Queens College has a long history of making education accessible to people who might otherwise never attempt a college degree. Now, with the development of a new, outreach-oriented campus think tank, the Equity Studies Research Center, the college is poised to address the gap in “accessing education” among women, minorities, immigrants, and other groups, such as inner-city residents.

“Not all students have access to the same services or receive the same quality education,” says Penny L. Hammrich, dean of the Division of Education, who will direct the center. “Unfortunately, disparities that may begin early increase at every level of schooling.”

Sisters in Science—an initiative Hammrich launched in Philadelphia ten years earlier when she was a Temple University professor—will become the core program of the Equity Studies Research Center. The program was founded to help overcome the well-known “achievement gap” for females in mathematics, science, and technology, which typically begins in elementary school.

From its pilot, which involved fourth- and fifth-grade girls in after-school projects, Sisters expanded into a broad enrichment program of extracurricular activities, weekend classes, camps, and internships that encouraged girls of all ages (and more than a few boys) to consider careers in math and science. Funded by nearly $10 million in National Science Foundation grants over the years, Sisters ultimately reached out to teachers, as well as to the inner-city community, to tackle gender issues in education.

Two additional core projects, both sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, will use science as a vehicle to increase overall literacy among elementary school students. Studies already being conducted at the college on such topics as leadership roles in the Asian-American community and gender gaps in math and science will be brought under the center’s umbrella.

“This is a multidisciplinary effort, involving not only my colleagues in education, but other departments, including sociology, psychology, and economics,” says Hammrich, a cognition learning theorist who has been at QC since 2003.

Results of the center’s work will be disseminated through newsletters, publications, and eventually, a book.

Hammrich was honored in Washington, D.C., last month when the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) gave the Sisters in Science Equity Reform Project its Gender Equity Award in Women’s Leadership. The award, sponsored by AACTE’s Committee on Women’s Issues, “recognizes exemplary accomplishment in programs and innovations related to gender equity in education.” According to the organization, “The member institution or program selected to receive this award serves as a model for others in the profession, advancing the agenda for women and girls.”

**Rarely Seen Photos from a Turbulent Time**

During her brief, troubled life, Annemarie Schwarzenbach captivated some of the greatest writers of her time. Thanks to the groundbreaking exhibit of her photos currently on view at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum through June 2, New York audiences are being treated to a rare glimpse of the people, places, and things that captivated this remarkable artist.

The exhibition, *Annemarie Schwarzenbach: Selected Photographs 1933–1940*, presents 100 of the Swiss photojournalist’s pictures documenting the Nazi uprising in Austria, Depression-era America, and her travels through Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. Her Middle East photos have never been seen before in the U.S., and the others have only been seen twice before by American audiences.

(continued on page 2)
Shantae Shahied: A Supreme Court Justice Grows in Brooklyn (and Queens)

While in Shantae Shahied’s estimation both Brooklyn College and Queens College boast “a really nice campus,” Queens offers one distinct advantage—it’s not in Brooklyn.

Upon graduating Brooklyn Technical High School, this Crown Heights native and lifelong Brooklynite decided it was time for a change of scenery. And while coming to the Flushing campus each day entails a two-hour commute by subway and bus, it’s a journey she’s glad to make: “I really like it here.”

“Here” is where the political science major and scholarship recipient is fashioning ambitious plans for the future. “I want to do law for a while, but I definitely want to do politics.” The sophomore then drops into the conversation, without a suggestion of doubt, her ultimate career ambition: “I want to be a Supreme Court justice.”

It’s a goal she arrived at freshman year in a class on politics and the law, when she saw how history was changed by Supreme Court decisions. “I think they have the biggest effect on policy,” she says. “I want to do that.” Reluctant to offer an opinion of the current Supreme Court, she nevertheless asserts: “I want my voice in there.” Reminded that the position requires a presidential appointment, she brightens and acknowledges that she definitely would have to get involved in politics.

