Finding Success in a World of Fantasy

Jeff Gomez ’85, Co-Founder and CEO of Starlight Runner Entertainment, Shepherds Hollywood Movies into Transmedia Franchises
MAILBAG

HOW MANY GRADUATIONS?
I write with some puzzlement and seek clarification.
On the back of Queens Magazine, Summer-Fall 2010 issue, we see a full-page photo with text which says “The College’s 86th Commencement.”

86th???
Queens College was founded in 1937, and its first Commencement was in June 1941. I know, because I entered QC in September 1941, as was thought of by some of us as “the second round.” After three years away to fight WWII, I graduated in mid-year: January 1948 with a BS in physics from the recently formed physics department. I had to major in chemistry initially when I entered because there was no physics department.

I then went on to an MA and PhD in astronomy (1949 and 1956) from Harvard University, although life has taken unexpected turns since. (For some of those unexpected turns, see Alumni Notes, p. 28.)

So how do you come up with 86 commencements? If they were annual, that would take us back to 1924, long before I graduated in January 1948. If there were three commencements each year now, I figure that there could only be 69, as of 2010, if they remained annual.

Explanation, please. Thanks.
Franklin E. Kameny ’48
Washington, DC

From 1942 to 1979—including 1944 and 1945—the college also held a commencement in February.—Editor

ON THE COVER
Adore, painting by Jasmine Becket-Griffith. Jeff Gomez and his production company Starlight Runner Entertainment have teamed with Witchfactory Productions to create a cross-media fantasy world for young girls appropriately dubbed Adore, inspired by Griffith’s popular artwork. The project is the first of many original productions that will be coming out of Gomez’s studio. (See story p. 16.)
Focused on a 241-page report of its own problem solving was putting the finishing touches on a 241-page report of its own analysis of this issue: "Tackling Tough Environmental Issues"

In December in one of his last acts as governor, David Paterson vetoed legislation that would have imposed a moratorium on the use of the controversial hydraulic fracturing method of drilling for natural gas in New York State. Of particular concern to environmentalists have been plans to use this method to drill in the vast geologic region known as the Marcellus Shale that includes much of the watershed area from which New York City receives its water. At about the same time, a class run by Distinguished Professor Georges Hendrey (Earth & Env. Sciences) in Environmental Problem Solving was putting the finishing touches on a 241-page report of its own analysis of this issue: "An Assessment of Natural Gas Extraction from the Marcellus Shale in the New York City Water Supply Region."

With extensively researched charts, graphs, illustrations, and photographs, Hendrey’s 19 students provided an in-depth look at one of the most compelling environmental issues of the day. While planning his classes have been doing year after year. Previous classes have tackled Mayor Bloomberg’s call for “greener” practices at all city institutions and the feasibility of converting to all renewable energy sources in 10 years. Hendrey is an engineer. Consequently, he says he tends to approach every problem as an engineering problem, deconstructing it backwards from the stated objective. This is the process he teaches his students. "The underlying objective of the course is for students to learn something about how projects are created and managed. I run the class like a small consulting firm. Our little firm has just received a contract to produce a report, and it has to be delivered by December 1. "Then," he continues, "there has to be a process, not just of writing but of the project’s management," including editing and determining the format of the report, designing a flow chart, and more. "They deliver to me a preliminary outline and develop that into an expanded outline together with what sources of information they’re going to draw upon."

"With such a broad topic," says Hendrey, "the trick is to constrain the class so they can write something and get something done." They have. And given their record to date, Hendrey’s classes will continue to do so for years to come.
The Calandra Institute has acquired the Armstrong Archives, a collection of materials related to the life and career of one of America’s jazz greats, Louis Armstrong. The archives include more than 5,000 sound recordings, 15,000 photographs, and 20 linear feet of letters and papers. This acquisition represents a significant step forward in preserving the history of jazz and the cultural contributions of African American musicians. The archives have been made available online through the Queens College Digital Library, providing access to researchers and lovers of jazz around the world.

**How to Succeed in Show Business**

Actor Danny Burstein ’86 (second from right) visited his alma mater in November to break bread with students who aspire to achieve the success he has had on Broadway (The Drowsy Chaperone, South Pacific), in film, and on television, where he can currently be seen in HBO’s “Boardwalk Empire.” He will appear in May with Bernadette Peters at the Kennedy Center in Folies. His father Harvey is a long-time member of the QC philosophy department.

