An Eye On The Future

Bruce Bueno de Mesquita’s computer models predict the fate of nations
Queens: The Magazine of Queens College

MAILBAG

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK
Congratulations on the Spring issue of your splendid magazine. It is most rewarding and satisfying to read of the outstanding careers of so many of my fellow graduates.

The article on Joel Benenson struck a particularly responsive chord, sharing as I do the same political philosophies. Similarly, the article on civil rights activist Lucy Komissar and the letters from Lewis Friedman and John David Herman struck home. Somewhat of an activist on campus myself, I backed the trend in Spring 1941 to organize a Peace Committee. At a rally on the Quadrangle, we were addressed by Eugene Connolly of the American Labor Party. His appearance and his remarks provoked vigorous criticism from the more conservative members of the student body and the faculty.

Thomas A. Dent ’42, Little Neck, NY

REMEMBERING NEWSBEAT
I was thrilled to read about the success of Steve Appel, editor of Knight News in your last edition. But I was disappointed that you omitted Newsbeat from your lineage of QC student newspapers.

Newsbeat, which grew out of the former QC night school newspaper Knightbeat, was a major campus presence from the late 60s through the 80s. It successfully competed with Phoenix and won the prestigious All-American Award from the Associated Collegiate Press in both 1977 and 1978. During my tenure as editor-in-chief from 1976–78, Newsbeat was the spawning ground of, among others:

Richard Sandomir (features editor and my successor as Newsbeat editor-in-chief), now media sports reporter for the New York Times
Debra Simon (features editor), founder and current publisher of Carolina Woman magazine
Steve Taub (sports editor), former editor-in-chief of Financial World and now a widely published financial journalist.

Lloyd Schloss (business manager), now an advertising business executive with the NBC’s USA Network.
Hoose Rose (sports writer), currently the NY Mets’ radio play-by-play broadcaster.
Bruce Arendash (political cartoonist), who went on to become Sr. VP/Creative Director at Grey Advertising.
Eytan Wronker (creator of perhaps the funniest comic strip in the history of QC Freshman), who went on to a career as a successful illustrator with stints at Marvel Comics, Pokemon, and Digimon.
Bruce Eder (arts writer), now a successful writer/editor/producer.
I spent 15 years as executive editor of Ski magazine before launching my own company in the ski industry.

Thanks for helping us make sure Newsbeat doesn’t vanish from Queens College history!
Steve Cohen ’78, Briarcliff Manor, NY

Send your letters to Queens: The Magazine of Queens College, Kidd Hall 1307, Flushing, NY 11367 or qmag@qc.cuny.edu.

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The Princeton Review America’s Best Colleges ranks Queens among the top 10 public universities in its category, “Best Universities–Master’s (North).”

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College Invites Students to Meet Their Future

Queens: The Magazine of Queens College

With a new logo and a new pledge, Queens College is redefining itself in the public mind as an institution on the move, keeping its stride on the rise with a vibrant student population.

And food, the college’s new pledge, “Meet Your Future,” was presented to the campus community during a festive September 9 “Q Day” ceremony on the Quad, where President James D. Muyskens introduced a video planned to capture the vibe of an exciting institution with its eye on the future.

Addressing the crowd, Myukyansk said, “Every new and then a college goes through a process of self-evaluation in which it looks at itself and tries to communicate to the world what kind of institution it is. We recently went through such a process, spending countless hours talking to faculty, students, alumni, and community leaders about what they think of the college and what they feel this college should be.” From this process came the college’s new pledge (see box below).

The impetus to reimagine the college’s image was by-product of the president’s Strategic Plan, which called for a reevaluation of the college’s role in the community, says Sue Henderson (VP Institutional Advancement). Shortly after the plan was introduced, Henderson says she made a fortuitous discovery. “I learned that a QC alumnus, Ed O’Hara, with extensive market-product of the president’s strategic plan, which called for a revaluation of the college’s role in the community, says Sue Henderson (VP Institutional Advancement). Shortly after the plan was introduced, Henderson says she made a fortuitous discovery. “I learned that a QC alumnus, Ed O’Hara, with extensive market-experience was interested in helping us explore how we could
reshape our brand in the public mind to more accurately reflect who we are and where we’re going.”

This process, she explains, involved bringing together representatives of every segment of the campus community for a one-day retreat, during which they participated in brainstorming sessions designed to produce a consensus about the college’s identity today and going forward.

Participants were asked to think about the image projected by the college, which led to ideas for a new logo. The product of these efforts is a Q logo that is sleeker than its predecessor and suggests forward movement that is in keeping with the college’s “Meet Your Future” pledge. Henderson notes that she’s received mostly positive comments about the new Q logo and pledge.

“The theme of Meet Your Future will drive our advertising and marketing this year and be integrated into a variety of communications,” notes Maria Terrone (A/P/VC Communications). “It has also been gratifying that students, faculty, and staff have reacted positively to our new video, which visualizes this pledge in a very lively way.”

From High School Dropout to Goldwater Scholar

Although he was told that he scored in the top percentiles on intelligence tests, Gail Marquis ’80 dropped out of Stuyvesant High School before graduation. After working at a company in the information technology field, he earned an alternative high school degree and entered into the city’s General Education Development program. Following a series of competency tests at Queens College, he was admitted.

Whaley—a psychology and neuroscience major with a minor in media studies—recently received a Goldwater Scholarship, awarded to the nation’s top undergraduates in science. This marks the fourth consecutive year QC students were named Goldwater Scholars. Awards receive up to $7,500 to cover their college expenses.

“Jamar has done so well so far because he understands that in addition to being smart, success also requires hard work and perseverance,” says Ranaldi. "That brings out the best in people, as does having an open mind in your work and toward the people collaborating with you. By continuing this way I don’t see why Jamar cannot achieve anything he sets his mind to.”

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College Researchers Receive Two Major Grants

Jeffrey Halpern (Psychology), who has been studying Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) for years, recently received a two-year, $425,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to develop the methodology for a new intervention designed to alter the clinical trajectory of ADHD, thus improving the outcome for many afflicted children.

