Lung cancer is the most common form of cancer-related deaths among men and women in the U.S., killing approximately 160,000 people each year. Yet when detected early, this disease usually can be treated and lives saved.

For almost a decade, Dr. Steven Markowitz and the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems (CBNS) have been involved with the Department of Energy (DOE) in the Worker Health Protection Program (WHPP). WHPP provides free exams for early detection of occupational illnesses such as lung cancer among workers at the DOE’s former nuclear weapons facilities in Idaho, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

“We were brought into the program to lend our expertise as objective, independent, occupational medicine providers,” said CBNS Director Markowitz. “Our efforts to combine a useful, efficient service with research have been very fruitful.”

Under the WHPP, more than 6,000 people have been screened for early detection of lung cancer. Huge mobile vans like the one above containing low-dose helical CT scanners are being used at several Worker Health Protection Program sites to detect early lung cancer.

CBNS Expands Cancer Program with $19.5 Million Grant

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Under the WHPP, more than 6,000 people have been screened for early detection of lung cancer.

Queens College’s principal speaker for its Eighty-Second Commencement on June 1 will be Roméo A. Dallaire, the former commander of UN forces whose pleas for assistance went unheeded by the world as Rwanda descended into genocidal hell in April 1994.

With inadequate manpower and at great personal risk, Dallaire nevertheless managed to save some 20,000 Tutsis from Hutu extremists. He wrote about these efforts in his book *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*. (In the movie *Hotel Rwanda*, Nick Nolte plays a character based in part on Dallaire.)

The college will bestow the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, upon Dallaire during the ceremony.

Also scheduled to appear on the dais are New York Senator Charles Schumer; Queens Borough President Helen Marshall ’72; Rita DiMartino, CUNY Board of Trustees; Jay Hershenson ’76, Vice Chancellor for University Relations and Secretary to the CUNY Board of Trustees. New York State Comptroller Alan Hevesi ’62 will offer “Congratulations from a Distinguished Alumnus” to the expected 3,975 undergraduate and graduate degree recipients, their families, and friends.

The Student Speaker will be Jay S. Leb, a political science major who will graduate *summa cum laude* (see profile page 2). President James Muyskens will preside and retiring Chief Librarian Sharon Bonk will be the Chief Marshal for the event, which will begin at 9 am on the quadrangle.

The Baccalaureate Honors Convocation will be held Tuesday, May 30 at 7 pm in Colden Auditorium.

Below we highlight three remarkable graduating students.

**LINDA G. MOGRABI**

Keeping Queens College in the Family

For Linda G. Mograbi, 48, who began her undergraduate studies in 1976, the joke (continued on page 2)
COMMENCEMENT [continued from page 1]

Around her house was always “The hiatus doesn’t matter as long as I finish college before my oldest son!”

Now both Mograbi and her 23-year-old son, Joseph, will be part of the class of ’06, following in the footsteps of two other QC graduates: Mograbi’s mother, who received her degree at age 50, and her younger brother, who graduated in the 1990s. Joseph, an aspiring doctor, recently took the MCATs. Mograbi’s middle son, Matthew, is currently a sophomore at the college. They and her husband will be in the audience at Commencement celebrating her achievement.

Among Mograbi’s cheering family will be someone who has his own success to no doubt shares with Sam. She hopes one day to graduate school, but first experiences with disability,” an honor that she received from the New York City House Educational Foundation will also be

Jay S. Leb, this year’s commencement speaker, called Conductive Education. Originating in Budapest, this little-known rehabilitation method integrates physical, cognitive, and emotional development in a social setting—unlike traditional therapies, which rely on individual specialists who focus on a single aspect of rehabilitation. Mograbi, a resident of Lawrence, was so impressed with this method that in 1994 she and another parent opened the nation’s first conductive education preschool for children with cerebral palsy, which successfully served these youngsters for five years.

Along with her BA and high honors in English, Mograbi will receive the Jeffrey B. Berman Award in recognition of her “high academic achievement while meeting the challenges imposed by experiences with disability,” an honor that she no doubt shares with Sam. She hopes one day to go to graduate school, but first wants to help others by writing about the many unconventional treatments that have helped her son, especially umbilical cord stem cell therapy.