**Polar Attractions**

A Korean tradition was introduced on campus when four jegumje—wooden tomoe poles erected by villages to mark boundaries and repel evil spirits—were installed near Kenfield Kroll Alumni Hall on October 7. Working on site, students chiseled the poles out of trees that had been damaged by a tornado several weeks earlier.
Winning Women’s Tennis Team

By Bob Suter

A GLOBAL look for College’s

by bob suter

Winning Women’s
A Global look for College’s

8

An opportunity to play in New York. “Take Andrea Salvetova,” he says of the Czech junior who has impressive academic credentials

and Queens. And NYU and Columbia don’t give scholarships to tennis in New York, there are only three schools: NYU, Columbia, and Queens. And NYU and Columbia don’t give scholarships to tennis players.”

Some players, notes Nagel, will even forgo scholarship offers for the opportunity to play in New York. “Take Andrea Salvetova,” he says of the Czech junior who has impressive academic credentials (4.0 GPA) in addition to being an accomplished flutist and painter.

“Her first choice was to come to NYU, and when she looked up and saw we had a strong academic program and good tennis school. Yet, she wanted to come to New York, and when she looked

Senior Maria Mendes from São Paulo, Brazil, who had a full scholarship at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, also chose to transfer to Queens, says Nagel.

With both players, he notes, the Knights’ reputation as a perennial contender was a significant draw. “Every year, when you look at the rankings—and these kids do—they see that we’re either number one or number two in the East. And right now we’re also ranked 35th in the country. So the players see we’re not only in New York, we’re also ranked in the country. And last year we made it into the final 16 in the country.”

Somadi Drucker, a South African and one of the players who helped get the Knights to last year’s Sweet 16, forged such strong ties to the people and the place that she has stayed on with the team as a coach while doing graduate work, says Nagel.

For one native-born player, junior Taylor Barber of Salt Lake City, coming to Queens was initially like coming to a foreign country as it was her first experience living in a place where everyone wasn’t a Mormon. But Nagel is happy to report that “Now, she’s like a native New Yorker all the way.”

Though temporarily lost to storm damage, QC’s impressive indoor tennis facility has also aided recruitment—as has the

new residence hall, The Summit. “All our student-athletes room in two bathrooms, a living room, kitchen, and dining area.”

And yes, reports Nagel, the players practice sprints in the halls.

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QC’s Women’s Tennis Team (front, l-r): Andrea Salvetova, Daniela Celli, Taylor Barber, Erika Goldsmith. (back): Head Coach Alan Nagel, Kim Xiong, Maria Mendes, Maria Perevezentseva, Laura Moscounoiu, Assistant Coach Somadi Drucker. Above, Perevezentseva in action.

ROUNDUP

SOCCER

REACHING the East Coast Conference Championship game for the first time in QC history, the women’s soccer team lost 1–0 in an overtime heartbreaker to C.W. Post, the country’s 15th-ranked team. They concluded their season with an overall 12–4–1 record, winning all seven of their home games. Past also proved the nucleus for QC’s Men’s Soccer Team, dashing their playoff hopes by defeating them 2–0 and leaving the Knights one tie short of an ECC playoff berth. The men finished their season 5–12–1.

Four QC soccer players were honored by the ECC for their accomplishments. Both senior Brian Buckmire and seniors Ryan Johnson and Barry Hafner were named First Team All-Conference selections. Team captain Buckmire lived up to his billing as 2010 ECC Preseason Defensive Player of the Year by earning the same distinction in the end of the year honors. On the women’s side, senior midfielder Kirin Bolton was named to the All-ECC First Team, while forward Lorena Russi was honored on the All-ECC Second Team.

BASKETBALL

Seeded third, the Men’s Men’s Basketball Team advanced to the East Coast Conference semifinals, falling 73–67 to second-seeded C.W. Post on their home court. The Knights finished the season with a 20–8 record. Senior Lamonte Lans (right) was named the inaugural ECC Defensive Player of the Year and joined classmates Anderson Labase on the all-conference second team. Junior Khalil McDonald was tabbed to the ECC all-conference first team.

The QC Women’s Basketball team’s season also ended in Brookville in a 67–61 ECC Quarterfinal loss to C.W. Post. Their record was 10–20 for the season. Junior Amanda Bartlett was named to the ECC all-conference first team after leading the league with a 20.2 point-per-game average. Freshman center Calvin Hopkins earned a spot on the All-Rookie Team.

