood home in Sri Lanka to the recent tsunami.

An article about the college's conference on Carlo Levi and Vito Marcantonio ran in the Italian-language America Oggi last November.
LAMP Lights the Way for Latino Students

Thanks to the efforts of Lillian Moncada-Davidson (Secondary Ed.), the LAMP program will continue shining its light on the educational needs of Latin American students from John Bowne High School.

The program—whose letters stand for Literacy and Mathematics through Photography—was developed with the high school as a way to stimulate greater interest among Latino students in literacy and mathematics by exposing them to photography and film developing.

Literacy skills are strengthened when students interview the subject they have chosen to photograph and then write about this experience. Students are confronted with math concepts when they use the camera, for example, in learning about f-stops.

Created in response to the Kellogg Foundation initiative Engaging Latin American Students in Learning (ENLACE), LAMP has been financed by a grant divided equally among five CUNY campuses (the others being Lehman, Brooklyn, Hunter, and City). Initially scheduled to end last June, the two-year program has been so successful, says Moncada-Davidson, she was able to extend funding through December. “Now we have time,” she says, “to seek longer-term funding. The dean of education has been unusually supportive, so that we can count on some financial support from Queens College, which makes me both proud and grateful.”

The program, offered as a Saturday Academy course on campus, encourages Latino students to use the camera to look at themselves, their families, and their communities. With QC teacher candidates serving as guides, they inevitably learn skills relating to literacy and math.

Explains Moncada-Davidson, “The goals of the program are to develop a love of learning among Latino students; improve academic performance; change any negative attitudes they might have about school; improve attendance and class participation; and help them develop a sense of health and trust in themselves.”

“I’ve seen a great transformation in most of the kids,” says Shawn Carson, a literacy instructor in the program. “Through photography they’ve gained a great interest and better understanding of why they need to know more math and English to take control of where they want to go with their lives.”

Some Olive Oil, A Little Vinegar and Presto!

More than 250 students from five local high schools—John Adams, Francis Lewis, Hillcrest, John Bowne and Townsend Harris—were on hand January 12 for the seventh edition of the Thomas J. Hayden III Holiday Chemistry Show in Remsen Hall. They were treated to a series of entertaining demonstrations performed by faculty and Tom Sangiorgi, a Townsend Harris chemistry teacher and Queens College alumnus.

As director of laboratories and chief college laboratory technician, Hayden served the college for 40 years. Since his passing, the Chemistry Department has continued to present the annual shows, which Hayden initiated and enthusiastically performed in even after his retirement.

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President Muyskens performs a little chemical magic at the Holiday Chemistry Show.

Environmental Institute (continued from page 1)

American cultural contributions, and the month-long celebration will conclude on Feb. 28 with a Town Hall Meeting, “40 Years Later: The Impact of the Brown Decision on Education on the Queens Campus and Community.”

Throughout the month, excerpts from a speech given by Rev. Martin Luther King at the college in 1965 will play Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 1 pm in the lobby of Rosenthal Library.

“Black History Month has a particular poignancy for us at the college, and especially this year,” notes President James Muyskens. “So many struggled and suffered for the cause of civil rights and some, like our own Andrew Goodman, paid the ultimate price. We hope that the education our current students receive will instill the same commitment to humanistic values and social justice.”

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Environmental Institute (continued from page 1)

(EES), was previously senior ecologist at Brookhaven National Laboratory. His work on atmospheric contaminants led to a proposal for the Urban Atmospheric Observatory being developed in New York City, a project supported by the departments of Defense and Homeland Security.

“As the global population continues to increase, the mega-cities of the world—New York being one of them—are going to have a larger and larger environmental impact regionally and globally,” says Hendrey. “I see Nurturing New York’s Nature as a matter of educating New Yorkers about what they have—the environment that surrounds them and the importance of that environment.”
FEBRUARY EVENTS

6 SUN
CONCERT: From Israel to America with Love, Rami Bar-Niv, pianist. LeFrak Hall, 2pm.

7 MON
RECITAL: David Holzman (MA ’75), piano. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

9 WED
PRESIDENTIAL ROUNDTABLE: “Revisiting Alice Walker’s Meridian.” Tony O’Brien (English) and Marie Umeh (John Jay College). Student Union Room 301, 12:15 pm.

10 THU
LONG ISLAND COMPOSERS’ ALLIANCE: String orchestra concert. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

13 SUN
CONCERT: The New Amsterdam Singers, Clara Longstreth, conductor. Bach’s Singet dem Herrn and works by Rorem, Mechem, and others. LeFrak Hall, 4 pm.

14 MON
PANEL DISCUSSION: “Where is the Promised Land: Racial Politics Then and Now,” Stephen Steinberg (Urban Studies), Premilla Nadasen (History), Barbara Ransby (Univ. of Illinois, Chicago), Andrew Jackson (Langston Hughes Community Library). Rosenthal Auditorium, 4–7 pm.

MENC BENEFIT CONCERT: LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm ($5 donation requested).

16 WED

17 THU
RECITAL: Morey Ritt, piano, and guest artists Constance Beavon, soprano, Conor Nelson, flute, and Jesse Levine, viola. works by Bridge, Goodman, and Saylor. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

18 FRI
OPERA IN CONCERT: Puccini’s La Bohème, performed by Canti di Reina, Andrew Saderman, director. LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. $10 donation to the ACSM Scholarship Fund requested.

22 TUE
EVENING READINGS

23 WED
Recital: Anthony Newton (BMus ’89), and Carlos Baptiste, violin. works by Beethoven, Brahms, and others. LeFrak Hall, 12:15 pm.

24 THU

25 FRI
CONCERT: Raymond Erickson, harpsichord, Daijiro Ukon (MA ’04), conductor, student soloists. works by Bach, Falla, Kraft, and Mozart. LeFrak Hall, 3 pm.

27 SUN
CINEMA ON SUNDAYS:
Unstrung Heroes.
Discussant: Professor Eric Goldman. LeFrak Hall, 2 pm.

28 MON
TOWN HALL MEETING: “40 Years Later: The Impact of the Brown Decision on Education on the Queens Campus and Community,” East Ballroom, Student Union Building, 4th Floor, 3:30 pm.

RECITAL: Wei-Hsien Lien (MA ’98), piano, Rachel Lumsden (MA ’04), flute, Nicole Roberson (BMus ’97), oboe, Elena Rojas (MA ’03), viola, Michele Wright (BMus ’95), clarinet. LeFrak Hall, 12:45 pm.

MARCH EVENTS

1 TUES

2 WED

3 WED
EVENING READINGS

4 THU
RECITAL: Wei-Hsien Lien (MA ’98), piano, Rachel Lumsden (MA ’04), flute, Nicole Roberson (BMus ’97), oboe, Elena Rojas (MA ’03), viola, Michele Wright (BMus ’95), clarinet. LeFrak Hall, 12:45 pm.

5 FRI
CONCERT: Raymond Erickson, harpsichord, Daijiro Ukon (MA ’04), conductor, student soloists. works by Bach, Falla, Kraft, and Mozart. LeFrak Hall, 3 pm.

7 SUN
CINEMA ON SUNDAYS:
Unstrung Heroes.
Discussant: Professor Eric Goldman. LeFrak Hall, 2 pm.

Exhibits


Schwarzenbach photographs and writings, Godwin-Ternbach Museum


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