“My dream is that Sammy too may one day be able to attend college,” she says.

JAY S. LEB

Doing Something for the World

Reflecting on his time at Queens College, Jay S. Leb, this year’s commencement speaker, highlighted “Next Generation GLOBE,” a response to funding changes from NSF and NASA. Ludman’s presentation offered QC’s development and funding strategies as exemplars of how a partnership can approach a complex task in a stepwise fashion. The QC GLOBE Partnership is the second most active in the nation (after GLOBE in Alabama) in terms of number of teachers and schools trained. Paying tribute to Women’s History Month, the Queens Historical Society hosted a lecture “Thimbles, Teapots, and Women’s Work: The New Domesticity in Early 19th-Century America.”

COMMENCEMENT [continued on page 7]

PEOPLE

BENNY KRAUT (Jewish Studies) was honored on May 24 with a tribute program and reception acknowledging his “years of inspired leadership” of the Center for Jewish Studies. Aylana Meisel, an alumna of the program; Arthur Anderman, chair of the Center’s advisory board; and THOMAS BIRD (European Languages) joined President JAMES MUYSKENS in honoring Kraut. The program also featured the Center’s final public lecture of the year, the Dr. Irving Taynor Memorial Lecture, which was given by ELISHEVA CARLEBACH (History) on the topic “Jewish Letters: Love & Longing, History & Literature.” . . . CLARE CARROLL (Comp Lit/Irish Studies) has won a research fellowship in Irish Studies for the coming fall at the National University of Ireland at Galway. The fellowship is granted by the Irish American Cultural Institute . . . On June 19 MICHAEL COGSWELL (Armstrong House) will receive from the Jazz Journalists Association an “A Team” award, which recognizes contributors to the jazz world who are not performers, composers, writers, etc. Phoebe Jacobs of the Armstrong House Educational Foundation will also be recognized . . . SIMA GERBER (Linguistics) received an award from the New York City Speech-Language-Hearing Association in December for outstanding service to this field. She also received an award last month from the New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association for outstanding clinical achievement; she will represent New York State for the Louis DiCarlo Award, a competitive national award for clinical achievement . . . LEO HERSHKOWITZ (History) received an honorary degree from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati on May 21 . . . ALLAN LUDMAN (SEES) recently attended the annual U.S. GLOBE Learning Community meeting in Anaheim. This year’s meeting highlighted “Next Generation GLOBE,” a response to funding changes from NSF and NASA. Ludman’s presentation offered QC’s development and funding strategies as exemplars of how a partnership can approach a complex task in a stepwise fashion. The QC GLOBE Partnership is the second most active in the nation (after GLOBE in Alabama) in terms of number of teachers and schools trained . . . Paying tribute to Women’s History Month, the Queens Historical Society hosted a lecture “Thimbles, Teapots, and Women’s Work: The New Domesticity in Early 19th-Century America.”

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Giving Back to QC

For 1948 alums Barbara and Michael Twomey, it was a match made at Queens College. Over 50 years later their love for each other and the college is still going strong. How else to explain their recent $100,000 gift, which will be used to create a student lounge in the Rosenthal Library where they first met? “We wanted to give something back,” said Michael at the recent Library Donor Reception held in their honor. “And even though I didn’t find the research book I needed, I found something better,” added Barbara.

The GLOBE NY Metro program directed by Allan Ludman (Earth and Environmental Sciences) has just been awarded close to $50,000 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to help expand environmentally based education. This is the largest grant ever given by the EPA in this region.

In accepting this funding, President James Muyskens said, “We are proud of our long partnership with the GLOBE program, and I am very gratified that the EPA values our ongoing work with science teachers. For Queens and Bronx students who think that their surroundings are just concrete and asphalt and isolated from nature, this grant will give them a broader knowledge of the urban environment and of science in general.”

In the past four years GLOBE NY Metro has trained over 900 teachers from more than 400 schools, environmental centers, and government agencies. The EPA’s award will help teachers carry out age-appropriate studies on the environment using the kinds of instruments that engage kids, such as Global Positioning System receivers. Students will have an opportunity to use their school neighborhoods and local parks as open-air research labs to monitor and record environmental conditions, and then share their observations with scientists and other students around the world via GLOBE’s Web site.