CROSS-COUNTRY

The Women’s Cross-Country Team completed the season with a sixth-place finish at the ECC Championship 5K Race. Indira Avila led the way with a fifth-place finish overall. Five runners, including Avila, posted personal bests for the C.W. Post course: Kailin Kuo, Cadie Cho, Michelle Martin, and Lauren Esposito. Avila was also selected for the All-Conference First Team. The Men’s Cross-Country Team finished their season placing sixth overall in the ECC Championships at Post with two runners, Max Gazzara and Robert Guertzen, finishing in the top 30, placing 17th and 30th, respectively.

WATER POLO

The Men’s Water Polo Team placed seventh in the Collegiate Water Polo Association’s Northern Division Championship. The Knights, who were seeded sixth entering the tournament, completed their season with an overall 9–11 record. When the CWPA announced the 2010 Men’s Varsity All-Northern and All-Southern Division teams, QC claimed two of 17 titles, with Nemanja Milijanovic (#13 at right) earning a place on the Second Team and coach D’Q Giri receiving Coach of the Year award. Queens received two of only four awards given to teams that did not qualify for the Eastern Tournament.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

The Women’s Swim Team concluded their season competing in the Metropolitan Swimming Championships, where they placed a respectable 12th out of 19 teams, with each swimmer posting her best time of the year. The men’s swimming and diving squad placed 13th at the championships, with numerous personal-best marks achieved in the process.

VOLLEYBALL

The Women’s Volleyball Team will have to wait until next year to make a run at the postseason. They wrapped up their 2010 season with a 3–0 loss to C.W. Post, falling to 9–16 overall; one spot out of playoff contention.

FENCING

The women’s fencing program sent eight competitors to the NCAA Northeast Regional Championships, after 13th-place showing at the National Intercollegiate Women’s Fencing Association Championships in Baltimore. Sophomore Haley Ward was a standout this season for the Knights, placing 10th at the NSWFA meet and 28th at the NCAA regionals in the foil discipline.

DANCE TEAM

Ranked 13th nationally, the QC Dance Team (above right) traveled to Orlando, FL, in January to compete in the University Dance Association’s College National Dance Championships on the Disney World Sports Pavilion stage. Before a packed house, the team came away with a fourth-place finish in the Open Pom division.
10

165, it’s been a school from 1961 to 1965. A college although she attended board member, never actually to the 1940s. Ironically, Isaacs, Alley before an eclectic mix of October 3, Isaacs delivered the of publishing.
ing periodically to speak to a frequent on-campus guest best-selling

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for QC’s Phoenix

having a “great time” writing Seventeen as she began to write political career would progress from there column for the lovelorn. Her magazine writing an advice in Mississippi in 1964. Goodman, who made the civil rights movement, and turbulent freshman year in ’61, noticed for my writing,” she “It was my first taste of getting to the newspaper office to being anywhere else.”

What’s more, she recollected writing “impassioned” defenses of fraternities and sororities. “It was my first taste of getting for fiction,” she quipped. “The our culture has changed in the Internet, iPods, and the myriad books they once were,” she said. “Technology is partially to blame with the advent of the


The Dead End Boys bring back to life Membership in the Dead End Boys fraternity was determined by some very exacting criteria, according to group chairman Vince Algeri. “The basis of being accepted was if they thought you were an OK guy,” said Algeri, who claims the group traces its roots back to 1939 when a bunch of guys wanted to play basketball but needed to be part of some type of group.

Alger, who laments that there are no more fraternities left on campus today, said that the Dead End Boys were ahead of their time regarding diversity. “There was no hazing and the organization was open to all racial and ethnic groups.”

Charles Fine ’48, another Dead End Boys member, recalled his service during WWII in Guam and the South Pacific. As a Jew, Fine recalled that other Jewish soldiers learned to identify themselves to each other during the war by using the code, “MOT,” meaning Member of the Tribe. “During those days, it’s not real popular being Jewish and we had to be careful,” he recalled.

Save THE DATES!

THURSDAY JUNE 2
Reunion for the Classes of 1951 and 1961

SUNDAY OCTOBER 23
Homecoming 2011

Both events will take place on campus. Check the Alumni Relations website for updates.
Andrew Hacker’s (Political Science) books target hot-button topics in American society: racism, gender differences, and the concentration of wealth among the economic elite. His latest book, coauthored with Claudia Dreifus, is *Higher Education?: How Colleges Are Wasting Our Money and Failing Our Kids—And What We Can Do About It* (2010). It takes a provocative look at higher education, exploring the lives of privileged tenured professors as well as the inner workings of elite institutions that have given second-class status to undergraduate education. The authors believe these institutions are engaging in a costly competition over sports, research, and campus amenities to attract students to their campuses.