When not attending classes, Shahied likes to work with kids, volunteering with New York Cares. “I do a lot of painting: painting murals and painting shelters. Painting things brighter colors gives people a brighter feeling,” she says.

Shahied began working as a volunteer while in high school, contributing her time and sunny personality to a local center for senior citizens. She also would like to establish her own charity organization. After reading about child rape in South Africa, Shahied contacted a shelter there for victimized children and expressed her wish to create an organization for abused children in New York. When miscommunications with that group thwarted her intentions, Shahied found herself becoming involved with New York Cares.

Her commitment to community service and her excellent grades (she has a 3.6 GPA) earned her an Ira Lampert Scholarship last fall in a highly competitive selection process. Between her studies and volunteer efforts, one would expect Shahied finds little time for leisure. But she does manage to indulge in one favorite pastime: road trips.

(Textile worker, 1938)

(continued from page 1)

“Schwarzenbach’s photo-reports represent some of her most interesting work as a correspondent and photographer,” says Barbara Lorey de Lacharriére, curator of the original exhibition, which toured throughout France and was briefly shown at the Swiss Institute in 2002 and the Chicago Cultural Center in 2003.

Celebrated abroad and the subject of numerous films and books, Schwarzenbach (1908–1942) led a short but intense life marked by conflict, drug addiction, stormy affairs with other women—and prodigious talent as a photographer and author. Only recently has she become known beyond the German-speaking world.

“Schwarzenbach’s work and dramatic biography, combined with current national and global politics, make this a compelling and timely exhibition,” says Amy Winter, the Godwin-Ternbach director, who helped to expand the exhibition by including 50 images from Schwarzenbach’s travels in the Middle East.

“Schwarzenbach has become a cult figure in European circles similar to Frida Kahlo in America,” Winter continues. “She was an exquisite if tormented individual who held fascination for many of her contemporaries such as Thomas Mann, who called her the ‘ravaged angel.’

“Writers like Carson McCullers dedicated novels to her, while others described her as a ‘noble being of captivating charm.’ Her European photographs are chilling but aesthetically gripping, and her American photographs are on a par with the social documentary work of Farm Security Administration (FSA) photographers like Dorothea Lange, Walker Evans, Ben Shahn, and Arthur Rothstein.”

Born into one of Switzerland’s wealthiest families, Schwarzenbach struggled with restlessness and internal conflict. Her need to travel throughout the world was complicated by her drug dependency and unhappy affairs that scandalized her marriage to French diplomat Claude Clarac. Her novels, diaries, and photographs give moving evidence of that era’s “lost generation.” After a number of suicide attempts and a prolonged depression, Schwarzenbach died at the age of 34 in a bicycling accident.

An all-day symposium on Schwarzenbach’s life and work featuring experts from QC, CUNY, and other colleges takes place at the museum on March 19, from 10 am to 5 pm. For more information on the symposium and free Saturday screenings of films about Schwarzenbach, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/nis/Releases/spring_2005/Annemarie_Schwarzenbach.php
Email Exchange Leads to Unusual Honor for Prof. Milione

A Peruvian student’s efforts to learn more about her Italian heritage led to Vincenzo Milione receiving an unexpected honor last December.

“I was asked to be the Padrino for the graduating class in sociology at the Universidad Nacional Federico Villareal in Lima, Peru,” says Milione, director of research and education for the Calandra Institute. In contrast to the negative stereotypes associated with the word “Padrino” in this country, in Peru it is an expression of profound respect. “The Padrino is an honorary title bestowed on the mentor and commencement speaker of the university department graduates. The names of the Padrino and the graduates are inscribed on a tablet in the university halls,” he explains.

Milione’s journey to Peru began with an email inquiry from Carolina Medina who, in the process of researching her Italian ancestry, came upon the Web site for the Calandra Institute.