More Students to Benefit from Environmental Education

Receiving an honorable mention in last year’s prestigious Goldwater Scholarship program wasn’t good enough for junior Rachel Schnur. The biology major reapplied for 2006–2007—and became a winner.

The Hillcrest resident is in highly elite company. Faculty at the nation’s colleges and universities nominated 1,081 top undergraduates in math, science, and engineering for the scholarships, which provide up to $7,500 toward the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board. Only 323 students were given awards.

This isn’t the first academic honor for Schnur, a Queens Scholar as well as a Vallone Scholar. On campus she supplements her course load by conducting research for Timothy Short (Biology), who investigates the way plants respond to their environment. “Recently I’ve been sequencing a red-light receptor gene in ceratopteris, a kind of fern,” Schnur explains. Last summer she relocated to the Bronx to participate in a program at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Her long-term goal? To earn a PhD in molecular biology or genetics, and teach at the college level. “The genome project fascinates me,” she says. “I like the idea that it’s the basis of everything we see.”

Genetics may indeed have prompted Schnur’s interest in science—both her parents are chiropractors. She has known what she wanted to do since she conducted her first lab experiment in sixth grade. Her family also has an affinity for Queens College: her grandmother, mother, and uncle are all alumni. Schnur followed in their footsteps instead of going to Barnard. “It was an easy decision,” she says. “I felt like I fit in here.” Short agrees. “At the bench, she’s fantastic; academically, she’s fantastic.”

Schnur is no slouch athletically, either. Although she doesn’t play on any college team, she works part-time as a gym teacher at a local girls’ elementary school. She leads 10 classes, covering everything from tag games and basic throwing and kicking skills to team sports. But her next challenge will be more of a solo effort: When she can tear herself away from the lab this summer, she’ll be looking into grad schools and studying for the GREs.

Rachel is one of five QC students featured in a new ad currently on display in Queens buses (see story, p. 9).
QC Authors

John Weir and Robert Kapsis

A novel in which the central character teaches writing at Queens College?

Tom, the protagonist of JOHN WEIR’S (English) second novel, What I Did Wrong (Viking), is, like his creator, a gay man who teaches writing at QC. Weir’s first novel published 16 years ago, The Irreversible Decline of Eddie Socket, bore witness to the raging AIDS epidemic that was devastating so many of his contemporaries. Inspired, in part, by the AIDS death of one of his friends, his new book describes a contemporary scene in which AIDS may no longer be a crisis, but it has inalterably changed the landscape.

The literal landscape of Queens figures in the new book, as well, as Tom describes his horror and fascination with the borough and its diverse citizenry. “I’m . . . in the middle of the most ethnically diverse county in America,” he observes at one point, “and my students tell me I am the only homosexual they have ever met.”

Why so long between books? Weir recently told Newsday: “Teaching is supposed to be a good job for a writer, but I found out it’s a terrible job. I’m forever encouraging my students to revise and revise, and I started taking my own advice.”

In previous works, ROBERT KAPSIS (Sociology) has examined the careers of Alfred Hitchcock and Clint Eastwood, two film directors noted for their independence and prolific output. The subject of his newest book is perhaps the most prolific independent filmmaker of our time with “an unparalleled output of nearly one film every year for the past three-and-a-half decades.”

Woody Allen: Interviews (University Press of Mississippi), which Kapsis has co-edited with Kathie Coblentz, a special collections cataloger at the New York Public Library, uses the director’s own words as captured in interviews given over 25 years to provide a truly complete portrait of one of our most idiosyncratic auteurs.

New Library Honors Memory of Ralph Allen

Young is publisher emeritus of Applause Theatre Books, founder of the Working Arts Library, and former professor at Wesleyan and Columbia Universities. He has nominated a significant former CUNY theatre professor at each college in whose name its library is to be christened. In addition to the Allen Library, the Charles Gattnig Theatre Library at City College and the Albert Bermel Library at Lehman College will be established shortly. Young has also contributed extensively to the Marvin Seiger Theatre Library at Hunter College.

