College Announces Plans for Its First Dorm

If all goes as planned, in fall 2009 a small group of Queens College students will enjoy an experience unique in the school’s seven decade existence: they will no longer have to cope with a commute at the beginning and end of their school day. Queens College will finally have a dorm.

“We need to remain competitive both within and outside CUNY in attracting the best students,” says President James Muyskens, offering a rationale for the long-anticipated development. Hunter and City College have dorms and other CUNY colleges are following suit. Offering the residential experience has allowed these colleges to increase their population of honors students, and Queens College hopes to do the same.

In addition, with a dorm, the Aaron Copland School of Music can enroll talented musicians from around the world, and science programs can bring in doctoral and master’s students from out of town who could not otherwise afford to study in New York City. The dorm will also house foreign exchange students and students from the borough of Queens who prefer to attend a college that offers the residential experience.

In early March, following meetings with community leaders and elected officials, the college expects to publish a Request for Proposals, soliciting interested developers regarding the design and construction of a low-rise, on-campus dorm. No public funds will finance the project, which is estimated to cost $63 million and expected to accommodate 450–550 students. It will also include underground parking for 200 cars—an increase of 10 percent in campus parking.

The dorm will be located between the gym and the library, on the site of the current outdoor tennis courts. (New tennis courts will be built at another location.) In four to five stories, its height will not (Continued on page 6)

Cobb and Medina Join College’s Administration

As the college embarks on major improvements to its curriculum and infrastructure, it will do so with the advantage of a number of new administrators in key positions.

Katharine Cobb, a Deputy Administrative Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office since 1996, is now Vice President for Finance and Administration. She replaces Jim O’Hara, who served in an interim capacity in this position since November 2003.

In the DA’s Office Cobb was in charge of fiscal services, information technology, human resources, facilities, purchasing, and telecommunications. Responsible for a budget of over $70 million and a staff of approximately 1,300, she provided financial analysis and planning, implemented fiscal policies, and created an inventory audit system. She also administered a number of multimillion-dollar capital projects involving both facilities and technology. (Unlike most city and state agencies, the DA’s office handles its own construction projects.)

“As a result of our campuswide strategic planning—envisioning what our college can and should be in 20 years—we will soon embark on a very ambitious course,” says President James Muyskens. “Katharine Cobb is therefore the right person for Queens College at the right time—an (Continued on page 5)
Religious Diversity in Queens: An Essay by James L. Muyskens

Walk the streets of Flushing on a busy day and take in the ever-changing sea of faces and the dozens of languages on the signs and shop windows. At such a time it is possible to believe that the final thing the builders of the Tower of Babel agreed upon—before God scattered them to the four corners of the earth—was that they would hold a reunion 6,000 years later in Queens. And since God sent them all off speaking different languages, they would return the favor by coming back worshipping different gods.

Without a doubt, the Borough of Queens has the most extraordinary mix of religions in the world. In Flushing alone there are over 200 places of worship within a space of two-and-a-half miles, many offering services in five or six languages. Brooklyn may be called the city of churches, but Queens is the city of temples, synagogues, mosques, and gurdwaras, as well as hundreds of Korean and other churches.

Queens has a long history of religious tolerance. In 1657 a group of its citizens wrote one of the New World’s first defenses of religious freedom. Known as the Flushing Remonstrance, this document defended the right of Quakers to worship as their conscience dictated. A remarkable thing about the authors of the Flushing Remonstrance is that not one of them was a Quaker. (The house of John Bowne, where the Quakers often met, has been declared “a national shrine to religious freedom.” It is fitting that it now shares Bowne Street with a dozen houses of worship.)

A more recent impetus for the influx of religions to the borough is the Immigration Act of 1965. This did away with the quota-bynation system in favor of one based on a person’s skills and profession. As a borough with two major airports—and pockets of exception-ally liberal zoning laws—it is no wonder so many immigrants settled in Queens.

The new diversity in the borough led to an explosion of new businesses and a blooming of ethnic and language studies at Flushing’s own institute of higher education, Queens College. We now have programs, centers, and institutes that study the rich histories of Asians, Jews, the Irish, Italians, Greeks, Latinos, African Americans, and others, and offer a thriving English as a Second Language program. Our New Immigrants and Old Americans project has published six books on the effects of this new wave of immigration. And our professors can often be found giving their students tours of the community laboratory that is Flushing, and even leading groups of people from outside the borough who are eager to learn more about us.