“It’s the students who suffer,” says Hacker. “They end up at the bottom of the list.”

Hacker, an unlikely 81, knows first-hand about the perquisites that come with tenure, which he had for decades at Queens College. In 1996, he says, he had an epiphany while sitting pretty with a hefty salary and a comfortable retirement account. So he decided to retire, which allowed the college to hire two assistant professors for what they were paying him.

He remained in the classroom, however, as an adjunct professor, getting paid by the course. “I wanted to continue teaching,” he says. Last fall he was teaching American Politics 100, an introductory class that Hacker tackles by prodding his students to wrestle with the differences between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton. There’s a hint of Old School in Hacker. One morning in December, he arrives at his classroom in a brown sports jacket, a tie knotted snugly at his neck. He is slight, with thinning gray hair. Hacker peers through dark-rimmed glasses when calling on students, typically choosing those who haven’t raised their hands. He scribbles abbreviations of his points into a grid on the blackboard, then ignites a discussion about what these founding fathers said about slavery.

“Starting with Hamilton and Jefferson, our leaders were talking about race,” he tells the class. “They worried about race, they emphasized it.”

That leads Hacker to a discussion of racial identity and the power race still has in 21st-century America. He notes that more than one of every five Americans identify themselves as Hispanic or Asian, which denotes ethnic heritage, but not race.

“Over 20 percent of Americans get by without having a race,” says Hacker. “Then why do we still talk about it? Because it was so much a part of our history for 258 years and the effects still persist.”

The class was vintage Hacker: fast-moving, dipping in and out of American history, brimming with data and concepts, and spawning a discussion that made American history and politics come alive. Hacker says his classroom hasn’t changed much over the years. He’s still teaching in Powdermaker Hall, and many of his students are immigrants or the children of recent immigrants. Forty years ago, many were Italian, Irish, and Jewish; today, many are Indian, Pakistani, and Chinese.

“Students are students,” says Hacker. “And I’ve been using the basic format for my classes for a long time. I adapt and tinker, but...
At a celebration of Hacker’s long academic career, friends, faculty, and former students from Queens and Cornell University gathered on November 5 at a midtown Manhattan townhouse. Among those who spoke was Owen Tulloch ’88, who recalled how Hacker mentored him.

“He took me to intellectual maturi-
ty,” says Tulloch, a supervisory survey statistician for the U.S. Census Bureau.

“Dr. Hacker would put the questions out there, allow you to weigh the pros and cons, and come up with your own conclusion. It didn’t matter if it was in line with his view, as long as you made a sophisticated argument and could defend it. It taught you thinking skills. It taught me to think on my feet.”

Life with Big Bird

So when he was invited to join Sesame Workshop, he leapt at the opportunity. “Sesame Street,” he says, “is still pretty much alone as a full, whole curriculum for pre-school children that deals with everything from literacy to social reasoning.” He notes that after 9/11, the show also had to take account of the question: “How do you teach children about intolerance?”

For three years, Bernstein was the executive producer of “Sesame Street.” He was able to improve an already beloved institution—for example, by introducing a narrative story at the beginning of each episode—and was rewarded for his efforts with three Emmys.

In another executive role, VP of global Sesame Street productions, Bernstein trained production teams from France, Spain, Holland, Germany, and Kuwait. But possibly the greatest 

est triumph internationally was the development of Israeli and Palestinian versions of “Sesame Street.” At first, he thought one show would suffice for both cultures. But then, he says, there were “changes in our thinking based on political realities. The Intifada broke out, and we realized we needed a separate show for Palestinians.”

In Israel, “Rechov Sumur” premiered in 1985 and has been on and off the air in a number of versions ever since: “Shara’a Sim sim,” the Palestinian show: “Sumsun,” for Palestinians. “We had to cope with the Middle East’s explosive politics, such as the violence in Gaza. Yet, rather than be dissuaded from produc-
tion by these catastrophes, Bernstein sees them as the reason for being on the air. “We’re going to produce ‘Rechov Sumur’,” he explains, “because this violence is going on.”

He sees the positive values communicated by “Sesame Street” as an antidote, a healthier alternative for kids, “a vision of the fu-
ture.” At the launch of “Shara’a Simsim,” Bernstein commented: “We together, artists and educators, academics and animators, are only limited by the scope of our imagination and vision. I ask all of you to dream big for the sake of your children, and mine, and the world’s. I urge you to dream of making the entire Middle East a more tolerant neighborhood.”