Describing the new collection, department chair Susan Einhorn says, “It’s mostly plays, anthologies of plays, autobiographies, biographies, historical texts and criticism, and design texts. It’s quite eclectic.” On the selection of the titles, she observes, “These are mostly Glenn’s choices. I just said: ‘Let’s pick things that Ralph would have enjoyed.’”

Einhorn says the department is currently in the process of organizing the collection and hopes to have it set up early next fall for browsing and borrowing.
New Clinic Offers Free Exams for Ground Zero Workers

Although it is almost five years since 9/11, we are continuing to learn how people involved in the cleanup and rescue efforts at Ground Zero are suffering from physical and emotional problems as a result of their exposure to the site, according to CBNS Director Steven Markowitz.

Through the efforts of CBNS and several hospitals, clinics, and healthcare centers in New York, these workers and volunteers are eligible to receive free medical monitoring exams for five years. The screenings began in mid-2002.

Recently, CBNS opened a free clinic at its headquarters at 163-03 Horace Harding Expressway with three physicians, a psychiatrist, and social worker available two days a week to diagnose people suffering from respiratory illness, skin disorders, gastrointestinal diseases, post-traumatic stress disorder, alcohol abuse, and domestic violence related to their 9/11 work. The comprehensive exam takes about three hours. “People who never reached out for help and are feeling the effects of 9/11 have the opportunity to receive the physical and psychological assessments that they need,” says Markowitz, whose work in this area was recently cited by WCBS-AM radio.

The new grant supplements the $20 million that CBNS had previously raised for occupational disease detection from 2000 to present.

FACULTY PROFILE

Alfredo Morabia, MD: From the Alps to the Highest Point in Flushing

Alfredo Morabia is on the trail of a few predators that threaten humanity. But he isn’t a detective. He’s a scientist concentrating in public health, and his quarry includes conditions like obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. His new base of operations is the college’s Center for the Biology of Natural Systems where he is professor of epidemiology. “Queens is such a diverse community,” says Morabia. “It’s an ideal place for an epidemiologist.”

Born and raised in polyglot, but some-what less diverse, Switzerland, Morabia earned an MD degree from the University Hospital of Geneva. After launching a career in occupational medicine, he became interested in reducing disease across entire populations, rather than in individuals. A few years later, armed with a PhD in epidemiology and an MHS in biostatistics from the School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, he returned to Geneva and threw himself into research based on the medical histories of local residents.

For the record, Americans aren’t the only ones getting heavier. “Obesity is rising in Switzerland, too,” he reports. Sad to say, one of his studies documented the limitations of walking as a calorie burner, although it’s a generally beneficial activity. Another paper showed that women who smoke have an increased risk of breast cancer.

In New York, Morabia says, he hopes to uncover community-wide solutions that will help everyone lead better lives—such as more extensive bike lanes for two-wheeled commuters, and improved exercise options at the workplace. A Manhattan resident, he takes the subway to the Flushing campus, spending the time reading. He practices what he preaches, keeping fit by eating carefully and swimming several times a week in the FitzGerald Gymnasium pool.

How would he correct the sedentary academic lifestyle? “We shouldn’t conduct meetings while sitting down, we should walk while we talk,” he says, noting that it takes an hour of moderately intense walking just to burn up the calories one consumes in a single can of soda.

CBNS (continued from page 1)

evidence of lung cancer—the most comprehensive lung cancer-screening program in the country. Now with a grant of $19.5 million from the DOE, one of the largest grants Queens College has ever received, these screening programs will be expanded to additional facilities throughout the U.S., including Brookhaven National Lab on Long Island. The Brookhaven facility is scheduled to begin operation this summer.

The funds will also be used to purchase a state-of-the-art, stationary, low-dose CT scanner to assist in early detection of tumors when they are small and surgically removable. At $500 per scan, it costs about $1.5 million to run this unit. The mobile CT scanners already in use at several WHPP medical centers have proven highly successful in early detection.