“She was curious about what we were doing with Italian-American demographics and she questioned whether she was Italian,” Milione says. “She was majoring in sociology and doing data collection, and throughout the year she asked me questions by email and phone. After I returned from a trip to Italy in the fall, I received the invitation to be Padrino.”

Milione, whose work often deals with the Italian diaspora, explains that Peru had a large influx of Italian immigrants around the turn of the last century, mostly from northern Italy around the Genoa region. Ironically, he continues, Peru is now experiencing a diaspora of its own.

“In meetings with the faculty and administration, we talked about the great exodus of Peruvian youth,” says Milione, referring to the “brain drain” affecting Peru and other countries in South America where young people, educated up to the first years of university study, leave to take positions in developed countries. However, because of language deficiencies or legal status issues, they often become trapped in menial jobs, unable to complete their education or return home.

Citing Calandra’s CUNY/Italy Exchange Program, Milione notes, “We talked about the type of student exchange programs we have here at CUNY, which allow foreign students to complete their degrees at their respective universities. And that’s a way to at least keep students tied to their native country.”

As a result of his visit, the university there is planning to develop an Italian-

QC PEOPLE

AMMIEL ALCALAY (CMAL), whose essay “The Quill’s Embroidery” appears in The Schocken Book of Modern Sephardic Literature, recently took part in an electronic discussion of the anthology hosted by The Forward. Another book to which Alcalay made a major contribution, Diasporas by Frederic Benner, received a 2004 National Jewish Book Award . . . MARIO CARUSO (Grad Admissions) presented a workshop at the 74th Annual Middle States Association of Collegiate Registrars and Officers of Postsecondary Education Conference in December entitled “International Credentials: Undergraduate & Graduate Admissions” . . . SUSAN EINHORN (Drama) was praised by the New York Times for her “assured direction” of the play Finding Claire, which was performed at Manhattan’s Theater for the New City in February . . . At an IRS hearing on Jan 11, KENNETH H. RYESKY (Accounting) offered testimony in connection with proposed regulations that would discriminate against private delivery services and favor the U.S. Postal Service regarding proof of mailing tax returns and other documents . . . ROLF SWENSEN (Library) was awarded the 2004 Arrington-Prucha Prize by the Western History Association for the best essay of the year on the religious history of the West. His winning essay is entitled “Pilgrims at the Golden Gate: Christian Scientists on the Pacific Coast, 1880-1915” . . . JOSEPH SUNGOLOWSKY (Eur Langs) read a paper entitled “Andre Neher (1914-1988) and the Significance of the Holy Land” at the International Conference on Contemporary Jewish Thought held in November at the Universite Charles De Gaulle-Lille 3 in France. He is also the author of “The Jewishness of Primo Levi,” which appeared in The Legacy of Primo Levi (Palgrave Macmillan, 2004) . . . ROBERT VAGO (Linguistics) is co-author of “The Role of Grammaticality Judgments in Investigating First Language Attrition: A Cross-Linguistic Perspective,” which appears in First Language Attrition: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Methodological Issues (Amsterdam: John Benjamins, 2004).
Faculty Profile

Joe Rollins: Same-Sex Controversies Propel His Work

With the issue of same-sex marriage continuing to ignite controversy around the country, these are interesting times for Joe Rollins.

“I’ve got a Wayne F. Placek Award from the American Psychological Foundation funding a sabbatical for next year, and I am collecting all of the legal data and materials surrounding the debate on same-sex marriage,” says Rollins, a recently tenured member of the Political Science department whose schedule this spring includes the course “Current Political Controversies.”

Regarding the recent New York court decision upholding same-sex unions, Rollins observes, “We have a tendency to think about legal decisions as fixed and static and the law as concrete. This is an example of precisely how inaccurate that assumption is. . . . At the same time that this decision was handed down in New York, within the same week three other courts in various locations handed down decisions upholding those states’ Defense of Marriage acts.