A chronic condition characterized by inattention and hyperactivity/impulsiveness, ADHD is estimated to affect 6–10 percent of school-age children. Recent data suggest that the more the brains of children with ADHD start to normalize, the better they do. “So the real question, says Halpern, “is what can we do to make their brains normalized?” Halpern and his staff’s response is TEAMs treatment (Training Executive, Attention and Motor Skills).

Working with small groups of four- and five-year-olds, Halpern is designing a menu of games and physical exercises and will determine if TEAMs can make a difference in behavior. Parents will be trained to encourage their children to play these games with siblings and friends in a “real world” context to supplement the time spent with researchers.

Families interested in participating in this study should contact TEAMs at 718-997-4251 or teams@qc.cuny.edu.

Learning for the Love of Learning

Through the Lifelong Learning Institute (LILI), QC wants to bring older adults back to school for the fun of it. The institute is inaugurating its first season in mid-March with seven-week workshops in such topics as photography, ballroom dancing, and current events. Then, beginning on June 29, LILI will present “The Dark Night: Inside Film Noir,” a six-week celebration of classic crime dramas from the 1940s and 50s, with an introduction, screening, and discussion of a different movie every Tuesday afternoon. Each workshop costs $150; individual memberships, available for $325 under a special introductory plan, cover tuition for up to three courses and admission to all six films, among other benefits. For more information, please call 718-997-5025 or visit www.ccp qc.cuny.edu/LILI.

Learning about the Body

Since his research involves large-scale computation, and modeling complex spectroscopic data, the practical applications could include optical, electronic, and sensor devices; solar antennas; and new methods for converting the Sun’s rays to chemical and electrical energy.

In Memoriam: George Priestley

George Priestley, a long-time member of the college’s faculty, died on June 28 of complications from diabetes.

Born in the Republic of Panama, where he graduated from the Instituto Pan-Americanico, Priestley came to the United States in the 1960s. He graduated from Brooklyn College, studied at the University of Lisboa in Lisbon, and received his master’s and doctoral degrees from Columbia University.

Priestley joined the QC faculty in 1969 and taught in the SEEK program until the early 1980s. He then assumed the directorship of the Latin American Area Studies Program and was active in that program through December 2001. Priestley presented his work nationally and internationally and was frequently interviewed by the media.

A scholarship fund has been established in Priestley’s name for a student in the LALS program. Checks should be made out to the Queens College Foundation, indicating “The Dr. George A. Priestley Memorial Scholarship Fund.”

Priestley’s family and friends are members of the REFUGEE Poloni, the Polish and company. The REFUGEE plan, cover tuition for up to three courses and admission to all six films, among other benefits. For more information, please call 718-997-5025 or visit www.ccp qc.cuny.edu/LILI.

The Body as Art

The Body as Art presents an extensive range of Grosman’s drawings on paper and in mixed media, cradled nude photographs, and wire sculptures of female figures with words as part of their tanning “skins.” Grosman says her works show “people revealing their fragility and anxiety in our 21st century.” (Image: White on White, mixed media on paper.)
Queens: The Magazine of Queens College

Knight Moves
New coaches lead baseball, water polo, and women's lacrosse

By Bob Suter

The new school year finds three new coaches leading QC athletic teams.

Tom Sowinski is the sixteenth coach in the 59-year history of Knights baseball. He has 21 years of coaching experience, beginning at Adelphi, where he served as associate head coach/pitching coach from 1985 to 1999. His Adelphi participated in four Division II College World Series and seven National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Regional Tournaments (winning four). Sowinski also coached three Eastern Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Champions in his eight years on the varsity, he compiled a won-lost record of 41-7 and was named an All-American in 1968 while earning a spot on the College World Series All-Tournament Team on the strength of a 2-0 record (including a shutout) in World Series play. Sowinski went on to pitch professionally in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization, accumulating 16 wins and seven losses in three seasons.

A recent graduate of Brooklyn's St. Francis College, new water polo coach Or Gil brings more than 15 years of experience in swimming and water polo to QC. His career began with the Kibbutz Givat Hayim Swimming and Water Polo Club in Israel. He moved on to the Israeli junior and senior national teams, playing in the European Championship Qualifications in 2000-01. At St. Francis, Gil was a member of their NCAA Division I water polo and swimming teams from 2005 to 2009 and competed in the NCAA Division I Final Four in 2005. In 2008-09 he was named captain, leading his team to a second place finish at the Northeast Conference championships. Gil's honors include the Northeast Conference's 2007-08 MVP award for swimming.

Kerry Hausdorf is the first coach of QC's new women's lacrosse team. The team is playing as a club this fall before beginning competition at the varsity level in 2010. Hausdorf spent the last two seasons as an assistant coach at American International College, having served in the same capacity at Springfield College in 2007. She also was head coach of the girl's lacrosse team at the Dalton School in New York City from 2005 to 2007, where she taught health and physical education.

In her playing days, Hausdorf was an All-Conference lacrosse player and team captain at Springfield College, where she graduated with a BS in movement and science in 2004; she earned her master's in physical education (concentrating on athletic administration) five years later.

Net Asset
Nicole Nieves reaches for the sky

Women's volleyball coach Pascale Lubin was impressed with the skills displayed by Nicole Nieves whom, midway through reviewing the game tape submitted by the recruit, she noticed something: The powerhouse had no left hand.

"I thought to myself: 'Oh, that adds a new dimension to it,'" recalls Lubin. "But I felt that she could definitely do her job."

Such is the ability of this freshman from Florida who was born without a left hand that even a seasoned pro like Lubin did not immediately notice her anatomical anomaly. Now, Lubin often plays Nieves as an outside hitter. "She's what we call a 'cannon in volleyball,’” says the coach. "She plays a strong power position."

Net Asset
Nicole Nieves reaches for the sky

Athletics Director Rick Wettan has been a family man with three children. "I feel that she could definitely be one of our leading players and one of the top players in our conference."