“For people who have worked with chemical or radioactive materials such as asbestos, beryllium, uranium, or plutonium, there is a greater risk of developing certain illnesses like lung cancer,” said Markowitz. “However, it takes a long time after exposure for these diseases to appear. So it’s a good idea for such workers to be evaluated by physicians trained to look for early signs of these diseases and prescribe implement treatment when it can be most effective. To date, the WHPP has successfully detected 44 lung cancers, with a majority in the early stages.”
Minority Students Will Survey Long Island Sound

Next month a group of QC students will embark on an exciting research project, spending a week living and working aboard a National Science Foundation vessel as it cruises the waters of western Long Island Sound, collecting information about the effects of human activity on that body of water.

The research is being funded primarily by a grant Cecilia McHugh (SEES) procured through the NSF’s Opportunities to Enhance Diversity in the Geosciences Program. Funding also comes from the Entergy Corporation and a MAGNET fellowship facilitated by the provost for diversity office at the Graduate Center.

“The goal of the program is to increase minority involvement in the geosciences,” says McHugh, who describes her diverse group of students as “nicely reflecting Queens College. We have one student who is Native American, one from the Caribbean, and a couple who are Latino.”

McHugh designed her proposal so that students could have a close mentoring experience while they learn how they can be in touch with their environment even if they live in an urban setting. She will consider the project a success if any of the undergraduate students decides to pursue further studies, an internship, or a career in the geosciences. “In the case of our PhD student,” says McHugh, “we hope to find her a substantial job in academia or industry, whichever she wants to do.”

The students will attempt to determine how clean Long Island Sound is, what lives in the water and on the bottom, and how it all works together. To do this, they will employ sonar technology to scan and chart the Sound’s bottom. They will also study currents and sedimentation patterns.

Noting the lack of available data on the area they will be surveying, McHugh says, “This will be an opportunity to do a unique survey that has never been done before while introducing minority students to this type of work.”

The weeklong field study is the second part of a three-part program that includes a four-credit SEES course, “Studies of Long Island Sound,” and a research program in which students will work with the project’s faculty members. McHugh will be joined by Marie-Helene Cormier, an adjunct researcher from the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia College and Paul Marchese, an assistant professor at Queensborough Community College, as principal investigators.

Three other SEES faculty will be participating: Yan Zheng, and Karen Kohfeld as co-principal investigators and Gillian Stewart as a collaborative investigator.

The Track One NSF grant provides $100,000 plus use of the research vessel ($25,000 per day). If the program is successful, McHugh says she will apply for a $1 million Track Two grant.

Additional information about the project can be found at www.explore-the-sound.org.

Dean for Calandra Italian American Institute Appointed

Following a national search, Anthony Julian Tamburri has been selected as the new dean of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, effective August 15. A prominent scholar of Italian and Italian American studies and a prolific author, Tamburri is professor of Italian and comparative studies as well as associate dean for research, graduate, and interdisciplinary programs at Florida Atlantic University.

“I am delighted that our search has produced an individual who possesses the outstanding scholarly and administrative experience required for this important position,” says President James Muyskens. He and CUNY Trustee John J. Calandra, son of the late state senator for whom the institute was named, co-chaired the search committee.

“The Calandra Institute is one of a kind,” observes Tamburri. “It has played a significant role for Italian Americans in general and in the intellectual world as, among other things, a type of think tank. We are now at the next intellectual stage of affairs for Italian Americana. I am flattered and honored to be given this challenge and opportunity as the institute’s dean.”

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COMMENCEMENT [continued from page 2] student speaker, says he was particularly impressed by his teachers who went out of their way to help others. He mentions as an example Judith Kimerling (Political Science), who worked in the Amazon rainforest helping native peoples protect their lands from destruction by oil companies. “Seven years of her life she spent living without all the comforts and things we take for granted while helping these people,” he says in admiration.

Leb, who will graduate with a 4.0 GPA, hopes to draw from the example of Kimerling and other professors for the theme of his commencement address. He wants his fellow students to know that, besides providing a great education, “Queens College has inculcated in us this concern for others.” Paraphrasing John F. Kennedy in today’s era of globalization, he will offer a challenge: “Don’t ask what the world can do for you; ask what you can do for the world.”