“There’s been enormous national confusion displayed in the litigation and the legislative debates surrounding the subject,” adds Rollins, who is a board member of the Center for Gay and Lesbian Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. For him, sorting out a “confusion” of views on issues related to gays and lesbians is familiar terrain.

“Over the last few years I’ve conducted a survey of political attitudes in gay and lesbian communities across the United States,” he says. His research led to a number of publications, including “Sexual Identities and Political Engagements: A Queer Survey,” a study he did with H. N. Hirsch that appeared in Social Politics (Fall 2003).


While some pundits have attributed President Bush’s re-election to Defense of Marriage initiatives bringing record numbers of evangelical Christians to the polls, Rollins offers a different view. “People keep pointing to Ohio and states where Defense of Marriage acts were being voted on,” he says. “But the values vote seems in the bigger picture to have been more about fighting terrorism and a concern about what was going on in Iraq.”

(continued from page 3)

Celebrating Black History Month: Three Campus Scenes

The college’s observance of Black History Month included films, concerts, lectures, online discussions, exhibits, and a town hall meeting on the legacy of the 1954 Brown decision. Clockwise from top left: teachers and students participate in a discussion of Alice Walker’s novel Meridian; President James Muyskens greets Tamara Jackson, the producer of the PBS series Slavery; QC students take part in a celebration of African dance on February 23 in the Goldstein Theatre.

(continued from page 3)

with various town officials, the University of Catania, the University of Palermo, and a number of regional agencies,” he notes. “There are many opportunities for the institute to become involved in promoting Italian American studies in Italy, as well as for joint Italian and Italian American cooperation.”

While in Sicily, Milione attended the World Trade Center Memorial Festival in Montevago. Lucia Crifasi, a native of Montevago, died in the attack, and her family was presented with several citations from the New York City Council. Milione spoke with Franco Pannella, the sculptor who had constructed the WTC memorial in Montevago, about initiating a conference and exchange between Italian and Italian American artists.
Jeff Barnes to Head OCT’s Project Management Office

The recent appointment of Jeff Barnes as deputy chief information officer for the Office of Converging Technologies brings OCT a major step closer to becoming a service-oriented operation. “His background will be a catalyst for change and for introducing a consultative atmosphere within the office,” says OCT director Naveed Husain.

Barnes has over a dozen years of IT experience, primarily as a Lotus Notes/Domino consultant. This has included stints at Savin Corp., Ricoh USA, Ernst & Young, the American Stock Exchange, and the UN. He also worked briefly in 2001 as a consultant for an email project at Baruch College.

“I initially came to Queens in October as a consultant to help set up a new email program, and Naveed asked me to stay on,” says Barnes. “We’re not just building a new email system, but also a collaborative system integrating calendaring and scheduling, task management, and chat functions.”

In his new position, Barnes will also take on another major role within OCT. Explains Husain, “He’s going to be heading the Project Management Office, filtering all the project requests that come in, prioritizing them, and maintaining a timetable for their completion. He’ll help turn OCT into a real consulting agency rather than simply responding to concerns as they crop up.”

Barnes is a graduate of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art in Manhattan. He completed a year and a half of study at Columbia University, where his primary interest was computer science, before electing to move into private industry.

Barnes lives with his wife, Audrey, in Greenburgh, just outside White Plains. He’s very active in his church, St. Paul’s United Methodist in Hartsdale, where he runs their youth group. Not surprisingly, Barnes can include something else among his church activities: “Oh yeah, I also built their Web site.”