Early in my career I lived in Flushing for 17 years. When I left in the 1980s to take a position at the University of Kansas, there was much tension between blacks and whites in the borough. One of the things I have noticed since returning is the lack of tension between groups. At first I found this puzzling. After all, the number of ethnic groups in Flushing had grown dramatically in the years I had been away. Perhaps just as a little learning can be a dangerous thing, maybe a little diversity is dangerous also. But when you are overwhelmed with diversity, differences no longer count for much, and you look for the things that unite rather than divide.

The Flushing Remonstrance ends: “[I]f any of these said persons [Quakers] come in love unto us, we cannot in conscience lay violent hands upon them, but give them free ingress and regress unto our town, and houses, as God shall persuade our consciences.” And, to a great extent, this is what the people of Queens still do.

Reprinted from Queens: What to Do, Where to Go (and How Not to Get Lost) in New York’s Undiscovered Borough by Ellen Freudenheim, copyright 2006 by St. Martin’s Press.

FACULTY PROFILE

Areti Tsiola: Keeping in Step with QC’s Research Needs

Accommodating the equipment needs of researchers working on a variety of projects requires a certain amount of choreography. Fortunately, Areti Tsiola (Biology) counts Greek folk dancing among her talents. As supervisor of the Core Facility for Imaging, Cell, and Molecular Biology, she insures that things happen in a smooth and well-coordinated manner.

Tsiola arrived at QC as an adjunct in fall 2002, having just received her PhD from Columbia. She began working full-time as a research associate a year later, at the time a new campuswide initiative was attempting to better coordinate the use of research equipment in science departments.

“We wanted to consolidate everything in one location,” Tsiola says, “to create a facility that is more organized, that has some making sure things are up and running, and that people on campus and all over CUNY have access to this research equipment. Some of it is basic equipment that most laboratories need, such as freezers and centrifuges, but we also have more high-end pieces.”

Certain complex items, such as special microscopes, would be too expensive for one lab to acquire, but have come to the college because of the Core Facility program, which allows for the combination of funds from the college, the university, and outside sources. “Our proposals have been group efforts, which are easier to put together and more effective,” she remarks. “It’s easier to convince people to give you money when you have five or ten people using a certain instrument versus just one.”

“My job,” Tsiola continues, “is administrative and technical. If things break, I try to fix them; if I can’t fix them, I make the phone calls to get someone to fix them.” She works with students, helping them do experiments or training them to work on their own. Along with this, she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in general biology, neurobiology, and physiology.

Tsiola, whose parents are Greek, was born in Manhattan, but from the time she was 8 she grew up in a small village near Kastoria in the northwestern part of Greece. After two years of college, she returned to New York in 1994, transferring to Manhattanville College, where she earned her BA in biology.

When not on campus, she has two interests that draw on her Hellenic heritage. About six years ago she began doing volunteer work for Cosmos FM on WNYE, a New York public radio station that airs interna-

(Continued on page 6)
Search Begins for New Queens Poet Laureate

Are you “a talented and energetic individual whose writing will inspire young and old and who will help promote a greater love of poetry and admiration for its power to motivate the mind and lift the spirit?” If so, you could become the next poet laureate for the borough of Queens.

That’s the description offered by Borough President Helen Marshall at a February 1 press conference where, along with President James Muyskens, she announced the beginning of the search to find the borough’s fourth poet laureate, who will succeed Ishle Yi Park, whose three-year honorary appointment concludes this year.

Marshall added, “He or she must be proud to live here in Queens—the home of America’s most diverse population.”

Alluding to Walt Whitman, who taught in a one-room schoolhouse on the site of what would become Queens College, Muyskens said, “Sometimes I think Whitman also anticipated what the borough of Queens would be like in the 21st century in the lines from his poem Song of Myself: Do I contradict myself? Very well, then I contradict myself. (I am large; I contain multitudes.)”

“The borough of Queens is a large, contradictory, multitudinous community of great spirit and open-mindedness that Whitman would have much enjoyed, a community that needs a poet laureate. After all, a social scientist may be able to describe what it is like to live here, but a poet can tell us how it feels to be alive in Queens. And that, I am sure, is what our next poet laureate will do.”

Other speakers included two former poet laureates: Professor Emeritus of English Stephen Stepanchev, who served an extra year (1997–2001), and Hal Sirowitz (2001–2004). Andrew Jackson, executive director of the Langston Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center in Corona and a Queens Poet Laureate Coordinating Committee member, observed that February 1 is the 105th anniversary of the birth of the great poet Langston Hughes.