Leb plans to do his part for the world by going into medicine. He points out that since the advent of managed care, being a doctor no longer assures one of a comfortable living. “So if you don’t want to help people, you’re going into the wrong field,” he says.

Leb completed his degree in a remarkable three-and-a-half years, attending QC entirely at night and during the summer months. An orthodox Jew, he pursued rabbinical studies during the day at the Yeshiva of Far Rockaway, where he has spent seven years. To manage this, Leb left behind his parents and five siblings in Brooklyn and moved in with his grandparents in Far Rockaway.

Despite such a serious commitment to his faith, Leb has no plans to become a rabbi. “I just wanted to study my roots,” he says, “I didn’t want to practice my religion blindly without knowing exactly what I’m doing.”

Recently, Leb made another serious commitment when he became engaged on March 21 to Esther Brecher. The couple plan to be married on June 19.

A political science major, Leb completed his first year of study at Brooklyn College. His interest in this field, he says, was sparked by a family friend who is a judge in Brooklyn Supreme Court.

Nonetheless, he intends to pursue medicine like his father, who has a practice in Brooklyn where his mother also works. He hopes to go to NYU Medical School, where one summer he was able to spend part of each day following a surgeon through his rounds. “I know, for sure,” he laughs, “I don’t want to do surgery.”

JANET A. PETRONELLA
No Respector of Obstacles
Janet A. Petronella has been pursuing her degree for 23 years, longer than most of her fellow graduates have been alive. The 41-year-old Fresh Meadows woman has experienced setbacks that would cause others to give up. But, Petronella says, “Queens College was this dragon that I had to conquer.”

It didn’t appear to be a dragon when she first entered in fall 1983. But by spring, economic hardship forced her to withdraw. She became a hairstylist. “I enjoyed the work because I’m a people person,” she says. “But it was unsatisfying on an intellectual level.”

Thirteen years passed, during which time she married and had a child. “I re-entered Queens College in the fall of 1996 as an ACE student. I was raising a family and working, but I did not let that stop me.”

However, she had to stop when her second son was born two months premature: “He came in May, the day of my Art History final.” Health issues related to the birth forced Petronella to again withdraw. But not for long.

“In the fall of 1998 I returned to Queens,” she says. “I started to feel more confident, taking two classes a semester.” During this time she was also dealing with problems related to her son’s premature birth, including language and motor delay issues. Impressed by the speech pathologists and other professionals helping her son, Petronella decided to major in Linguistics and Communication Disorders.

“So I’m going full steam ahead, with a great GPA,” relates Petronella. Indeed, she was doing so well that in 2002 she became a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society. “Then I go to the doctor in the summer of 2002 for my regular exam. And my doctor felt a lump.”

This led to a year of radiation therapy, high-dose chemotherapy, and surgery. “School went out the window. I never thought I would go back.”

[continued on page 10]
Students to Attend Summer Institute in Greece

Three neuropsychology students from the CUNY Graduate Center will participate in the Vivian Smith Advanced Studies Institute of the International Neuropsychological Society. The institute’s program will take place June 19 to July 14 in Xylocastro, Greece, on the north coast of Peloponés. The theme is “Neuropsychology Across the Lifespan.”

“That three of our students have been selected is a remarkable plus for our program,” says Nancy Foldi (Psychology), pointing out that this is the first time CUNY students have been chosen. Foldi was program chair of the society in 2001.

The students—Judy Barry, Stephanie Assuras, and Jamee Nicoletti—are in the doctoral sub-program of neuropsychology, which is based at Queens College. Joan Borod (Psychology) is research advisor for Barry and Assuras, who work in her lab on research related to the neuropsychology of emotion and Parkinson’s disease. “They’re very dedicated and serious about their work. They’re very excited about the institute. I’m so happy that they’ve been given this opportunity to learn from and be educated by some of the experts in our field,” says Borod.

Barry, who has an interest in the neuropsychology of aging, has also been doing a clinical externship and research related to dementia in geriatrics with Foldi at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola.