Net Asset
Nicole Nieves reaches for the sky

Another First
Women's tennis team is tops in the East

The Knights Women's Tennis Team, fresh off an undefeated fall season and an East Coast Conference Championship, has for the first time been ranked number one in the East Region by the governing body of collegiate tennis, the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. The team is ranked 26th overall in Division II.

In addition to the No. 1 ranking, four players were named among the top ten in singles in the East. Laura Moceddu, the 2009 ECC Player of the Year, was ranked fourth; first team all-star Somadi Drucker was fifth, and first team all-star Maria Mendes was tenth.
WHAT THEY DID ON THEIR SUMMER VACATIONS

Education knows no borders at QC. Faculty and students went to Europe, Africa, and the Mideast this summer, turning historic locations and research sites into inspiring open-air classrooms. “No book could reproduce the knowledge that I have gained from this experience,” observes student Joanne Giarrusso, who came back from Turkey with the intention of becoming an archaeologist.

1. The National Science Foundation was the funder of a two-week field trip that Hannes Brueckner (Earth & Environmental Sciences) took to East Greenland with colleagues from several universities. QC geology major Richard Bubbico mapped rocks and collected rock samples, which he’ll analyze as part of his senior project. The objective is to gain greater understanding of a mountain system formed about 400 million years ago, explains Brueckner, in what he calls “the bleak, but spectacular, landscape” of his study area. The difficult terrain and the chance of encountering polar bears made it imprudent for researchers to work—and walk—alone. (Photo: Bubbico and Brueckner.)

2. The opportunity to benefit from the college’s overseas programs begins even before first-year students set foot on campus. Through a new Study Abroad initiative, Helen Gaudette (History) brought 15 incoming freshmen to Paris for two weeks to study the French revolution. In a course that utilized a teaching method called Reacting to the Past, the students assumed the roles of political leaders—in the National Assembly and on the streets—to debate the issues that consumed France in 1791. The seminar included visits to the Louvre, the palaces of Versailles, and Notre Dame Cathedral, which had been looted by mobs.

3. Judith Kimerling (Political Science) has for years worked with the indigenous communities in Ecuador’s Amazonian rainforest, whose living area is shrinking due to oil exploration and development activities. An internationally known expert on environmental law and the oil industry, Kimerling says, “I realized early on that the best hope for rainforest conservation is to work with local communities that want to protect their environment.” This summer Kimerling spent five weeks in Ecuador. To reach the Huaorani community, she took a fleet of planes, boats, and trucks, and then traveled half a day on foot. While there she talked with village elders to record their history of what has been happening recently in the rainforest.

4. In Turkey, Alexander Bauer (Anthropology) led a QC delegation to a series of digs and UNESCO World Heritage sites, starting with the otherworldly landscape of the Cappadocian “fairy chimneys,” which were carved out of the volcanic tufa by millions of years of wind and rain. The natural rock formations were sculpted into thousands of cave dwellings and churches by early Christian communities seeking shelter from waves of invaders.

5. Building on a pedagogical model developed the previous summer in Ireland, Susan Einhorn (Drama) staged another theatre class on the road. This time, she rehearsed The Rest of Oedipus—playwright Robert Montgomery’s adaptation of Sophocles’ classic tragedy Oedipus at Colonus—on location in Greece. “Bob led a special seminar, Drama 397, in which he taught the student actors and the other students how he adapted this work, studying the origins of Greek drama and other historical and cultural underpinnings, in the process,” says Einhorn.

6. Conditions in Ethiopia, where Stéphane Boissinot (Biology) explored conservation biology with nine undergraduate and graduate students, were challenging. During three weeks in which they bivouacked in three national parks, participants endured strenuous hikes in freezing temperatures and extreme heat, without access to modern luxuries like plumbing and electricity. The payoff? “They had a hands-on experience in which they learned how to look at nature,” says Boissinot, whose crew is seen here at one of their base camps. “We had a blast. It’s one thing to learn information in class; it’s another to see it.” (Photo: Carolina Mendiguren.)
Healthy Ambition

Lee Nadler ’69, the first Queens graduate admitted to Harvard Medical School, now serves as its first dean of clinical and translational research

By Burton Bollag

Lee M. Nadler ’69 used his time at Queens College for all it was worth. A pre-med student from a working-class corner of Bayside, Queens, in the 1960s, he looked for ways to stand out. He begged until the distinguished chair of the chemistry department admitted him to his laboratory research. Nadler toiled in the lab from morning to night, blowing up a science laboratory at Queens College.

No wonder then that his best idea—a new way to treat lymphoma and leukemia—came to him while he was in a rowboat.

Nadler was born in the Bronx. His family moved to Queens when he was five. He remembers his father as verbally abusive and his home life as somewhat troubled. Economically, his family was near the bottom of the middle class. For him, college was an escape and a ticket to a better life. He enrolled at Queens in 1965 and threw himself into it fully. “I think I got more out of it than most students I see at Harvard,” he says.

When he was 16 Nadler read the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Arrowsmith by Sinclair Lewis. This novel about the career of a doctor convinced Nadler to study medicine; it also contains uncanny similarities to Nadler’s own career. The protagonist of Arrowsmith had a medical school mentor named Max Gottlieb. Nadler found his Gottlieb in Prof. Blatt at Queens. “He didn’t give me a lot of praise,” says Nadler. But “he was a role model. He told me I was not like anyone he had seen before; he made me believe I was special.”

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Nadler won a Jonas Salk scholarship, one of only several students from the CUNY system to win the four-year partial payment for medical school that year. (Harvard covered most of the rest of his tuition due to Nadler’s low family income.) Of the 140 students in his class, 110 had graduated from Ivy League colleges. Eager to fit in, Nadler wore a suit to his first day of classes, and then was surprised to see all of his classmates in jeans.

