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“Queens College gave me the flexibility to pursue a variety of interests, while challenging me and allowing me to thrive. I owe my success to the many friends I have made at QC, to its staff and faculty, and—most importantly—to the many mentors I have made along the way here. It is for all of these reasons that I have decided to give back to Queens College.” – ELIYAHU PERL ’15

“The teachers and staff at Queens have guided me through this wonderful journey and I feel forever grateful. It was an easy decision to give back and it’s the best way I can say thank you from the bottom of my heart!” – RISA RUBIN ’15

“Queens College is a five-star academic institution which is providing me an excellent education to achieve my career goal and learn to serve the community. I can never return their contribution, but this is one way to say thank you.” – GUL JANAT ’15

8 Notable Grads

Ebrahim Afshinnekoo and other members of the class of 2015 are eagerly moving on to the next part of their journeys.

A Memorable Project

Alan Stark ’72 catches the essence of the neighborhood across the street from the college in Pomonok Dreams.

A Wonderful Day for a Festival

Ms. Lauryn Hill and other musicians make the second annual Armstrong festival a hit.

Legendary Painter

A doctor and artist, Mark Podwal ’67 makes art out of Jewish history and folk lore.

Success by the Book

Writers Scott Cheshire ’07 and Natalie Hornett ’93 win praise and awards for their debut novels.

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QUEENS
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Cover: The Class of 2019 received a colorful welcome when they arrived on campus in late August. Photo: Matthew Septimus

We welcome your letters: qmag@qc.cuny.edu
Four Cast for Fall: Administration Appoints New Provost, Vice President for Enrollment, and Two Academic Deans

One familiar face and three who are entirely new to the campus were recently named to important positions at Queens College.

Elizabeth Hendrey (Economics) was able to remove the word “acting” from her title as, following a search that attracted over 100 applicants, she was selected to become Queens College’s provost and vice president for academic affairs.

“It is very rewarding that, after a nationwide search, we were able to find such an extremely qualified person already on our campus,” notes President Félix V. Matos Rodríguez.

Hendrey has been a part of the campus for over 25 years, in which time she has held several key positions. Before taking on the duties of acting provost, she served as chief operating officer and VP for strategic planning and enrollment management. Previously, she oversaw 10 academic departments as dean of social sciences. Before that, as chair of the economics department, she helped to design and gain approval for the bachelor’s degree in business administration.

As part of an enhanced focus on the recruitment and retention of students, President Matos Rodríguez announced in July that CUNY’s long-time university director of admissions, Richard P. Alvarez, had joined the administration as QC’s first vice president of enrollment and retention. Alvarez began a lifelong career devoted to recruitment and advising in 1985 as an admissions counselor at Montclair State College (now University). He subsequently moved on to Pace University, where he served as part of its enrollment management team—including as director of admissions, NYC campus—for 14 years, before embarking on his 15-year tenure at CUNY’s Central Office. His experience at CUNY, where he worked closely with the enrollment teams at all of the university’s campuses, finds him uniquely qualified to address the challenges at Queens. Alvarez also brings the perspective acquired as a product of the CUNY system, having earned a BA in communications from Hunter College and an MSEd in higher education administration from Baruch College.

National search has yielded two new academic deans for the college. Michael Wolfe is QC’s new dean of social sciences. He comes from nearby St. John’s University, where he has been a professor of history and associate dean of the graduate division of arts and sciences since 2007. A specialist in European history—especially French history—he holds a doctorate in history from Johns Hopkins University. Before joining St. John’s, he spent 18 years at Penn State University—Altoona, where he served as chair of the history department and dean of the division of arts and humanities.

Martin Klotz has been selected to be the college’s dean of mathematics and natural sciences. He holds a master’s degree in biophysics and earned his doctorate in biology from the Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (Germany). His graduate and postdoctoral training in biology (Germany, Hungary, Sweden, USA) ranges from membrane biology to bacterial genetics to plant-microbe interactions. Klotz has held faculty positions at the University of Colorado–Denver and the University of Louisville, and recently served as chair of the biology department at the University of North Carolina–Charlotte, where he directed the evolutionary and genomic microbiology laboratory.

Landmark Occasion

Manhattan’s elegant Gotham Hall was the place to be on the evening of May 5, when QC held its 25th Annual Gala. Alumni and friends of the college turned out to honor a trio of accomplished graduates: Carol J. Hochman ’71, President of RHH Capital & Consulting, which works with businesses in the retail, apparel, and licensing fields; Dinia Perry ’67, Senior VP, Capital Research & Management Co.; and Mark E. Rose ’85, Chairman and CEO of Avanos Young (Canada) Inc., a full-service commercial real estate company. Juliet Papa ’78, WINS 1010 Radio reporter, served as host and emcee. The Gala menu included performances by students from the Aaron Copland School of Music and an auction of pieces by students in the Art Department. The evening raised $1 million for scholarships—definitely something to celebrate.
Fulbright Futures Granted to Exceptional Number of Graduates

When a college has more than one student who receives the highly competitive Fulbright grant to study, conduct research, or teach abroad, that achievement is reason to be proud. But this year Queens College boasts seven graduating students who have been awarded grants for 2015–16 from the U.S. government’s flagship international educational exchange program. (In all, the City University University of Queens, also known as CUNY, has received 15 Fulbrights.) In the “Master’s Institutions” category in which Queens College is judged, only two other American colleges received more than seven grants.