The idea for a Queens poet laureate was proposed in 1996 by the Friends of the Queens College Library, a volunteer support group, and endorsed by then-Queens Borough President Claire Shulman.

Aspiring poet laureates must have lived in Queens for at least the past two years and demonstrated a significant publication record in English. The judges want to know if applicants have published poetry collections; been included in recognized journals, anthologies, recorded spoken word presentations, or online poetry Web sites; and participated in poetry readings. To qualify, would-be laureates must have written poetry inspired by or related to the borough.

Bilingual poets who can read their work in translation and spoken word artists are welcome to apply. Poets should send 10 single-sided pages of their best work, a cover letter, general bio, and literary resume.

Applications, which include full information, can be obtained via the Queens borough president’s Web site: http://queensbp.org. Submissions must be postmarked or emailed by March 15 and will be evaluated by a panel of judges chosen by the Queens Poet Laureate Coordinating Committee. The borough president will review the judges’ recommendations and make the appointment. The fourth Queens poet laureate will assume the position at a ceremony this spring.
A profile of **Jeffery Renard Allen** (English) appeared in the February edition of Education Update (see “QC Authors,” p. 5) . . . A story by **Todd Bryant** (Armstrong House Museum) about how international visitors and neighborhood youth come together at the museum was featured in the Feb. edition of Allegro, the publication of local 802 of the musicians’ union . . . **Nick Coch** (SEES) appeared on the National Geographic Channel show “Naked Science” on Jan. 31, discussing the threat of rising sea levels during a hurricane in New York . . . An interview with **Harry Gafney** (Chemistry) that appeared in the Graduate Center publication Folio, in which he discussed his research on alternative energy sources, explosive detectors, and more, was picked up and distributed by US States News . . . According to a study appearing in the 2006 edition of Journal of Emerging Technologies in Accounting, **Harold Gellis** (Accounting) was tied for fifth among the most prolific authors of articles on systems research . . . The March edition of Ebony featured **Jessica Harris** (English) in an article about women in the culinary arts . . . The Feb. 4 El Diario La Prensa ran a two-page profile of **Gregory Rabassa** (Hispanic Langs) . . . **Mark Rosenblum’s** (History) class on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was featured Feb. 6 in the Daily News . . . An article appearing Jan. 29 in the New York Times about the frequency with which articles from the online Wikipedia are cited by judges in legal decisions quoted **Kenneth Ryesky** (Accounting) . . . The Queens Courier quoted **Renata Smith-Kiawu** (Financial Aid) in a Jan. 26 article about recent congressional action to cut interest rates on student loans. She also helped provide research on a QC student who was featured in an ad appearing Jan. 25 in the Queens Tribune for Peter F. Vallone Scholorships . . . A Jan. 30 article in the New York Times concerning plans to build a desalination plant along the Hudson River in Rockland County quoted **John Waldman** (Biology) . . . William Ungar’s endowment of a professorship in Holocaust studies in the Jewish Studies Program was the subject of a Jan. 19 article in the Forward . . . The exhibit Between: Woven Images by Betty Vera, currently on view at the QC Art Center, was listed Jan. 26 in AM New York . . . The current exhibit at the Louis Armstrong House Museum, Breaking Barriers: Louis Armstrong and Civil Rights (see story below), was the subject of articles in the February edition of Education Update, the Feb. 2 edition of the New York Times, and the Feb. 8 edition of the Queens Courier. It was also featured as a calendar item in the Feb. 7 edition of the New York Sun . . . QC’s series of Black History Month events were featured in a Feb. 1 TimesLedger article . . . The recent announcement of plans to build a dorm on campus was the subject of a Feb. 14 Daily News story and articles in all the major Queens weeklies: Queens Tribune and Queens Chronicle (cover stories) and Queens Courier and TimesLedger . . . The Feb. 1 Queens Courier ran a story about the recent renovation of the LeFrak Concert Hall organ . . . The current exhibit at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, The Grandeur of Islamic Art in Images, was the subject of a feature article Feb. 8 in the TimesLedger; a listing in the Queens Chronicle, and a feature in the Feb. 20 Daily News . . . The Queens Courier offered a feature on the hidden treasures of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum on Feb. 8 . . . The announcement of a search for the next Queens Poet Laureate received coverage Feb. 8 in the Queens Courier, TimesLedger, and Queens Tribune and Feb. 11 in Newsday.