After graduating in 1973, Nadler, by then married and with a son, did a two-year internship at Columbia University’s Presbyterian Hospital, followed by a two-year fellowship in immunology at the National Cancer Institute, in Bethesda, MD. Since then, he has been back at Harvard, mostly at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. There, without ever having earned a PhD, he became a full professor at age 45.

Nadler’s idea for a new approach to treating lymphoma and leukemia came to him one day while he was in a rowboat with a friend and fellow oncologist. The two were talking about the recent discovery of monoclonal antibodies, and how they had the potential to change medicine. (That potential is in fact being realized as those substances come ever closer to serving as the “magic bullet” against diseases that scientists have been seeking for the last 180 years.) Each monoclonal antibody binds selectively with only the type of cancer cell being targeted. Once there, it stimulates the body’s own immune system to attack the cancer, reducing or even removing the need for damaging chemotherapy or radiation.

Nadler went on to discover a group of monoclonal antibodies now used widely to detect and treat non-Hodgkin’s lymphomas, certain leukemias, and rheumatoid arthritis.

That fortuitous outing was foreshadowed in the last scene of Arrowsmith, where the protagonist and a colleague also discuss their research on a boating trip. So big an impact did the book have on Nadler that his three grown children presented him with a copy of the novel, signed by the author, for his 60th birthday.

Nadler’s discoveries led others to develop the drug Rituxan, which has had a great impact on many patients’ lives, doubling the cure rate for non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma from 30 percent to 60 percent of cases. Yet Nadler has no financial stake in the drug or other commercial ventures. The motivation for his work that led to the drug was simple, he says: “I was trying to do something important.”

Today Nadler works to get more basic research pushed forward into treatments. As Harvard Medical School’s first dean of clinical and translational research, a title he assumed in 2007, he promotes the training of researchers—and the development of organizational and administrative structures—to translate biomedical research into therapies and medications for sick patients. Harvard and America’s other premier medical centers do excellent basic research and provide splendid patient care, Nadler says. But what is lacking are clinical investigators who guide and study new treatments.

As he was in his college days, Nadler is still driven. He typical-ly rises at 4:30 am and works out for at least an hour in the gym. “I need to be in good shape because I work very hard,” he says. He starts work each day at 7 am, finishing sometime between 6 and 7 pm. Every Friday he sees lymphoma patients, a part of his profession that he loves, even as his administrative responsibilities at Harvard have forced him to cut down on his research work.

Nadler says he owes Queens a great deal. And if his life has taught him anything, he says, it is that “people who go to Queens College should see there is no limit to who they can be.”

“I never imagined I’d be who I am today.”

As a student, Lee Nadler once blew up a science laboratory at Queens College.

No wonder then that his best idea—a new way to treat lymphoma and leukemia—came to him while he was in a rowboat.

After reading Sinclair Lewis’s novel Arrowsmith when he was 16, Lee Nadler knew he wanted to be a doctor.

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Alex Pinhas: From Uzbekistan to Mt. Sinai

Born in Tashkent in Uzbekistan, Alex Pinhas came to this country in the mid-1990s. He entered Queens College as a Macaulay Honors College student, and he attended the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Pinhas assesses his education as being top-notch. “It created a person who can create knowledge in an original way.” His courses gave him “fundamental knowledge and laboratory techniques,” while lab work provided him with “teamwork and leadership skills.” But what he appreciates most is “the advice and mentorship; every step you have advice.”

In his freshman year at the college, he started conducting research under Richard Bodnar (Psychology). After Pinhas demonstrated his expertise, Bodnar assigned him his own research project in which Pinhas recruited a team and organized the study. In addition, using his Macaulay Opportunity Grant, he enjoyed a three-week journey to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, where a boat let him island hop and “made you feel like you were Darwin,” he says.

Donaldson Conserve: Seeing Health as a Social Justice Issue

Donaldson Conserve, a resident of St. Albans who graduated with a BS in psychology, came to the United States when he was 14 from Cite Soleil, an impoverished town in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. He did not know a word of English, but slowly picked up the language. Because of the language barrier, his grades through high school were, at best, lackluster.

However, through the Search for Education, Eleva- tion, and Knowledge (SEEK) program he was accepted into Queens College, where he eventually became interested in public health. During successive summers he worked for Penn State’s Minority Inter- national Research Program, studied the effects of tobacco use on young smokers in France, and researched the relationship between HIV testing, AIDS-related stigma and risky behaviors in South Africa.

Conserve strongly believes that health is not a medical issue, but a social justice issue. A natural leader in the lab and on campus, he is now in the PhD Program in Bio-Behavioral Science at Penn State University.

Anita Sokol: A Day to be a Graduate and a Grandmother

Anita Sokol’s story proves that the best things in life are worth waiting for. At 62 years old and after attending Queens College for 20 years, she had two reasons to look forward to May 28: she would not only receive her bachelor’s degree but was also expecting to welcome her first grandchild that day. (Her granddaughter was born just a few more days before arriving.) Sokol, who is a resident of Queens, earned her bachelor’s degree in art history by attend- ing classes on weekends and in the evenings, while raising a family and holding down a full-time job. Despite working up to 70 hours a week and traveling coast-to-coast selling on-site health services to Fortune 500 companies, she gradu- ated magna cum laude and with highest honors from the art de- partment. Her commitment to her job during this time never wavered, as Sokol was named “most dedicated employee” at her company last year.

Sokol credits friends and family for her success. Her for- mer boss also helped by letting Sokol rearrange her schedule in order to attend classes. “She made this possible because she honored my goal for continu- ing my education,” says Sokol.

Alex Pinhas
Anita Sokol
Donaldson Conserve
Anita Islam

Anita Islam: At Home in the World

The daughter of a retired dip- lomat from Bangladesh, Anita Islam was born in that East Asian nation, began school in Germany, and continued her education in South Africa. She settled in New York, attended junior high and high school, and chose Queens College because family members had enrolled there.