“We are very proud that our students are being recognized so frequently by the Fulbright Program,” notes President Felix V. Matos Rodríguez. “These honors speak highly of both the quality of the students that Queens College attracts and the skill and dedication of the faculty members who teach here.”

This year’s exceptional showing for the college follows an earlier honor: last February, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, which administers the program, named QC as one of the American colleges and universities that produced the most 2014–2015 Fulbright students.

Two of the newest Fulbright recipients will be spending a year in Brazil, two will go to Taiwan, and the others will be in Sweden, directly with the authors.

Didier Vanderperrder, Turpan Bazar, Xinjiang, China, 2014

Focusing on the Silk Roads

Since 2010, QC’s “Year of” series has highlighted the arts, history, and culture of a single country—China, Turkey, India, Brazil, and South Africa. For 2015–16, the campus is pursuing a different route: It’s the Year of Silk Roads. Dating perhaps to 100 BCE and linking Asia to Europe, this trade network encouraged the exchange of ideas as well as material goods, making the Silk Roads an apt metaphor for global education. Among this year’s programs is an exhibition at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum of photography by Lynn Gilbert, who recorded interiors in Turkey and Uzbekistan, and Didier Vanderperrder, who captured street scenes in Xinjiang, China. The show runs from October 15 through December 15.

Poetic License

Graduates are winning recognition in multiple forms of literature (see page 23). In June, two-time Pushcart Prize nominee Maria Lisella ’07, acclaimed author of the collection Thieves in the Family and two chapbooks, was appointed Poet Laureate of Queens. “When I got this title, I was thrilled,” says Lisella, the first Italian-American woman to be so honored. “I found myself among some pretty serious poets.”

Thirty people applied for the unpaid, three-year position, inaugurat ed in 1997, and awarded to QC Professor Emeritus of English Stephen Stupanchek. Lisella was chosen not only for her writing, but also for her proposals for promoting the efforts of borough poets. Her ideas include staging a book fair, with readings at the Unisphere in Flushing Meadows Corona Park; collaborating with local libraries; and possibly creating a website that presents work from poets in five of their native languages, accompanied by English versions with an auditory component.

Lisella is uniquely equipped to represent her home borough. “I was 18 when I moved to Queens, a neighborhood of immigrants. ‘When I got this title,’ she says, “I felt I had something to contribute to the literary community.” Lisella’s life in Queens was complex and challenging. Her mother was a single, middle-aged woman who grew up in Italy and moved to New York City to work at the garment center. Lisella learned conversational skills in Calabrese by talking with her grandmother and mother, attended the occasional Baptist service with her African American neighbors, and studied dance seriously enough to audition unsuccessfully—for the American Ballet Theatre’s training program.

Inspired by the lyrics of rock songs, she had begun writing poetry in her teens. But higher education was an afterthought. “My brother’s future wife, ‘You’re pretty smart, you should go to college,’ ” recalls Lisella, who took the SATs on short notice, matriculated at Queensborough Community College, and loved it. Two years later, she came to QC. An English major, she spent a summer in Italy through Study Abroad, learning the language her family didn’t speak. “I dabbled a lot, which people don’t do today,” she continues. “I took something, didn’t do well, and took something else. QC was great and I had great teachers.” Indeed, Stupanchek, award-winning poet Marie Ponsot, Susan Fox, and theatre producer Annette Nisimow were among her professors.

Subsequently, Lisella earned a master’s in Specialized Journalism from NYU Polytechnic Institute and studied social work at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. This training has made her an unusual professional hyphenate: poet-travel journalist. As a writer for a trade magazine, she has traveled to nearly 60 countries in 30 years, developing deeper appreciation for her ethnicity and that of others. “Understanding my own background has made me listen more closely and empathetically to other people’s stories,” Lisella concludes.

Transcontinental Gift

In an inspiring collaboration, Rikki Asher (Secondary Education) and the college’s UNICEF Club enabled Abetemin, in the Ashanti region of Ghana, to construct its first junior high school (see page 23). In June, two-time Pushcart Prize winner and two-time Pushcart Prize winner were put toward the Ghana school.

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Ebrahim Afshinneko

“If someone touches a subway pole, what are they touching? I wanted to find out,” says Ebrahim Afshinneko. In summer 2013, the Macaulay Honors College pre-med student began to assist with a study based at Weill Cornell Medical School: taking DNA swabs in New York’s 468 subway stations to produce a baseline pathogen map. The PathoMap study, published in Cell Systems, found 637 known bacterial, viral, fungal, and animal species—most of them harmless. But half of the DNA couldn’t be matched to any known organism.

In February, Afshinneko represented PathoMap in Barcelona in discussions about expanding the project to 16 cities around the world. One of the very few undergraduates invited to attend a conference of global aquatic scientists, he co-presented research on the impact of dust on the fecal pellets of copepods, the oceans’ most abundant organisms. His mentor, Gillian Stewart (Earth & Environmental Sciences), “helped mold me into the researcher I am today, she always pushed me to challenge myself,” he says.