The third student, Nicoletti, has been working in Susan Croll’s (Psychology) lab since summer 2002 on research concerning treatments for epilepsy. “She’s made a great deal of progress; she does just wonderful work,” says Croll, who asked Nicoletti to assist with the literature review and organization of a review article that appeared in 2005.

Q Gala Will Honor Colonna and Mitarotonda

On June 1 at the Marriott Marquis in Manhattan, the college will hold its seventeenth annual Q Award Gala. Created in 1990 as a means of honoring those individuals whose lives serve as models for our students, this year the college will honor two graduates: Jerry Colonna ’85 (BA English) and James A. Mitarotonda ’77 (BA Economics).

“Jerry Colonna and Jim Mitarotonda are superb exemplars of Queens College’s motto, Discimus ut Serviamus: We learn so that we may serve,” notes President James Muyskens, who will serve as co-chair at the Gala. “Jerry and Jim are both extraordinarily successful men of business who selflessly give their time and expertise to a number of worthy causes.” Funds raised by the Q Gala support scholarships and the academic, technological, and research initiatives that are not funded by state money.

A writer, investor, and consultant, Jerry Colonna is a recognized expert in organizational development and entrepreneurship. In 1995 he became a founding partner of CMG@Ventures L.P., the first “Internet-specific” venture firm. A year later he helped to launch Flatiron, an early-stage investment program that has returned to date more than $1.8 billion on a $500 million investment.

Recently Colonna became an adjunct professor at the college, where he developed a seminar on leadership for the Bachelor of Business Administration program. The recipient of numerous awards, he has been named to Upside Magazine’s list of the 100 Most Influential People of the New Economy, Forbes ASAP’s list of the country’s best venture capitalists, and Worth’s list of the 25 most generous young Americans.

James A. Mitarotonda is chairman, president, and CEO of Barington Capital Group, L.P. In 1991 Mitarotonda co-founded Barington, which in the late 1990s began to invest in undervalued companies. These extremely successful investments led to the launch of the Barington Companies Equity Partners Fund in 2000. (Barington is named for Bari, Italy, Mitarotonda’s birthplace.)

An active philanthropist in the New York metropolitan area, Mitarotonda is a board member of the Friends of Green Chimneys, a nonprofit organization that provides services to children with emotional, behavioral, and learning challenges.

Campus Perimeter Boasts New Fence

No doubt you’ve noticed the attractive new fence that has been constructed along Kissena Blvd. When completed, the fence will be bracketed by two nine-foot tall pylons at the corners near Horace Harding Expressway and Melbourne Ave. displaying the QC name and logo. The pylon at Melbourne will also announce the nearby Student Union. The work is part of beautification efforts that also include the construction of the new alumni plaza in front of Jefferson Hall.
QC Students Speak to Queens Bus Riders
Bus riders in Queens and Nassau are being greeted by an attractive group of QC students smiling from our latest ad for bus interiors. Headshots of the five honors students reflect our diverse population, each accompanied by a quote describing his or her QC experience. The message below them, “Queens College is Queens,” is echoed on the ads on the outside rear of the bus (below).

And New Banners Speak to Our Neighbors
Colorful new banners (right) appearing on lamp posts along Kissena Boulevard, Melbourne Avenue and Reeves Avenue also repeat the ad campaign theme and expand the college’s presence beyond its gates.