**Exhibit on Louis Armstrong and Civil Rights Opens**

Louis Armstrong broke barriers as a prominent black entertainer—in film, radio, television, and as an ambassador of goodwill. Yet in the 1950s he was branded as an “Uncle Tom” who catered to white audiences and did not fight for his people. When he finally spoke out, he made headlines around the world and surprised many of his critics. In September 1957 Armstrong declared that President Eisenhower “had no guts” for allowing nine black schoolchildren to be publicly assaulted as they attempted to desegregate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and in protest cancelled his State Department tour of the Soviet Union, saying, “The way they are treating my people in the South, the government can go to hell.” Not long after, an FBI file was opened on him and his activities watched closely.

To coincide with Black History Month, a new Louis Armstrong House Museum exhibit opened February 1 to showcase his many contributions to civil rights and black pride. The exhibit, Breaking Barriers: Louis Armstrong & Civil Rights, will be on view through October 8.
NEW ADMINISTRATION [Continued from page 1]

individual with the kind of experience required to help lead the college into the future.”

“It is a great honor to join the leadership team at Queens College at this exciting time,” says Cobb. “I look forward to working with everyone—administration, faculty, and students—to make the strategic plan a reality. Together we can accomplish great things.”

A lawyer and member of the New York State Bar, Cobb holds a BA from Brown University and a JD from the University of Virginia School of Law. She has a strong interest in higher education, having taught for several years at Cardozo University School of Law. As a Director of Legal Hiring in the DA’s office for the past decade, she also worked closely with Columbia’s and Cornell’s Law Schools.

Cobb lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with her husband, Eric Balber, an attorney, and their two daughters—Anna is a freshman at Hamilton College and Emily is in the sixth grade.

Cobb says Queens College compares quite favorably with the many campuses she visited recently with her daughter as they were determining where she should study. She is particularly impressed with QC’s students. “They walk around the campus with a sense of purpose, a self-possession that is quite impressive; they really seem to know where they’re going in life.”


REINALDA MEDINA, the college’s new Director of Human Resources, brings with her two decades of experience as a human resources professional for a number of New York City agencies.

In this position she was responsible for recruitment, developing and enforcing Equal Employment Opportunity policies, and developing and administering employee labor relations, orientation, and benefits programs. Prior to this, she held senior administrative positions in NYC’s Human Resources Administration and Department of Health.

Medina says her experiences allow her to better appreciate a campus she’d previously viewed from a somewhat limited perspective. “I used to play tennis here, but I never really walked around,” she remarks, “This is a fabulous campus; it has a great sense of community. I see it also in the students.”

Medina, who is originally from East Flatbush, has spent much of her life in Queens and calls herself a Queens girl. “I live right here in North Flushing and I’m a proud mother of two,” she says of daughters Rebecca, 8, and Rachel, 7. She is married to Raymond Johnson.

Medina received her BA and MA degrees at nearby St. John’s University. She also holds a Certificate in Human Resources Studies from Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations.

Noting that the college already has great programs for the development of its students, Medina hopes to bring a similar focus on another group: “I’d like to expand on opportunities for our own employees to advance in their careers by pursuing, tuition-free, another degree or continuing education courses.”

QC AUTHORS

The drive of JEFFERY RENARD ALLEN’s (English) second collection of poems, Stellar Places (Moyer Bell), comes from music: blues, jazz, and even hip-hop. The idiom—which draws on African and Caribbean myth, African-American folklore, street talk, and night whispers—is as capable of meditative reflection and cultural speculation as it is of matters of self and identity. There is an awareness throughout these poems of black history, of “the shackles of the old,” and of the confining urban present: “the shackles of the new.” All this is combined with a sense of the saving graces in poetry, music, art, and film; of vision, dance and song.

The poet Wanda Coleman observes: “These are not mere poems, but blues-rooted celebrations and revelations that bristle with love of language. These poems twist and shimmy to the rhythms of life, as if trumpeted from the bandstand by a raging horn section. Allen’s ’jazzifications’ resonate with the raw power of those fully engaged in establishing their humanity, yet burst off the page with that noisily embraceable joy of self-love and discovery no amount of evil can obliterate—a rush!”

Co-winner of the 2005 McGovern Prize, A Secret Room in Fall (Ashland Poetry Press) is MARIA TERRONE’s (Communications) second collection of poems. They journey from past to present, assuming a multiplicity of voices, from an Egyptian queen to Pontius Pilate’s wife, from pedicurists to subway riders. Observes poet and QC alumna Rhina Espaillat, “The poems move easily among their many contexts—history, literature, autobiography, travel, and subtly loving, persuasive portraits. The manuscript opens with an Egyptian queen asserting the tricky ubiquity of the dead, and goes on to surprise and delight with other unexpected speakers and odd conclusions.”