Last spring, Afshinneko received a Jonas E. Salk Award. These scholarships honor the eight CUNY graduates most likely to make an impact on medicine and research. While he is earning his MD at New York Medical College, he says, “I want to use some of the funds to help keep my research going. My number-one research interest is to take this PathoMap project and sequencing technology and apply it to the clinical realm. “I really believe that the practice of medicine is the practice of altruism,” affirms Afshinneko, whose parents emigrated from Iran. He is inspired by an uncle there, an internist who runs a nonprofit clinic. “The motto of Queens College is that ‘We learn so that we may serve,’ he adds. “It’s a motto I would want to live by.”

Melaina Badalian

“Music does nothing but good for people; nothing bad can ever come from music,” is the mantra of Melaina Badalian. It mellowed out long Mondays that were as tightly coiled as her French horn: a three-hour Queens College Orchestra rehearsal, horn ensemble, then Brass Rep and its solos. Somewhere, she fitted in a two-hour daily practice. “It’s not 101 practice, but when I practice,” notes the Queens College Scholar and music performance major, “music can speak to everybody.”

All that effort landed her at Avery Fisher Hall for the inaugural concert of the World Peace Orchestra in September 2013. “Just to be sitting on that stage was amazing,” she beams. On a mix of classical and ethnic instruments, 134 young musicians from 50 countries performed for “the unity of humanity.”

Raised in Sherrham, Long Island, Badalian has played the French horn since fourth grade. As a freshman in the Aaron Copland School of Music, she recalls, “I thought I knew music pretty well, but now I have a much better understanding of music, as a whole.” This fall she began the master of music program at Stony Brook University. “I really want to play music and share my love for music with the world,” she adds. “No matter who you are or where you come from, music can speak to everybody.”

Carlsky Belizaire

At QC, Carlsky Belizaire took part in month-long study abroad programs in both China and Japan. Now, as one of seven QC graduates to win Fulbright English teaching assistantships in 2015, he is spending a year in Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Ironically, Belizaire matriculated at QC in part to reduce his travel time to and from Valley Stream, Long Island. “When I was accepted into the Macaulay Honors College, I chose QC because it was closest to home, and had a nice campus,” he says. He majored in political science and minored in both BALA and history.

Involving himself in the Center for Ethnic, Racial & Religious Understanding, Belizaire became a dialogue fellow and added his perspective as the American-born son of Haitian immigrants. “CERRU brings a diversity of groups into a room to conduct difficult conversations,” he says. “I like hearing different viewpoints, being able to practice facilitation, and maybe find solutions.”

Committed to social justice, Belizaire interned in the vehicular crimes unit of the Brooklyn district attorney’s office and spent a summer in Washington, D.C., through the Edward T. Bogovsky Program in Government and Public Affairs. This year, as a member of the CUNY Service Corps, he interned with the Urban Justice Center; his assignments ranged from assembling data for grant applications to documenting repairs needed in public housing.

Belizaire expects to apply to graduate school or law school. “I’m very interested in international relations and public policy,” he says. He hopes to figure out his next step while he’s in Taiwan.

Joseph Giunta

At 6-foot-1, with a mustache, beard, and shoulder-length hair, Joseph Giunta is hard to miss. He stands out academically, too. A double major in film studies and media studies, he won a scholarship to NYU’s master’s program in cinema studies.

Giunta credits his QC professors, Julian Cornell (Media Studies) in particular, with helping him recognize his talents for analysis and writing. “I’d taken an intro media studies class and liked it,” recalls Giunta. “Then I took more. I became interested in what films mean and how they function in society. Finally, Prof. Cornell, who taught many of my classes, asked, ‘What are you going to do with all of this?’ and encouraged me to apply to NYU.”

Surprisingly, Giunta had no preference for film studies—or any other discipline—when he matriculated at QC. He chose the college for practical reasons. “I didn’t know what I wanted, except to get a good education that wasn’t super-expensive, so I could save up for graduate school,” he explains.

The second oldest of four children in a middle-class, Middle Village household, Giunta has been anticipating those expenses for nearly a decade. He started working when he was in junior high school. As an upperclassman at QC, he scheduled courses on only two or three days so he could put in 40 hours a week at Stop & Shop, a self-storage company. His earnings went toward costs not covered by his half-scholarship from the Queens College Foundation.

After Commencement, Giunta traveled for a few weeks, enjoying his first summer off since his sophomore year in high school. By mid-July, he was back in Queens, looking for—what else?—a part-time job.

Carlsky Belizaire (above left) was placed in Taiwan as a Fulbright English teaching assistant; Joseph Giunta (above) received a scholarship to NYU’s master’s program in cinema studies.
In Nollywood Stars: Media and Migration in West Africa and the Islands, Kapse and her co-editors have received the 2015 Best Edited Book Collection Award from the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, in recognition of a number of scholars in a single volume. Kapse provides a full chronology of Martin's work along with an engaging collection of interviews in which Martin reflects on his screenplays, essays, novels, memoirs, art criticism, and songs. Kapsis looks at the artist's achievements as a writer, including comedy, plays, screenplays, essays, novels, memoirs, art criticism, and songs. Kapsis provides a full chronology of Martin's work along with an engaging collection of interviews in which Martin reflects on his personal background, artistic experiences, influences, and the back story to particular works.