“The college experience is basically what you want to make it,” she asserts, and Islam has made the most of her college years. She was campus coordinator for Dem- ocracy Matters and active in the Queens chapter of the Model UN and the Academic Senate. As a Watson Fellow, she participated in summer internships at the UN Population Fund and New York City Global Partners.

However, her most memo- rable accomplishment was organizing the two-day Afghan Peace and Development Confer- ence: Innovative Recommenda- tions of Conflict Resolution and Development for Post-War Afghanistan. This event included meeting featured M. Ishaq Nadiri, former senior economic advisor to Afghan President Karzai, and Ahmad Daurer Nad’i, president of the Afghan Peace Assoc- iation. Among the panelists and attendees were students, academics, diplomats, journ- alists, policy makers, and international media including the BBC.

Islam, who wants to raise the living standards of popula- tions in developing nations, expects to join a master’s pro- gram focusing on Third World economic development.

Daniel Pollack: Supreme Court Intern

Whether he was raising money to build a water basin in the slums of Kenya or interning at the U.S. Supreme Court, Daniel Pollack knew his future lay in the pursuit of law.

Pollack, a political science and history major, graduated from QC on May 28 after completing a judicial intern- ship at the Supreme Court, which Political Science Profes- sor Julie George encouraged him to do. Judicial interns perform such tasks as summarizing news articles, preparing memo- randa and correspondence, such tasks as summarizing news articles, preparing memo- randa and correspondence, preparing research for speeches and brief- ing. Only two college students in the country are selected each semester to serve as judicial interns at the Supreme Court. But Pollack’s other internships and educational experiences were just as unusual.

Pollack spent the spring 2007 semester as a volunteer teaching AIDS prevention and other subjects at St. Julie’s elementary school in the Kibe- rian neighborhood of Nairobi, Kenya, the largest slum in Africa. The experience inspired him the following summer to raise $6,000—funds he contributed to the school when he returned to Kibera during winter break. At that time tribal tensions were erupting in Kenya, and he was forced to remain in his apartment for several days. At one point he was ejected by police through the slum where he had been a teacher. Pollack witnessed the deterioration of law and order first-hand.

“At this experience, I felt that America’s greatness and our Constitution were truly validated. I saw them in a different light and appreciated our democracy,” he says.

Pollack also interned with Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) and at several law firms, including Brautman and Associ- ates, PC, in New York City. “The Woodmere, Long Island, honors student now attends the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Anita Islam

Anita Islam, whose parents are from Bangladesh, graduated from Queens College magna cum laude and with highest honors from the art department. She was named “most dedicated employee” at her company last year. Sokol credits friends and family for her success. Her former boss also helped by letting her rearange her schedule in order to attend classes. “She made this possible because she honored my goal for continuing my education,” says Sokol.

Already Making Their Mark: The Class of 2009
When Bruce Bueno de Mesquita ’67 was called for jury duty recently, he had no doubt he’d never wind up on a case. “I’m always rejected by the lawyer for one side or the other,” he says. “The minute I tell them what I do for a liv-
ing, it’s ‘goodbye.’”

Small wonder. Bueno de Mesquita is a political scientist with high-profile positions on both coasts. From late spring through the end of the year he is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution in Stanford, CA; he returns east each January to teach at New York University. But the sticking point for trial lawyers is his reputation for making predictions—most notably for government agencies like the CIA, but also for private sector clients, including litigants in legal proceedings. What’s more, Bueno de Mesquita’s predictions, based on a computer model he has developed, refined, and expanded over the past three decades, are remark-
ably—some might say disconcertingly—accurate.

A case in point: Hired to advise a company being sued for environmental lapses, he cranked up his model, fed in the relevant inputs, and determined that the plaintiffs would readily accept a much lower settlement than what his clients were prepared to of-
fer. “In fact, my clients were fearful that if they put my proposed dollar figure on the table, the other side would simply walk away,” says Bueno de Mesquita. He spent a day explaining his findings to his clients and ultimately convinced them that his seemingly counterintuitive conclusions were sound. “They made their offer and, as predicted, the other side stuck out their hand and said, ‘We have a deal.’

On a larger stage, five years before the 1989 death of Iranian Shiite leader Ayatollah Khomeini, Bueno de Mesquita predicted that Ali Khamenei and a little-known cleric named Akbar Hashim-
u Khomeini would share power after the ayatollah died. And in February 2008, he went on record that Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf would be forced from power that summer (which he was) and that the Taliban and Al Qaeda would grow so powerful in Pakistan that the government would attempt to cut a deal with them (which indeed it did).

Bueno de Mesquita’s methodology is based on game theory, a mathematical concept that views strategy and decision-
making—in politics, war, business, and other arenas—in terms of competitive games and the likely actions of other players. While the origins of game theory can be traced back to the 18th century, “it’s become one of the fastest-growing approaches to the study of politics and international relations over the past
“Predicting the future—whether you are concerned about Iran or about how best to settle a family crisis—is not that mysterious.”

—Bruce Bueno de Mesquita
YOUR GUIDE TO THE BEST ARTS IN QUEENS

3 SUN
CLASSIC HITS FOR KIDS: CONCERTI
LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm.

FEBRUARY
FEBRUARY 2 – MARCH 27
Scholars, Explorers, Priests: How the Renaissance Gave Us the Modern World

28 SUN
CIRCO COMEDIA
Coladen Auditorium. 2 pm. $14. All ages.

KEEP DANCING: AN AFTERNOON WITH MARGE CHAMPION
A screening of the new documentary Keep Dancing by Douglas Turnbull & Gray Vander Veen, with remarks by Margie Champion and Donald Sudduth: reception to follow. A co-presentation of the Lifelong Learning Institute at Queens College and the Kupferberg Center.
LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm. $25 ($23 for Seniors or with QC ID)

MARCH
MARCH 11–APRIL 30
CRYSTAL CLEAR
Sculpture & Prints by Claire Lieberman
Opening Reception: Thursday, March 11, 5–7 pm
Queens College Art Center. Free. Information: call 718-997-3770 or visit KupferbergCenterArts.org and click on Queens College Art Center.