And poet Eamon Grennan notes: “Whether confronting matters close to home and family, taking in gritty facets of the urban landscape, or bringing to sympathetic light anonymous, mainly female workers in the shadows and giving each her moment of perfectly articulated presence, Maria Terrone’s poems are quietly insistent, recuperative acts of imagination.”

Continuing the work of their earlier volume published in 2004, MARY K. CHELTON and COLLEEN COOL (Grad. Schl. of Library & Info Studies) begin Youth Information Seeking Behavior II (Scarecrow Press) with a historical overview of the literature on children’s use and understanding of electronic information systems dating back to when these retrieval mechanisms were in their infancy.

Chapters then provide a snapshot of the current research agenda, Everyday Life Information Seeking (ELIS), and the information seeking of youth in their role as students. The book compiles, in one convenient volume, the work of many of the discipline’s important researchers and their projects.
Maxine Rothenberg Retires After 37 Years at College

When Maxine Rothenberg was an interdisciplin ary studies student at Queens College, she majored in college administration. Some would say she’s been majoring in Queens College administration ever since.

Rothenberg retired in February after 37 years working in a variety of roles key to the day-to-day functioning of the college, beginning with a job in President Joseph Murphy’s office while she was attending school part time.

“Somebody got sick in fringe benefits and I became the health benefits person,” she recalls of her first position in the area she became most associated with, Human Resources. Retrenchment in the 1970s saw her acquiring new responsibilities, including administering pension benefits.

“In 1980 benefits was moved into the personnel department and I became assistant personnel director,” she recalls. “From there I became associate director and then director of personnel in 1990. I took on payroll as part of HR in the late nineties. We made it one-stop shopping. At the time it was unheard of, but today it’s always done.”

In 2003 Rothenberg became assistant VP for human resources and facilities, taking on responsibility for, Campus Facilities, Security, Environmental Safety & Health, and Buildings & Grounds. This latter role allowed her to leave a physical legacy of which she’s particularly proud. “The little plaza in front of Jefferson, I love,” she says. “That was something we did with students. I loved working with students.”

She also mentions the plaza behind the dining hall by the Music Building and recent improvements near the library. “I wanted to make the place beautiful. It just gives me pleasure to see people enjoying our campus,” she says.

By contrast, she observes, “Human Resources is a difficult job; you can’t always be well-liked in that position. But I always said if I walk out and people say I was fair, then I did my job. And people are saying that I was fair, so I did a good job.”

She, in turn, thinks Queens College does a good job. “It’s a wonderful institution,” she enthuses. “The faculty are marvelous, very dedicated. We have excellent retention in our staff and faculty, and I think that says something for the institution.”

Reflecting on her own sense of what she’s contributed in her 37 years, she observes, “I think just being an alum and giving of myself to the college was the most important thing. I wanted to do more because I owe the college my education.”

Of her immediate future she says, “I plan on taking a few months off, rest, travel, and then I’m going to see what I want to do. “I’ve lived my life here,” she says. “I’ve been here since I was 17 years old. My memories are wonderful.”

Tsiola [Continued from page 2]

tional programming. She initially hosted a Greek-language program on medical news and occasional shows on the arts and music. For the last year she’s been the host of “Cosmonauts,” an interview program devoted to science and technology.

At about the same time as she began her radio work, Tsiola renewed an interest she’s had since childhood: Greek folk dancing.

“I’ve been involved for a number of years with a group called Akrites. We’ve per-

FIRST DORM [Continued from page 1] exceed that of the library, and so will not obstruct any views.

Preliminary financial analysis suggests that students will pay between $900 and $1,400 per month, depending on the unit type they choose. Since the dorm will not have a separate dining room, students will use the current dining hall, whose services will be expanded. The college expects that the dorm will enhance the educational experience for all students, as there will be additional programming created for residential students when classes are not in session.

The dorm, however, is not intended to increase the student population. Says Muyskens, “Queens College will remain a commuter campus, committed to our mission of educating New Yorkers.”

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“I’ve lived my life here,” she says. “I’ve been here since I was 17 years old. My memories are wonderful.”
HEATHER HENDERSHOT (Media Studies) has been invited to be the Anschutz Distinguished Fellow in American Studies at Princeton University for the fall 2007 semester. Allan Ludman (SEES) will present his research on tectonic models for the Northern Appalachians at the 42nd annual meeting of the Northeastern Section of the Geological Society of America, March 12–14, at the University of New Hampshire in Durham. About 700 scientists are expected to attend.