Blind Tom Wiggins (1849–1908), a musical prodigy and perhaps an autistic savant as well, Blind Tom lived in the public eye most of his life, beginning his career as a performer while still an enslaved child (including a concert for President James Buchanan). The novel, however, opens in 1866, when the emancipated Blind Tom was subjected to new and continued forms of exploitation as the ward of his former owners, becoming a world-famous pianist and composer. A story this big and fantastic requires a large canvas, and Allen devoted about ten years to the novel. In it he brings to life Blind Tom and the hucksters, admirers, detractors, and former slave owners around him, in the process exploring such questions as genius and identity.

QUEENS COLLEGE CHORAL SOCIETY’S WINTER CONCERT

J.S. Bach, Magnificat

Vivaldi, Gloria

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12TH, 2015 AT 8PM

Colleen Auditorium

Tickets: $20

ALONG THE SILK ROADS

LYNNE GILBERT: Photographs of Turkey and Uzbekistan

DIDIER VANDERPERRE: Photographs of Xian and Lijiang

ON VIEW FROM OCTOBER 15, 2015 TO DECEMBER 15, 2015

Opening Reception: October 15, 2015 at 6:00 PM with lecture by Morris Rossabi, Distinguished Professor of History

Free Admission.
Commemorating a Family and Their Greek Heritage

“Greeks are those who partake in our culture.” This ancient dictum, which guides Queens College’s Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, was also the spirit behind Constantine Brown’s transformative gift of $1 million to the center upon his passing in October 2014. The funds will establish the Olga and Constantine Brown Endowed Professor and Director of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies; they also will support the study of Byzantine and Greek culture and history and their influence on civilizations worldwide. The gift was made in loving memory of Constantine’s wife, Olga, and daughter, Themis, who both graduated from Queens College, which serves more students of Greek ancestry than any other American university.

Constantine Brown endured a harsh childhood. During the persecution of the Greek community in Constantinople in the 1920s, his mother escaped to Greece and eventually to New York City with her two children. His father disappeared, and twelve-year-old Constantine worked any job he could to help support his sister and mother. This sense of responsibility for others that he felt all his life.

While still a teenager, Constantine enlisted in the New York State Guard and, during World War II, he joined the Air Force Cadet Program to become a flight engineer on B-24 bombers. The CIA also took advantage of his fluency in Greek. When the war ended, Constantine completed high school and earned a BA from Columbia University while working full-time for the NYC Housing Authority Police.

Olga Bondas Brown was the youngest daughter of immigrants who came to the United States from small villages in rural Greece. She attended QC and loved her professors, classmates, and the ambience of the college. She graduated magna cum laude in 1949 and, with the help of her professors, received a full scholarship to Western Reserve University’s School of Social Work, where she earned her master’s degree. Olga worked at various Cleveland family social work agencies before joining Columbia University as a professor in their School of Social Work. In 1963, thanks to a Fulbright award, she spent two years at Pierce College in Athens, introducing the concept of family counseling and social work to Greece. Upon her return from Greece in 1965, Olga met Constantine, then a Columbia University graduate student and a captain in the NYFD. They married, and in 1970, Themis Anastasia was born. When Themis reached college age, Queens College was a natural choice. She studied European and art history, and was a member of the History Honor Society. When she graduated in 1992, the family celebrated with a trip to Greece.

Themis’s sudden death while traveling threw a shadow over her parents’ lives. To honor her, Olga and Constantine inaugurated the Themis Anastasia Brown Endowment Fund at the Morgan Library and Museum in 1994. Constantine also planned to honor Themis and Olga, who died in 2008, by contributing to the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies.

According to Director Christos P. Ioannides, “The center, founded by Professor Harry J. Psomiades in 1974, has been dedicated to the study of the Greek experience from Byzantine times to the present. Constantine Brown’s gift will solidify the center’s program, both in terms of teaching and research regarding the diachronic study of Hellenism. This had been Constantine’s dream: his generous gift will enhance the center’s leadership position in the field of Greek studies in America. For all this, we are most grateful to Constantine and his family.”

David D’Amato, executive director of development at QC, notes that “Costa was a man of integrity who always cared for others. This was evident in both his professional and personal life. He was a giving mentor, and those who knew him admired his strength, wisdom, and the kind and loving way in which he approached life.”

Long-terms QC Foundation member Barry Bryer ’69 isn’t the type to sit idle. An attorney who focused on public company mergers and acquisitions and held partnerships in two celebrated law firms, he retired from office in 2005 and promptly moved up from vice chairman of the foundation to chairman. Because of all he learned here, he is eager to serve. “QC awakened my intellectual appetite,” says Bryer. A political science major, he took classes with professors such as Mary Dillon, Lou Fischer, and Harry Psomiades, and volunteered on the presidential campaigns of his idol, Bobby Kennedy. Barry also opted for a lot of economics courses, foreshadowing his future specialty.

Determined to become a lawyer, just like Kennedy, Bryer nonetheless found the time to enjoy a full campus life. He still takes pride in the skit his fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi, entered in one year’s Pollie competition. “Eddie Simon and his brother Paul, who graduated the year before mine, did the music; Mark Podwal (see page 21) did the scenery,” Bryer recalls.