14 SUN
ALEXANDER MARKOV, VIOLIN
Works by Tartini, Bach, Schumann, Paganini.
LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm. $36; $34 seniors, students, QC alumni, QCID.

16 TUE
QC EVENING READINGS: MARION PONSOT
Readings from and about her poetry
Music Building, 7 pm, $20. Information: call 718-997-4646 or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings

28 SUN
CLASSIC HITS FOR KIDS: MEET THE COMPOSER
LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm. $12. Ages 4–12.

29 TUE
GABRIEL ALEGRIA AFRO-PERUVIAN SEXTET
LeFrak Concert Hall, 8 pm. $32; $28 seniors, students, QC alumni, QCID.

31 TUE
QC EVENING READINGS: EDWARD P. JONES
Mr. Jones will read from his work and be interviewed by Leonard Lopate.
Music Building, 7 pm. $20. Information: call 718-997-4646 or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings

APRIL
APRIL 11–JUNE 12
DANCE AND BEYOND
Archival photographs and documents, and objects of art, shown for the first time, illustrate Dali’s collaborations on international stages with ballet luminaries Balanchine, Massine, and others, ca. 1939–1962.

11–14 THURS–SUN
MOZART’S THE MAGIC FLUTE
A fully staged production with the Queens College Orchestra and Chorus. Timed exploration and analysis of magic satire to attain wisdom and enlightenment. David Roons, Director; Maurice Perosa, Conductor.
Performances: March 11, 12, 13 at 7:30 pm; March 14 at 2:30 pm. $25 (18 for Seniors or with QC ID)

18 SUN
DAN ZANES AND FRIENDS
Coladen Auditorium, 2 pm. $20; $12 children 12 and under. All ages.

20 TUE
QC EVENING READINGS: JOYCE CAROL OATES
Ms. Oates will read from her work and be interviewed by Leonard Lopate.
Music Building, 7 pm. $20. Information: call 718-997-4646 or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings

22 THURS
DALÍ TODAY
An international symposium on Dalí and Contemporary Art.
April 23: Symposium on Dalí’s significance for contemporary art continues at the Catalán Center, NYU, 10 am–5 pm.
Godwin-Ternbach Museum.

24 SAT
CORASONNÉE: A Contemporary Choreography
Vergés Sampere’s performative aspect of Dalí’s work.
Godwin-Ternbach Museum.

25 SUN
INGRID FLITER, PIANO
Works by Bach, Beethoven, Schumann.
LeFrak Concert Hall. 3 pm. $36; $34 seniors, students, QC alumni, QCID.

JUNE
JUNE (DATE TO BE DETERMINED)
“AN EVENING IN LOUIS ARMSTRONG’S GARDEN”
As part of the Carefusion New York Jazz Festival, the Louis Armstrong House Museum will open its gardens to a star-studded jazz concert, including a tour of Louis’s house and a meal from the Armstrongs’ personal recipe. Limited to the first 250 ticket buyers. For details, visit www.louisarmstronghouse.org.

Support Us
We have embarked on a capital campaign to renovate our facilities and provide a new centerpiece with arts @ Queens College! To help us reach our goal, visit “Support the Arts” at KupferbergCenterArts.org and give what you can.

Kupferberg Center Performances: Carnegie Corporation of New York, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Surdna Foundation, and the Hispanic Society of America.
Kupferberg Center Presentations: New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, and the New York State Senate.
Kupferberg Center Exhibitions: Queens Museum of Art, Queens Family Fund, and the Max and Selma Kupferberg Family Foundation.
Kupferberg Center Programs: New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York State Senate.

The library is open to all members of the Queens College community, including students, faculty, staff, alumni, and evening adult education students.

Kupferberg Center Performing and Visual Arts
Queens College, City University of New York
"Use 2.0" Explored at Kupferberg Center for the Performing and Visual Arts
For details, visit KupferbergCenterArts.org.
As Jayanti Tamm’s mother labored to give birth to her in a Connecticut hospital in 1970, Sri Chinmoy, the spiritual leader who had arrived in America from India several years earlier, stood from Queens through the warm September morning to greet the newborn. Tamm’s parents were among Chinmoy’s first American followers—her father went on to spend years as his lawyer—and the guru gave the baby her name and declared her to be the “chosen one.”

In Cartwheels in a Sari: A Memoir of Growing Up Cult (Harmony, 2009), Tamm describes life among the followers of Sri Chinmoy. Many of them, including her parents, handed over their money, all their waking time, and the smallest decisions of their lives to the Queens-based spiritual master who proclaimed himself the incarnation of god on earth.

After several years during which Tamm’s doubts grew, the guru finally threw her out of the community. Lost and at one point suicidal, she enrolled at Queens College and graduated magna cum laude. Tamm now teaches creative writing and literature at Ocean County College in New Jersey. Her book, which has received critical praise, is all the more powerful for its lack of pretense at Ocean County College in New Jersey. Her book, which has received critical praise, is all the more powerful for its lack of pretense.

Tamm was to have been Sri Chinmoy’s perfect disciple, devoting her life to him in the exclusion of marriage or a family. As a child she eagerly filled this role, rising every morning before dawn with her family to meditate, spending virtually all her waking hours, outside of school, at the group meditation gatherings held in her parents’ home across the street from Queens College. In the early 1970s, she lived near the Queens-based spiritual leader who had been a hermit in the Himalayas and now traveled the world teaching a philosophy that combined Hindu and Buddhist beliefs. As a child, she was required to wear a sari and to follow the guru’s every command. Tamm remembers being told that she would one day be the “chosen one,” destined to lead the world to enlightenment.

Tamm’s memoir, “You’re running the show and making all the decisions,” is a poignant account of growing up in a cult. It details her experiences of being cut off from the community that had been her whole life, as well as the emotional and psychological impact of living in such an environment.