“Because of the repeating visual and ‘Queens College is Queens’ copy, the banners and ads work synergistically,” says Maria Terrone, Assistant Vice President for Communications. “This provides greater impact than if the pieces had been created separately. The campaign is meant to communicate the vitality and diversity of our college to neighbors, prospective students, and other residents of this equally vital and diverse borough.”
ANDY BEVERIDGE’s (Sociology) April 6 column for GothamGazette.com addressed the immigrant population in New York City and its relevance to the current debate on immigration reform . . . The April 27 edition of the Times Ledger devoted to the diverse cultures of Queens offered stories featuring quotes from MADHULIKA KHANDELWAL (Asian/American Center), FRANÇOIS-PIERRE LOUIS (Political Science), and PYONG GAP MIN (Sociology) . . . ANDREW HACKER (Political Science) offered insights as to why New York City’s African American population is declining for an April 3 story in the New York Times . . . SAMUEL HEILMAN (Sociology) was in New York Times stories of April 5 and April 25 concerning the death of Rabbi Moses Teitelbaum of the Satmar Hasidim . . . A March 23 Times Ledger feature about the long-running Chamber Music Live series at LeFrak Concert Hall quoted JONATHAN IRVING (Music) . . . STEVEN MARKOWITZ (CBSN) was cited in a Feb. 14 report on News-Medical.net as a co-author of a recent study on lung cancer incidence . . . The May 4 edition of the Times Ledger featured a story about JAMES MOORE’S (Anthropology) presentation at the Queens Historical Society concerning domesticity and women in early 19th-century Flushing . . . A story about the CUNY Honors College appearing April 12 in the New York Sun was accompanied by a photo of President JAMES MUYSKENS, Provost EVANGELOS GIZIS, and Lehman College President Ricardo Fernandez . . . ELIZABETH O’CONNELL (Career Development) was quoted in a May 4 Daily News story about job prospects for this year’s graduates . . . On April 20 the Queens Courier featured a profile of MARK ROSENBLOOM (Harrington Center) in connection with his having been named the new director of Jewish Studies . . . The recent presentation at the Goldstein Theatre of the opera Orpheus Descending, featuring music composed by BRUCE SAYLOR (Music), won praise in reviews appearing March 24 in the Daily News, March 25 in the New York Times, and March 30 in the Queens Tribune . . . A March 17 story in the New York Times about renewed interest in spoken-word events (lectures, debates, readings, etc.) quoted DONALD SCOTT (History) . . . JOYCE WARREN (English) was quoted in a March 30 story in New York Teacher about a conference the Professional Staff Congress Women’s Committee—which she chairs—held at QC in February on women and the war in Iraq . . . The selection of QC student Rachel Schnur to receive a Goldwater Scholarship was noted March 30 in the Daily News, the New York Post, and the New York Sun . . . Stories about QC’s major fundraising campaign appeared in the March 31 and April 6 Times Ledger and the April 6 Queens Tribune . . . The current exhibit at the QC Art Center, Light Listened, drew notices March 31 in the Queens Chronicle, April 5 in the Queens Gazette, April 10 in the Queens Courier, April 20 in the New York Sun, and May 4 in the Queens Chronicle . . . QC’s new undergraduate curriculum was the subject of a story April 27 in the Queens Courier . . . The current exhibit at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, The Fabric of Cultures, was noted May 2 in the New York Sun and the subject of a May 5 review in Newsday . . . The appointment of ANTHONY JULIAN TAMBURRI as the new head of the Calandra Institute was reported May 4 by the Queens Courier.

Schutzman Center Opens for Business

The financial support and assistance of entrepreneur Len Schutzman ’67, former Senior Vice President and Treasurer of PepsiCo, have led to the establishment of the Schutzman Center for Entrepreneurship, which will assist budding student entrepreneurs. The new center—which makes its official campus debut in the fall—held a roundtable for students on April 7 at Powdermaker Hall where presentations were offered by two QC alums who have gone on to successful careers as entrepreneurs. Queens Borough President Helen Marshall ’72 saluted the announcement of the new center, observing: “Sharing information and ideas in a collaborative manner that generates creativity, vision and new solutions for a new world—the Schutzman Center for Entrepreneurship is the latest jewel in the crown of Queens College.”

COMMENCEMENT (continued from page 7)

But, by the fall of 2004, “I felt ready to move forward. Even though cancer came into my life, I still had hope that I could finish college.”

She returned and began to minor in psychology, and was honored in 2005 with induction into the Psi Chi National Honor Society in Psychology. That same year she was also inducted into Alpha Sigma Lambda.

Petronella, who will graduate cum laude, now has another dragon to slay: “I’m going to graduate school—at Queens, of course, I would never go anywhere else.” Her plans include a degree in the Master of Arts and Teaching program in the Division of Education.

And how will she feel on Commencement Day? “I will be floating above the crowd with joy and a retrospect that only a life of experience combined with higher education can bring.”