Bryer continued his education at the University of Virginia School of Law, where he learned the art of advocacy, and then began working for Chadbourne & Parke. He handles energy issues, such as projects involving wind and solar farms. His specialty was serendipitous. “Somebody started the practice and I fell into it,” he says.

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Changes at the QC Foundation: A New Chair, a New Vice Chair, and a New Member

BARRY BRYER ’69

“QC was fundamental to my development as a person and a lawyer,” concludes Bryer. “I’m happy to do whatever I can to further the goals of the school.”

FREDA JOHNSON ’68

“When Freda Johnson ’68 was graduating from QC with a degree in political science, women were rare in the financial sector. But that didn’t stop QC’s placement office from sending her to an interview at Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). There was an opening in the municipal ratings department,” says Johnson, who had been reluctant to follow her aunt into retail. “Dun & Bradstreet was offering me $5000 a year more than retail. That was a lot of money then. I took the job and loved it.”

In 1979, after the death of one of the men who had hired Johnson, she was offered his position: running the public finance department of Moody’s (which D&B had acquired nine years earlier). “It was unprepared, but I said yes,” she reports. “I became the only woman among 35 men on the D&B senior management team.”

In 1987, Johnson had dinner with a former D&B colleague who had started his own public finance advisory firm. Two years and a marriage later, she left Moody’s to join her husband at his firm, Government Finance Associates Inc., operating it for 22 more years with limited vacations. “I took what I knew from the ratings side to advise municipalities—including the states of Louisiana and Vermont—on how to get better rates and improve their market access,” says Johnson.

The couple closed up shop in 2011, made a clean break by taking a four-month trip around the world, and embarked on the next chapter of their lives, literally. Chester Johnson, a published poet, is focusing on his writing, and Freda joined the board of Manhattan-based small press Four Way Books. “Being on the board of nonprofits is very rewarding,” she observes. A member of the Queens College Foundation since 2012 and this year’s vice chair, she feels a special bond with her alma mater, which she recalls as an exceptionally welcoming place, with great teachers and a wonderful placement office. “When I went to QC, I didn’t see myself having the career that I’m having,” notes Johnson. “I want to give back to the school any way I can. I owe QC my career and my husband.”

CHAIM WACHSBERGER ’73

“Queens College had a serious practical impact on my life.”

Chaim Wachberger ’73 was a freshman at Cornell University when his dad suddenly passed away. “We didn’t have a lot of financial resources,” Wachberger says of his family, which immigrated to Rego Park from Israel when he was eight years old. “My mom was a homemaker. I moved back home and went to Queens College.”

Life as a transfer student proved agreeable. “Queens was a great school with a wonderful teaching staff,” Wachberger says. “It was an English major, and I loved the department,” especially Fred Buehl, with whom he took poetry tutorials. “I didn’t participate much in campus activities,” Wachberger notes. “All I did was write.” His efforts paid off seniors year, when he won $609 in a QC poetry contest.

Setting aside his budding literary career, he interned at the Social Security Administration during his graduation he spent a few years in Israel, and then began working for Chadbourne & Parke. Wachberger handles energy issues, such as projects involving wind and solar farms. His specialty was serendipitous. “Somebody started the practice and I fell into it,” he says.

Married to a career and raising young children, he immersed himself in his family and career, becoming a partner at Chadbourne. He didn’t reflect on his days at QC. “But I changed about five years ago, when he happened to think of Buehl. Wachberger contacted him and they met him on campus. “Buehl—now retired—told me, ‘You have no idea how wonderful the student body is, this is where the immigrants come,’ recalls Wachberger. ‘That resonated with me. I know this isn’t an easy country for immigrant parents.’

Subsequently, he attended an alumni breakfast. Listening to a recent graduate speak about her transition from waitress to college student, he decided to join the Queens College Foundation. “Queens College had a serious practical impact on my life,” says Wachberger. “I’ve done well.”

Now that his kids are in their 20s, he has time to devote to his alma mater. He is also making time to write poetry.
A WONDERFUL DAY FOR A FESTIVAL

Louis Armstrong’s Wonderful World, a one-day music festival held on June 20 to celebrate the life and spirit of Satchmo, featured activities ranging from live music to hands-on interactive exhibits and workshops. Besides the music presented on the main stage, there was an alternate festival site—called “Louis’ Backyard Bash”—that featured beer halls, a tent with kid-friendly activities and a DJ party in the Queens Museum featuring QC’s own DJ Rekha ’98.