QC IN THE NEWS

ANDY BEVERIDGE (Soc) was interviewed Feb. 2 on WBUR, a public radio station in Boston, as part of their coverage of the issue of low representation of minorities on juries trying minority defendants. He was also quoted in a Feb. 3 story on housing discrimination that appeared in El Correo de Queens . . . The exhibit by HAROLD BRUDER (Art Emeritus), Time and the Tabletop, Still Life Paintings, 1998–2004, at the QC Art Center was featured in several publications including Jan. 27 in the Queens Ledger, Jan. 28 and 30 in Newsday, Feb. 3 in the Queens Chronicle and the Queens Ledger, and Feb. 10 in the Times Ledger . . . “The News at Ten” on WPIX-TV featured JEFFREY HALPERIN (Psy) in a Feb. 2 story about how college students are abusing Adderall, a drug used to treat Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, as a stimulant . . . A story in the Feb. 3 Queens Chronicle announcing the opening of six new small high schools in Queens quoted FLOYD KESSLER (Second Ed) . . . India Today quoted MADHUJILA KHANDELWAL (Urban St/AAC) in a Jan. 31 story about how young Indians’ views of the world are not weighed down by the baggage of the past . . . A story in the Jan. 27 Queens Chronicle about former City Councilman Tom Ognibene’s announcement of his intention to run for mayor featured MICHAEL KRAUSNER’S (Pol Sci) assessment of his chances: none . . . “Imaginative, personal, and beautifully made,” said the New York Times in a Feb. 11 review of an exhibition of CHARLES MARTIN’S (Comp Lit) black-and-white urban photographs at June Kelly Gallery in SoHo . . . PYONG GAP MIN (Soc) was quoted in a Feb. 4 story in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution about a rift in the congregation of a local Buddhist Temple caused by a monk’s tryst with a woman . . . A story in the Jan. 19 Queens Courier speculating on whether Chancellor Matthew Goldstein would make another “stellar” selection in picking a president for York College cited PRESIDENT JAMES MUYKENS as one of CUNY’s “stars” . . . JOSEPH SCIELSA (VP Outreach) offered his views for a Feb. 9 Newsday story regarding charges that the animated film Shark Tale perpetuates negative stereotypes of Italians . . . The New York Beacon carried major coverage Feb. 3 on the college’s celebration of Black History Month. Stories on the celebration also appeared Feb. 3 in the Queens Tribune, Feb. 6 in the citywide edition of the Daily News, Feb. 10 in Jamaica Times, and Feb. 16 in the Queens Courier. In a Jan. 20 story in the Times Ledger, Borough President Helen Marshall ’72 recalled Martin Luther King’s 1965 visit to the college while she was a student . . . The Sociology Department provided information for a graphic accompanying a Jan. 30 New York Times story about New York City’s changing immigrant populations and for a Jan. 31 story about newspapers targeting Spanish speakers in the United States . . . A special section devoted to continuing education in the Jan. 31 New York Sun mentioned a course the college offers in basic astronomy . . . The Louis Armstrong House was the subject of the lead article in the Sunday travel section of the Feb. 6 Hartford Courant . . . On Feb. 11 the city daily AM New York ran a large photo from the Godwin-Ternbach Museum’s exhibit Annemarie Schwarzenbach: Selected Photographs 1933–1940, and on Feb. 13 the Sunday New York Times included a paragraph describing the show.

AM New York
Women’s History Month Conference

On Monday, March 14, this year’s Virginia Frese Palmer Conference for Women’s History Month will address the question of Feminism and Multiculturalism: How Do They/We Work Together? All are invited to attend the conference, which will run from 9 am to 3:30 pm on the 4th floor of the Student Union. The morning session will focus on “Feminism and Islam,” and the afternoon’s topic will be “The Varied Voices of Feminism.” Among those scheduled to appear are Nurah W. Ammat’ullah, founder and executive director of the Muslim Women’s Institute for Research and Development; Jane Kramer, a writer for the New Yorker; and Katha Pollitt, a columnist for the Nation. The conference, presented by the college’s Women’s Studies Program, was made possible by a generous grant from Virginia Frese Palmer ’42. RSVP 3098 or joyce_warren@qc.edu.