As a child, Tamm had been taught that her destiny was to be the “chosen one.” This belief, combined with the manipulation and controlling tactics used by the guru, led Tamm to feel isolated and disconnected from her family and friends. She describes feeling like a “jailbird” and being afraid to speak up or express her own thoughts.

Tamm eventually found her way out of the cult and has since written about her experiences in the hope of helping others who may be going through similar situations. Her memoir, “You’re running the show and making all the decisions,” has received critical praise and is a powerful testament to the enduring impact of cult-like environments.
The late Joseph Machlis was the author of the groundbreaking music appreciation textbook. Many alumni have noted that “QC was the best undergraduate classes” that included Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former FBI Director Louis Freeh, and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. Dr. Jeffrey Oberman has just published her first novel, which is a supernatural thriller. You can find out more about Susan and her new novel at www.susannerler.com

Gayl Teller (MA ’81) has been named Nassau County Post Long Islander of the Year for 2009. At the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, she is a regular contributor to the “Friendship Doctor” column, a regular contributor to the “Friendship Doctor” column, and a regular contributor to the “Friendship Doctor” column. She says that “although the large majority of friendships don’t last forever, one of my closest friends is a woman I met in my first year at Queens College.”
Chris Greaves: Helping Alumni Relations evolve to—

In many workplaces, new employees get to know each other pretty quickly. But while they get acquainted, they usually don't have a ton of opportunities to familiarize themselves with their surroundings and responsibilities. Chris Greaves, who on August 10 became QC's manager of alumni relations, didn't have that luxury. "Home—"sitting in my office and looking around—just felt strange," says Greaves. He immediately got involved in planning that event, and many others—such as social networking pages to reach QC alumni, and events like the "QC 500," which he helped to create. Groves "also wants to identify and serve specific audiences. I'm defining and growing different affinity groups," he explains. "I'm focusing on academic majors and careers, and grouping alumni by class year for reunion events." He also hopes to develop an electronic newsletter and social networking pages to reach QC alumni.

Greaves now works in the role of alumni relations director for a college, a job he's been interested in for about 15 years. He got his start in the field after graduating from Queens College with a Bachelor's degree in religious studies and philosophy; he later received a Master's degree in business administration in finance and economics from Baruch College.

Greaves was appointed head of nine-year-old New York based college "because of the range of duties, he thought I had the experience and breadth to do it," he adds. "I've had experience with alumni relations and management, I've been involved in different roles." Greaves started his career in alumni relations and management at Queens College in 1993, and then moved to City College. "I think QC is the only institution in New York City, and maybe the country that has a terminal and a middle school," he says. "It's been an interesting and demanding job." Greaves is excited to take on the responsibilities of the new role.

Greaves' position is a bit unique, in that he is the only person in the college's alumni relations department who does not have a college degree. "I don't have a degree in business, but I have a Master's degree in psychology," he says. "That's what I bring to the role." Greaves has been with the college since 1993, and has held a variety of positions in the department, including alumni development director, interim director, and director of alumni relations at Teachers College.

"Although it's part of Columbia University, Teachers College is quite independent as an institution," Greaves comments. "With QC's diverse student body and our activities, there are many opportunities to engage alumni, and you get the sense of being immersed in a vibrant campus life."—Linda Joy
Remembering His Brothers and His Alma Mater

Queens College has always had a big place in Henry Walker's life, and for each of the 19 years since he retired, he has been giving back to it. This spring, for example, Walker bought four large bricks in Alumni Plaza in front of Jefferson Hall, two of which honor his brothers and two of which honor his mother, Henry, David, and Donald Walker studied at Queens and went on to academic careers. David taught music education for many years at Queens until his death in 1994. Donald, who died in 2005, was a professor of physics at SUNY New Paltz.

Walker felt it fitting to commemorate the family calling in the inscriptions on the bricks. “I thought it was pretty neat that the three of us were in education, and so were our wives,” he says. At the young age of 16, Henry entered Queens College in 1946, a time when the campus was open and grassy with just a few buildings and a clear view of the Whitestone Bridge. “We led quite sheltered lives,” he recalls. But at Queens he met students from all over New York City and his horizons opened.

After earning his bachelor’s degree, he enrolled in a master’s program in history education at Queens. But his studies were interrupted when he was conscripted and sent to Korea where war was raging. While serving in the army, Walker says, he realized how good his education at Queens was. “There were lots of guys from the Ivy Leagues,” he remembers, “I found out they were no smarter than I was.”

Following the war, Walker completed his master’s degree. After a few years of teaching high school, he went on to a varied and fulfilling academic career of 28 years. First he taught history at Hofstra University. Then he moved to SUNY Farmingdale, and fulfilling academic career of 28 years. First he taught history at Hofstra University. Then he moved to SUNY Farmingdale, and throughout his career and retirement, Henry has kept running into Queens graduates. And he keeps in touch with fellow students from his old Beta Phi fraternity.

Queens “was a wonderful school,” he says, looking back. “It prepared me very well for the world.” —Burton Bollag

A Scholarship for a Present

Forbes Hill’s family was looking for a special way to celebrate his 80th birthday in June. Forbes had taught for more than 40 years in Queens College’s media studies department (formerly communication arts and sciences, and before that speech), continuing part time after his retirement. Battling a cancer that would take his life six months later, he still taught “his greatest love was teaching,” says Lyn, Forbes’s widow. “When we planned his birthday party, we wanted to use the occasion to do something really significant.”

So—after consulting with the college’s development office—Lyn and her children Harry, Stephenie, and Tim decided to push ahead with plans to establish a scholarship fund in Forbes’s honor and present it to him as his birthday gift. The original goal was to raise $10,000 for the project. But when they informed friends, colleagues, former students, and extended family about the plan, gifts poured in. The fund had $80,000 when they unveiled the scholarship at the party; it has nearly $100,000 today.

If you would like to learn more about leaving a gift to Queens College, or establishing a scholarship in the name of a loved one, please visit www.qc.cuny.edu/SupportQC.