For information about next year’s festival, go to armstrongswonderfulworld.com.
named in her honor at the Maryland Institute College of Art, where she taught art history. She is the founding director of its Center for Race and Culture and has held dean emeritus at the college... John O'Donnell retired as president of Manhattan College at the end of the academic year. In Framingham, a position he accepted in 2011. His tenures were welcomed at Manhattan by the students seeking to access college education through dramatic increases in the number of scholarships and money raised for them... Jana Abramowicz ’72 has been a librarian for the Queens library since 1972. She manages the largest circulating collection of musical scores in the city, which has grown under her care from about 400,000 volumes to about 800,000... Margaret Patick-McGowan was appointed a state Court of Claims judge. She has held appointments as judge since 1998, first in the city Housing Court and then in the state Family Court... 1973. Patricia Holliday retired as principal and director of the South Brunswick (NJ) School District 43 years in public education, the school is looking forward to “catching her breath” and spending time with her five grandchildren. School Superintendent Jerry Jigal said of her that “Pat has been a tremendous asset to South Brunswick for several decades, and her legacy is literally limitless. She is an all-around teacher, a class-teacher, service, diversity... Barbara Rosenthal has published her first book titled, “Yearning: A memoir of growing up in Singapore. ” An avid gardener, artist, and performer who often does “happening” performances, she has a full calendar of performances ahead of her in 2018 and 2019. She wrote that the book has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in fiction and the PEN/Faulkner Award for a Debut Novel, a National Book Award, and a Pushcart Prize... The 1978–1979 Varsity Ice Hockey Team was led by young coach Steven Sheinberg. Sheinberg reports that he is still active in mentoring youths. Basketball player Mililzio, Andy is an experienced basketball player from Queens College for 1984 to 1988. Storing over 2,000 career points, he finished her collegiate career as the top scorer and the 16th highest free throw percentage in the nation. An American Women’s Sports Federation All-American in 1987, Sheinberg was named to the First Team All-American in the Midwest Conference and selected twice in the Cosmopolitan Conference. The 1978–1979 Varsity Ice Hockey Team was led by young coach Steven Sheinberg. Sheinberg reports that he is still active in mentoring youths. Basketball player Mililzio, Andy is an experienced basketball player from Queens College for 1984 to 1988. Storing over 2,000 career points, he finished her collegiate career as the top scorer and the 16th highest free throw percentage in the nation. An American Women’s Sports Federation All-American in 1987, Sheinberg was named to the First Team All-American in the Midwest Conference and selected twice in the Cosmopolitan Conference.
38470 to join our mobile distribution list. your news and updates with us—and text QCYA to all.

Whether you graduated in 2015 or 2005, we are here to serve as a bridge between the college and its recent graduates. We want to help develop networking, professional/personal development, mentoring, and service.

The Office of Alumni Relations recently launched the Queens College Young Alumni Committee (QCYAC) to serve as a bridge between the college and its most recent graduates. We want to help develop meaningful and long-lasting relationships among our graduates by providing them with opportunities for networking, professional/personal development, mentoring, and service.

Whether you graduated in 2015 or 2005, we are here to support you. If you are interested in participating in activities for our Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) or volunteering for the QCYAC, please contact Laura Abrams (Laura.Abrams@qc.cuny.edu). Alumni of all ages are invited to participate. Share your news and updates with us—and text QCYA to 38470 to join our mobile distribution list.

1993: Heather Siegel has been receiving critical recognition for her nonfiction writing, including her recently published Out from the Underworld (Greenprint Press), a book that Philip Lopate describes as a “dark, riveting memoir...” 1996: James Niyamar Schliefer (MA) is an influential and sought-after performer here and abroad, one of the few non-Japanese musicians to have achieved the rank of Grand Master of the shakuhachi. He is an artistic director of Kyo-Shin-An Arata, curator for the Japanese music series at the Tsuru Cultural Institute, and teaches shakuhachi at Columbia University... 2000: Antonia Roman is a director and writer for “Bonnie in the House,” a comedy TV pilot about a Lotus real estate agent (based on Antonia herself). Katherine Damigoni ’99 plays the lead role, branching out from her usual work in theatre. The two met while studying acting at QC... 2002: Brenda Colon was made principal of Huntington (LI) High School...Theresa Galvin is stewardship coordinator for the Scarborough Land Trust in Maine. She is also a project manager for the York County Soil and Water Conservation District...Ovidiu Grozav coaches spectacular boys’ and girls’ flag rugby teams in Brownsville, Brooklyn. As featured in a June New York Times article, students at 15.92—one of the academically rigorous School for the Gifted and Talented—have been scoring big wins in rugby matches, including the citywide Rugby Cup. Ovidiu has led them to repeated victories that fill the school trophy case. Almost all of them are African-descendant students from one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city. For many, the game has been part of a regimen of achievement and curricular enrichment that has helped them go on to gain admission to selective colleges... 2003: Roy Dunlap toured with singer Morgan James, and has been recording music for Ken Burns’ forthcoming documentary on Jackie Robinson. He also performs with trumpeter Marcus Parsley... 2005: Conrad Herwig (MA) is enjoying an impressive artistic career, as trombonist, composer, and arranger; with more than 20 recordings as a leader and more than 200 as a session musician, including with the greatest of the great jazz musicians. He is professor of jazz trombone, improvisation, and composing and arranging at Rutgers’ Mason Gross School of the Arts...Tito Muñoz continues to wow as music director of the Phoenix Symphony and in his many guest appearances. For instance, a critic for the Portland (ME) Press Herald noted his “bar for dynamics,” writing that “both Muñoz and the orchestra showed what they could do with the great Dvorák Symphony No. 8 in G Major. Op. 88. It was almost perfect, from the opening bird calls to the unusual and ferocious climax—the best managed I have heard in a long time”... 2006: Gary Pudmure was named director of education and community for the Orchestrass of St. Lake’s, overseeing their free school concerts, amateur musicians project, annual subway series, and free programs in Hal’s Kitchen. He hopes to develop the Youth Orchestra of St. Lake’s, launched in 2013... 2009: John Attanasio (MA) authored a play All Goe West, which premiered at Theatre Casola Written in a magical realist style, the play concerns a working-class romance set in the early 1950s, John teaches at the Greek-American Institute, Nassau Community College, and works for the Princeton Review... 2013: Amanda Mirymen-Kayo Seigle (MLS) recorded her first album, Tantam Tament ("A Thousand Flavours"); a collection of Yiddish songs she wrote or adapted. She performed at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, and was named one of the 25 Most Talented Young Women of Jazz by the DownBeat... 2015: Ian Glass (ME) is director and writer for the Orchestra of St. Lake’s, serving as a bridge between the college and its South students from one of the poorest neighborhoods in the city. 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The Eiffel Tower thinking of an oil well, Don Giovanni draped in a bass clef, a crusader knight’s horse trampling a Torah scroll: In the art of Mark Podwal ’67, ideas from the political to the operatic to the spiritual emerge as indelible, dreamlike images. Drawing from Jewish culture, rituals, and history, he has painted a moon made of matzoh, a menorah formed of dreidels, a pharaoh with a snake for a mouth.