Bernstein has been no stranger to the Queens College campus in recent years, participating in the Swivel Lecture Series and talking to students enrolled in Mark Rosenblum’s (History) course, “The Middle East and America: Clash of Civilizations or Meeting of the Minds.” Most recently, he was here last May when the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Reli-
gious Understanding honored him at its first annual Evening of Uncommon Courage for his work in trying to bridge ethnic and religious divides.

Ernie and Lewis Bernstein have been helping generations of chil-
dren learn their numbers and important lessons about tolerance.
You can’t hide in your bedroom and “play with your plastic dinosaurs forever,” muses the boy inside Jeff Gomez ’85. Instead, through his imagination, this lonely Latino child from the Lower East Side morphed into a globe-trotting storyline universe creator, consultant, and producer. From a gritty childhood and an adolescence of playing Dungeons & Dragons in the Queens College Student Union, he has shaped a professional life immersed in dozens of fictional worlds.

President and CEO of Starlight Runner Entertainment in Manhattan, Gomez is a guru of transmedia storytelling, which involves creating a narrative robust enough to span animation, ads, films, web content, and books to video games, toys, and theme parks. He guides Hollywood and Fortune 500 companies as they incubate or expand their epic fictional realms of branded entertainment, such as Disney’s sci-fi Tron: Legacy and Microsoft’s $2-billion Xbox game Halo. The fantasy universes Starlight Runner has been involved with generate millions of fans eager to interact with that world—as well as megabucks for the companies.

Starlight Entertainment springboards a company’s intellectual property into enormously profitable transmedia franchises. Marketing experts seek the CEO’s expertise to broaden their entertainment brands through these story franchises. Coca-Cola, for example, came to Starlight Runner to expand its animated “Happiness Factory” ad featuring a fantasy world inside a Coke machine.

Gomez, who co-founded Starlight Runner in 2000, guides a lean creative team—about a dozen freelancers. Their first project was to create the narrative that propelled Mattel’s Hot Wheels die-cast metal toys through mini-comic books, a video game, a website, action figures, and an animated television series. Clients also include Hasbro, Sony Pictures, Showtime, and 20th-Century Fox.

“What I do for a living,” Gomez notes, “is not creating alternate reality games or devices that sell more movie tickets. Transmedia narrative techniques give us a new way of expressing ourselves artistically that is just starting to come into its own. It all starts with a story.”

A Gomez biopic would be peopled with superheroes and legends of the imagination, beginning with Godzilla. Later, as a teen, Star Wars and the Hobbit realm of Middle-earth fascinated him. “You can basically sum up my life,” says Gomez, “by combining Tolkien with Bruce Springsteen.”

A younger Gomez spent a thrilling year in Honolulu, Hawaii, “discovering Japanese superheroes that jumped from one media platform to the next.” He soon came back down to Earth, returning to New York in the late 1970s. As he’s told some of his audiences, “My life became less like Power Rangers and more like Midnight Cowboy” as he wandered the streets of Times Square. When his mother could finally afford to move to Flushing, he discovered QC’s campus. As a 14-year-old needing “an outlet for my imagination,” he says he sneaked into the Student Union to play Dungeons & Dragons. Then as an undergraduate, he became “a popular gamer,” drawing dozens of onlookers as he infused drama into this fantasy role-playing game.

That campus hub, Gomez says, is also where he first noticed “the young lady who sneered at us because we were such nerds.” Years later, she would become his wife. He and Chrysoula Artemis-Gomez ’85 now have a daughter, age 8.

Through fantasy role-playing games on campus, Gomez says he discovered “a group of people where I felt I genuinely belonged.” In classes, majoring in film studies and communication arts and sciences, he continues, “I finally felt not talked-down to. Listening to my fantastic professors was
AS A CHILD, JEFF GOMEZ LIVED IN THE BARUCH PROJECTS ON MANHATTAN’S LOWER EAST SIDE. “A DREAMY KID” WITH “A MOM WHO LOVED TO READ TO ME,” HE SPENT A PIVOTAL YEAR IN HAWAII, WHERE HE MARVELED AT HOW THE FICTIONAL WORLDS IN JAPANESE MANGA CAN DRAW A FAN FROM COMICS TO TELEVISION TO MOVIE THEATRES.