―Burton Bollag

Michelle Maharaj

Michelle Maharaj majored in sociology. She wants to become an elementary school teacher and has applied to graduate school. She has also been looking for work at day care centers to support herself. Maharaj was overjoyed the day she received her acceptance letter to transfer to QC from LaGuardia Community College. She loved the many student activities and clubs at Queens. Maharaj, who is from Trinidad, was a member of the women’s cricket team in Trinidad for a while. She particularly appreciated two American history survey courses taught by Peter Consilmy-Smith. She started each lesson by playing music on a boom box related to the day’s topic: “There are a lot of students struggling out there,” says Maharaj. “We’re helping the college, I decided, I can help some of them.” —Burton Bollag

Sung Kim

Sung Kim majored in accounting and is now preparing for his CPA certification. Sung was the second time at college; he earned a mechanical engineering degree in South Korea in 1994 before immigrating to the United States the following year. As his English skills were not good, he first worked at his family’s deli-cater and then became a letter carrier: a job that saw him through five years of evening classes at Queens. Among his best courses, he says, was a required intensive writing class on Shakespeare taught by Robert Kole (English). “It was very difficult, but I learned a lot,” says Kim. His job paid him the luxury of donating to the college. “If I made more money,” he says, “I could donate a lot more.”

Swalihi, it made if difficult for her to communicate with them after school, in English, about other things. Leno began a MS in education program at Queens this fall, but has applied to the Peace Corps and hopes to return to Africa next summer for 27 months. She contributed to Queen “so that other students can have as good an experience as I did.”

Madeline Leno completed a double major of math and English. A Macaulay Honors student, she also enjoyed reviewing punk rock and ska concerts for the Rock News. This summer Leno spent six weeks in Tanzania as a volunteer math teacher in a class of 58 high school students. They were good at math, she reports, but as she had little knowledge of their mother tongue, she tried to spend time with his wife and two grade-school children. For the last 3 1/2 years he has worked evenings full-time at a building maintenance job while studying full-time in the mornings at Queens. Now he is looking for a job in environmental remediation—cleaning up after oil spills or chemical pollution. Hodzic emigrated from the former Yugoslav republic of Montenegro in 1996 to avoid the draft during the wars around Yugoslavia’s break-up. He credits an introductory geology class taught by Allan Ludman (Earth & Environmental Sciences) with his career choice. “He was very passionate” about the subject. Hodzic says he found the QC faculty professional and very helpful, and the labs and library top-notch. He made a gift to the college “to help them keep up the good work.”

Forbes Hill in class, early 1970s, and at his 80th birthday party.

Henry Walker stands in Alumni Plaza in front of Jefferson Hall, where two bricks commemorate his brothers David and Donald Walker.

Yugoslavia’s break-up. He credits an introductory geology class taught by Allan Ludman (Earth & Environmental Sciences) with his career choice. “He was very passionate” about the subject. Hodzic says he found the QC faculty professional and very helpful, and the labs and library top-notch. He made a gift to the college “to help them keep up the good work.”

Members of the Class of 2009 were asked to make a gift to their alma mater. Below are a few of our newest alumni who more than answered the call.

Nazim Hodzic, who earned a BS in geology (with honors), has finally found time to spend with his wife and two children. For the last 3 1/2 years he has worked evenings full-time at a building maintenance job while studying full-time in the mornings at Queens. Now he is looking for a job in environmental remediation—cleaning up after oil spills or chemical pollution. Hodzic emigrated from the former Yugoslav republic of Montenegro in 1996 to avoid the draft during the wars around Yugoslavia’s break-up. He credits an introductory geology class taught by Allan Ludman (Earth & Environmental Sciences) with his career choice. “He was very passionate” about the subject. Hodzic says he found the QC faculty professional and very helpful, and the labs and library top-notch. He made a gift to the college “to help them keep up the good work.”

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Queens College thrives because of the generosity of its alumni and friends. We are grateful to all of our donors for their commitment to our students and to the future of public higher education. In recognition of your support, we are pleased to present our Fiscal Year 2009 Donor Honor Roll.
“Read, read, and read some more, and when you are finished reading read again.”

Roundfounding feature by Lorraine Copay ’72

Queens: The Magazine of Queens College

Leslie M. ’71 & Phyllis 
Martin ’71

Gioconda R. ’71

Pamela S. ’71

Nancy E. ’71

Garth C. ’71

Christine E. ’71

Drew A. ’71

Jenelle J. ’71

Linda D. ’71

Robert J. ’71

Nancy L. ’71

Sara N. ’71

Colleen ’71

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No, thanks.
“We must not hesitate to begin eliminating nuclear weapons from all nations—the future of humanity is at stake.”

Roundtables on Scoping Nuclear Proliferation: Tough Choices Facing the Obama Administration, focusing political policy and military strategy

Barry Rieben ‘63

Roundtable

B4.9

We must not hesitate to begin eliminating nuclear weapons from all nations—the future of humanity is at stake.”

Roundtables on Scoping Nuclear Proliferation: Tough Choices Facing the Obama Administration, focusing political policy and military strategy

Barry Rieben ‘63

Roundtable

B4.9
I am an attorney now practicing in Boston, and was surprised—and very pleased—by Harvard Law School. I advise you to apply to the best schools that you think for yourself, and for that reason I round them out for you.
It’s a Hit: QC’s First Residence Hall

They built it and the students came—with parents and siblings carrying boxes and suitcases—on August 26 to The Summit, the college’s first residence hall (above, lobby). “So why a residence hall now?” President James Muyskens (at left, center) asked the gathering at the September 30 ribbon-cutting ceremony. “Building The Summit is a statement of great confidence, a way of saying we believe we are a fine college; in fact, we believe we are one of the best colleges you can attend. And if you are good enough to be accepted into Queens College, we are going to get rid of that last obstacle that might keep you from enrolling. Our students clearly believed that statement as the typical residence hall in its first year is only 75–80% full. We are 98% full.” On hand to help the president cut the ribbon were various QC and CUNY VIPs, including Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, who is wielding the large pair of scissors.