A self-taught artist, Podwal is represented by New York’s Forum Gallery. World-class institutions collect and commission his art. He designs posters and prints for the Metropolitan Opera and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and both Mets sell merchandise with his designs. He has written and/or illustrated some 30 books for children and adults. For 40 years, he drew op-ed and other illustrations for the New York Times. All that would be remarkable for any artist, but consider this: At age 70, Dr. Podwal still practices dermatology on the Upper East Side and teaches it at New York University’s School of Medicine. Reducing some of those responsibilities has freed up studio time.

Patients, painting, publishing: Which is avocation and which vocation? “Basically I’m a juggler,” Podwal replies. “As a physician I believe in science. As an artist, I believe in legends. I’m not interested in abstract art. I’m interested in narrative art, art that has some meaning, is not just decoration.”

In Sharing the Journey: The Haggadah for the Contemporary Family, Podwal’s drawings guide Reform Jews through a more universal Passover Seder. Books with his paintings, paired with the words of his good friend, the author, philosopher, and humanist Elie Wiesel, include another Haggadah; King Solomon and His Magic Ring; and The Golem. In 1986, Wiesel invited Podwal to attend his Nobel Peace Prize ceremony. This year, international editions of Podwal’s A Jewish Bestiary were published in Florence, Krakow, Munich, and Prague. He designed the Congressional Gold Medal presented to Wiesel, glass panels for the United Jewish Appeal–Federation headquarters, an ark curtain and Torah covers for Temple Emanu-El in New York, and textiles for Czech synagogues in Brno and Prague.

This spring, Podwal donated to QC’s Godwin-Ternbach Museum a portfolio of 42 archival pigment prints. He exhibited the originals in 2014 in the Czech Republic’s Terezin Ghetto Museum, the site of a former Nazi concentration camp. Podwal’s acrylic, gouache, and colored pencil works, titled “All this has come upon us,” illuminate how centuries of anti-Semitism in Europe preceded the Holocaust. The cycle combines verses from the Book of Psalms with depictions of tragedies and injustice suffered by the Jewish people.

The Godwin-Ternbach will display Podwal’s Terezin prints next April, in conjunction with works from the Jewish Theological Seminary library in New York. “Mark’s roots in his references go very deep and are very profound,” comments Amy Winter, the museum’s director and curator. “His involvement with the topic is informed by his moral concerns that he shares with people like Harold Bloom and Elie Wiesel.”

Notes Podwal, “I donated that set in honor of my friend Michael Schenkl’s ’66 [retired publisher/CEO of the Queens Tribune]. We were involved together with the Moratorium Committee against the Vietnam War, and he got me started exhibiting in a gallery and on my professional art career.” Of the 60 numbered portfolios, more than 40 have been acquired by prominent institutions such as Ivy League universities, the Library of Congress, the Bodleian Library, and the Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences.
Six or eight times a year, Podwal still heads there, to immerse himself in Prague’s Jewish community. He has a seat in the 700-year-old Old-New Synagogue and considered it his appointed task to design its sanctuary textiles, charging no fee and raising $70,000 to cover the costs. The mythology of this Gothic synagogue intrigues him, from its clay golem figure a legendary rabbi created to protect Jews to the foundation stone angels flown from Jerusalem and which must be returned when the Temple is rebuilt. Nearby lie, layer upon layer, the graves of perhaps 100,000 Jews, the subject of his 2007 film shown on PBS: House of Life: The Old Jewish Cemetery in Prague, narrated by Claire Bloom. Czech TV has featured him in two documentaries, viewable on YouTube.

New York’s Czech Center this summer exhibited the first 18 in his series Mozart and Prague, inspired by how Bohemians revered the prodigious Austrian composer.

“I’m very fortunate in that I’ve done so many projects that I never ever dreamed of being able to do,” Podwal says. “If I have something that I think is clever, I don’t want it toned down by an editor. I now have a chance to publish things that I had done for myself. I always thought I’d like to have an artist book just on my work, and out of the blue it happens.”