ELAINE KLEIN and GITA MARTOHARDJONO (Linguistics) are undertaking a major research project for the New York City Dept. of Education called Understanding the Student with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE): A Study of SIFE Skills, Needs, and Achievement. This is a collaboration between the Dept. of Education and the Research Institute for the Study of Languages in Urban Society at the CUNY Graduate Center. The study will attempt to address the many issues school districts have in addressing the needs of older immigrant students from mostly Spanish-speaking countries with “interrupted formal education” who often enter districts with very low-level academic backgrounds and little or no literacy in their own language. Race to Execution, a film produced and directed by Rachel Lyon (Media Studies) will debut on the PBS “Independent Lens” series on Tuesday, March 27 at 10 pm. This investigation of America’s death penalty traces the fate of two Death Row inmates, revealing how racial discrimination infects the capital punishment system. More info at www.pbs.org/independentlens/racetoexecution.

KATE MENKEN (Linguistics) received a grant of $45,494 from the Office of English Language Learners of the NYC Dept. of Education to conduct a study entitled Meeting the Needs of Long-Term English Language Learners in High School. Morris Rossabi (History) gave a keynote address Feb. 25 on Russian ethnographer A.D. Simukov at the Osaka (Japan) Museum of Ethnology. From March 28 to 31 he will be giving the Croyenburgh Lectures at Leiden University in the Netherlands on “Toward an Environmental History of Central Asia.”

THOMAS SURPRENANT and CLAUDIA PERRY (Lib & Info Studies) collaborated last year with graduate student Walter Valero on the creation of a digital postcard collection documenting the waterways of New York State. The three presented a how-to description of their efforts in the Jan. 15 edition of Library Journal. On February 9 John Walker (Accounting) was honored at the Community Health Action of Staten Island’s annual Valentine’s Dinner/Dance fund-raiser for his volunteer work over the years for several health and social service not-for-profits on Staten Island. The honor included a proclamation from the City Council.

IN MEMORIAM

Max Pollack

Max Pollack, a professor in the Psychology Department from 1966 until his retirement in 1990, died in Manhattan in early February. Max received his PhD in clinical psychology from NYU and held research positions in the Division of Pediatric Psychiatry of the Jewish Hospital in Brooklyn, the Office of Consult on Services for the Aged in Queens, and at Hillside Hospital in Jamaica before his arrival at Queens as an associate professor.

Max received early National Institutes of Health funding for his research in biological psychopathology, and reminiscent of the time, was asked to abrogate his grant to devote more time to teaching. His research appeared in such well-respected journals as the American Journal of Psychiatry, Brain, and the Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease. Max received tenure in 1967, and was promoted to full professor in 1969. He was very active in teaching psychopathology at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in the department, and served on a number of second doctoral examinations and doctoral dissertation committees. He is survived by his wife, the novelist Linda Wolfe, and his children.

Jeffrey Halperin

Seymour Resnick

Seymour Resnick, a beloved colleague and a former chair of the onetime Department of Romance Languages, passed away on January 14, just one day short of his 87th birthday. Seymour joined Queens College full time in 1964 and retired in 1990, after a highly productive career as a professor and as a master teacher who was, without a doubt, single-handedly responsible for the development and prominence of our foreign language teacher-preparation programs. He himself had been a foreign language teacher in the New York and Long Island systems before coming to the college, which helps to explain the high degree of success of the programs he supervised. He knew from experience what was required of our teachers in the field, and he prepared them fully in skill as well as content areas.

Seymour was a man who loved languages and literature. Although his doctorate from NYU was in Spanish literature—“The Jew as Portrayed in Early Spanish Literature (to the End of the 15th Century)”—his passion for languages led him to study French, German, Italian, Catalan, and others, so that he was a highly skilled translator and a truly fluent multilingualist. We remember fondly his skill at humor within and across languages, which isn’t easy for a non-heritage speaker. Proof of his language skills is evident in the significant number of publications and books he authored that were devoted to the literatures and languages he so loved.

Seymour brought his passion for languages and for teaching to his department and to his students, and it will be missed; but more than that, we will miss his warmth and his genuine caring for people.

Emilio De Torre
Items should be submitted to Maria Matteo (maria.matteo@qc.cuny.edu), Kiely 1310, x 75590. Deadline: Two weeks before first Thursday of each month. FYI will next appear in April.