Armstrong House to Acquire Hilbert Collection

One of the surprising things Michael Cogswell noticed when presiding over the restoration of the Louis Armstrong House was “for whatever reason, there were very few Louis Armstrong recordings discovered in the house. There were about a thousand discs of other musicians, but Louis’s own recordings could be counted in the dozens.”

Cogswell speculates that since Armstrong preferred to listen to music at home on reel-to-reel tapes, he perhaps made tapes of his own recordings and then gave the discs away. That’s why he’s delighted that the Armstrong House is about to acquire the Robert G. Hilbert Collection of Louis Armstrong Recordings.

“One of the surprising things Michael Cogswell noticed when presiding over the restoration of the Louis Armstrong House was ‘for whatever reason, there were very few Louis Armstrong recordings discovered in the house. There were about a thousand discs of other musicians, but Louis’s own recordings could be counted in the dozens.”

Armstrong House to Acquire Hilbert Collection

One of the surprising things Michael Cogswell noticed when presiding over the restoration of the Louis Armstrong House was “for whatever reason, there were very few Louis Armstrong recordings discovered in the house. There were about a thousand discs of other musicians, but Louis’s own recordings could be counted in the dozens.”

Cogswell speculates that since Armstrong preferred to listen to music at home on reel-to-reel tapes, he perhaps made tapes of his own recordings and then gave the discs away. That’s why he’s delighted that the Armstrong House is about to acquire the Robert G. Hilbert Collection of Louis Armstrong Recordings.

“A Bob Hilbert was a former president of the International Association of Jazz Record Collectors,” Cogswell explains. “He collected everything, but he was especially strong in Louis Armstrong. He passed away suddenly in the late 1990s and his widow, Betsy, wanted us to have his collection. She passed away and his daughter inherited the collection. That’s when the acquisition finally came to fruition.”

The collection consists of 334 78-RPM discs; 395 33&1/3-RPM discs; 69 45-RPM discs; three reel-to-reel tapes; and 15 books. “They’ll be available in the archives for research purposes and we will probably have some on display in Louis’s den,” says Cogswell.

But there is an even bigger acquisition pending, Cogswell says. “We have an agreement to acquire the Jack Bradley collection of Armstrong materials. It’s been appraised at over $1 million and private collectors in Japan have offered Jack much more than that. He is giving it to us for $550,000, payable over eight years. But we need to raise the money. Anything that we can do to get the word out, we want to do.”

Award to Digitize Archival Materials

Claudia Perry (Library & Info Studies) and Chief Librarian Sharon Bonk have been awarded an $8,000 grant from the Metropolitan Library Council for a collaborative project in which Queens College archival materials will be digitized by students in two sections of Perry’s “Introduction to Digital Imaging” course. The grant provides scanning equipment and software for both the library and a GSLIS lab, access to CONTENTdm image management system, and student assistants for the library. After the images are created and described by students, the library will create a Web site on college history, to which materials will be added in the future.
MARCH EVENTS

12 SAT
CONCERT: Heath Brothers Band, featuring Jeb Patton, piano. LeFrak Hall, 8 pm. $22/$20 seniors, students, QC alumni, staff. Info: 793-8080.

14 MON

15 TUE
 EVENING READINGS: Joyce Carol Oates. Music Building, 7 pm. $10. Info: 997-4646.

16 WED
COLLOQUIUM: “What the Tongue Tells the Brain about Taste,” Marion Frank (U Conn). NSB C207, 11:15 am.

19 SAT
CONCERT: Water Dance Treble Voices of Queens, Emily John, artistic director, with Irish Dance and QC students. LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm. $10 donation to scholarship fund requested.

20 SUN

21 MON

30 WED
RECITAL: David Leighton, vocalist. Schumann’s Dichterliebe; LeFrak Hall, 8 pm. $10 donation to scholarship fund requested.

APRIL EVENT

2 WED

Exhibits

SCHWARZENBACH: Photographs and Writings, 1933–1940. Godwin-Ternbach Museum, through June 2. Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 11 am-7 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm.


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.