Aspiring novelists struggle to complete a manuscript without any expectation that it will be sold and published. The consolidation of publishing houses and collapse of brick-and-mortar stores have made the book business even more difficult. In this environment, the achievements of QC alumni Scott Cheshire and Natalie S. Harnett are all the more notable. Last year, both made triumphant debuts, in hardback, no less.

Cheshire’s novel, High as the Horses’ Bridles (Henry Holt & Co.), was named a Wall Street Journal Book of the Year and listed on the Washington Post’s Top 50 of 2014 Fiction. Reviewers were particularly captivated by the insight the author brought to the relationship between the protagonist, a former child evangelist who discards his faith en route to adulthood, and his father, a self-styled prophet fasting to nothingness in his neglected Richmond Hill house.

Cheshire had no problem imagining the family’s insular lifestyle, millenarian beliefs, and working-class turf: He’s a former Jehovah’s Witness who grew up in Richmond Hill and Drone Park and de鹏 his share of pentesting. “Child preachers are not exotic in that world,” he observes. “In-house sermonizing is preparation for young men.”

Cheshire left the Witnesses in his early 20s, remaining on good terms with his family, by then living in Atlanta. Years later, he came back to Queens with the woman who would become his wife. She was and is a graphic artist; he did whatever he could. “College is anathema to Witnesses,” Cheshire says. “I was a meat cutter for a few years. I got a job at a computer manufacturer distributor. I bartended at an Applebee’s in Bayside.” All the while, he was writing stories and submitting them to magazines. At age 33, with his wife’s encouragement, he went to QC, the alma mater of many of his friends and coworkers.

“The first English class I found myself in opened the world to me,” recalls Cheshire. “It completely changed my thinking. Professors could see how hungry I was. I became the annoying student who was just a few years younger than the professors. Jeff Cassvan, Wayne Moreland, Jason Tougav, Duncan Faherty—they’re still my friends. John Wieir encouraged me to study with Colum McCann at Hunter College, where I got my MFA.” High as the Horses’ Bridles emerged from his master’s project.

A California resident since February, Cheshire has been teaching writing workshops and refining an idea for a television pilot when he’s not working on his next book, a literary thriller involving a satanic panic and set—where else?—in Queens.
Harnett, like Cheshire a Queens native, ranged beyond New York to research The Hollow Ground (St. Martin’s Press), a coming-of-age story and murder mystery set in Pennsylvania’s coal country. The novel won the John Gardner Fiction Book Award for 2015, putting its author in the company of such previous recipients as Jonathan Franzen and Meg Wolitzer, and was just named the 2014 Appalachian Book of the Year by the Appalachian Writers Association.

On the recommendation of McEllory—an award-winning novelist himself—he entered Columbia’s MFA program. After graduating, she began teaching, primarily remedial classes and English as a second language. She married a restaurant manager, settled in Long Island, had a daughter, and kept writing despite repeated setbacks. “I dreamed of being published by a major publisher,” says Harnett, who completed three novels that remain unsold. “My first agent quit. I had to accept the fact that it might not happen. The joy had to be that I loved writing.”

Recalling childhood visits to her grandfather’s house in northeastern Pennsylvania, where she heard about insuppressible mine fires raging underground, she sketched out a multigenerational saga told from the perspective of an 11-year-old girl. “It’s so hard to know what they’re going to buy,” notes Harnett, referring to editors. “I thought people would be interested in thishuge economic and environmental disaster. But my editor actually bought the book for its coming-of-age aspect.”

She recently finished the initial draft of her next novel, about a wealthy diamond dealer who fled to New York from Amsterdam, her descendants, and the indentured servant who accompanied her. “My gift is description—poetic, lyrical writing; I had to learn plot in school,” says Harnett, who feels comfortable with historic fiction and the research it involves. This time around, she may not have to do a lot of digging. The story is inspired by her great-grandmother’s experiences, and the setting is 1954 Elmhurst.
Parents today want for their children what our parents wanted for us. That’s what Queens is.”

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Quadr drift At any time of the year, all paths lead through the greenest space on campus. At any time of the year, all paths lead through the greenest space on campus.
Incoming freshmen walk through the main campus celebration on the anniversary of September 11.

Queens: The Magazine of Queens College

Queens College Hillel

New York Inc.
Check it out, mates! This is a heartfelt tribute and appreciation from the students that has been organized on Club Day.
 глобальных \( \textit{Global thinkers} \) PC's \( \textit{team} \) celebrates its performance at a Model United Nations simulation. 35
In a year in which the deaths of several African American men at the hands of police has many recalling the violence of the civil rights era, Queens College chose to honor one of its own who died in that historic struggle a half century ago.

At this year’s Commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 28, David Goodman received an honorary doctoral degree on behalf of his brother Andrew. While a student at Queens College, Andrew and two fellow civil rights workers, James Chaney and Michael Schwerner, were murdered in Mississippi during the Freedom Summer of 1964. This horrific crime shook the nation to its senses about the brutal nature of the struggle for racial justice that was taking place in the South.

The featured Commencement speaker, Joseph Crowley ’85, U.S. Congressman from New York’s 14th District, was awarded the President’s Medal for his work on behalf of working families and underserved groups. A longtime member of the New York political community—beginning with his election to the state assembly at age 24—Crowley holds a degree in political science from QC.