A Starlight Runner, the CEO has come to know James Cameron through working on Avatar. Johnny Depp through Pirates of the Caribbean, and Will Smith through Men in Black III. He notes, however, “it’s not so much that we hobnob with movie stars and directors.” What intrigues Gomez is “playing a hand in twisting these marvelous entertainment franchises, fostering the universe of the intellectual property so that it continues to have something important to say about life, even though it’s about crazy, fantastical creatures.”

For Gomez, “the act of thinking about these rich universes”—the style of their proper names, their geography, the continuity of their narratives—adds him in bringing his obsessive-compulsive disorder “down to a low roar.”

He now plans to devote more time to telling his own story and to “the social and international components of what I do,” he says. “We’ll always have fun with the next Avatar movie, but we’re really getting into things that are truly impacting people’s lives. I’m a person who is very interested in shifting people’s perceptions about themselves and their world.”

From Frodo Baggins despairing at the Black Gate of Mordor to Luke Skywalker battling the Galactic Empire, Jeff Gomez loves succumbing to the spell of a well-spun yarn. “I’m evidence,” he says, “that a good story can improve a person’s life.”

By Donna Shoemaker

It had been a long wait—since 2006. But on December 11, 2010, those soaring hallelujahs resounded once more in Kupferberg Center’s packed Golden Auditorium. Packed to conduct 171 performers in Handel’s Messiah, Queens College Choral Society musical director James A. John was relaxed, centered, smiling.

“There’s a lot of subconscious communication between the podium and the group,” reflects John. “People pick up on that confidence and joy, and I really felt that was present. They were singing new energy into the piece.”

John has guest-conducted several times at Avery Fisher Hall’s annual Messiah Sing-Along, has directed the QCCS since 2002. He is also director of QC’s choral activities, associate professor of music, and director of the Manhattan-based chamber choir Cerdorision.

Handel’s 1741 masterpiece launched QCCS’s 70th anniversary season. The oratorio had been its inaugural offering in December 1941, a dozen days after Pearl Harbor and four years after QC opened its doors. “Born in World War II, the Choral Society gave significant support to community morale,” wrote John based the anniversary program in terms of its traditions: performing the standard repertoire like Beethoven’s Mass in C Major and the music director was a wonderful counselor for Messiah. “A complicated four-part fugue like that is difficult to execute,” Braine notes.

For its 70th annual Spring Concert on May 14, the QCCS sings on Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis. The Queens College Choir and Chorus will amplify vocal power to over 200, accompanied by the QC Orchestra.

“There are two sides to the Choral Society in terms of its traditions: performing the standard repertoire like Messiah, or expanding the group’s horizons into new areas, like premiering works by QC faculty members, or taking on new repertoire that has never been performed before at Queens College, like Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis,” John explains. His mentor, Maurice Peres (Music), “encouraged me to program some of the greatest works in the repertoire, like Britten’s War Requiem, because of the significant artistic and spiritual rewards for everyone involved.”

As a conductor, John “wants the music to be authentic,” explains Bob Braine, including making sure that their 17th-century Latin has a Germanic accent where appropriate. “Professor John is very good. He teaches. He has patience,” he observes, and the music director was a wonderful counselor for Messiah. “A complicated four-part fugue like that is difficult to execute,” Braine notes.

“Things seemed to click,” Barbara Braine ’57 reflects. “There are two sides to the Choral Society in terms of its traditions: performing the standard repertoire like Messiah, or expanding the group’s horizons into new areas, like premiering works by QC faculty members, or taking on new repertoire that has never been performed before at Queens College, like Beethoven’s Missa Solemnis,” John explains. His mentor, Maurice Peres (Music), “encouraged me to program some of the greatest works in the repertoire, like Britten’s War Requiem, because of the significant artistic and spiritual rewards for everyone involved.” John says. “I took his advice. The War Requiem was an exceptionally challenging project, it had turned out to be one of our best concerts. On this occasion of our anniversary, to have another monumental project like Missa Solemnis is very exciting for everybody.”

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Gomez is the co-creator of Kristina of the Woods, a powerful “Planeswalker” from the world of Magic: The Gathering.

Gomez, who created the anti-bullying video “Don’t Laugh at Me,” featuring hip-hop star Baby Jay.

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Higgins' first foray into politics would come soon after, working on the congressional campaign of another QC graduate, Gary Ackerman '94. He then landed a position with Community Board 8 in Fresh Meadows, where he dealt with issues from tree pruning to pothole repairs.

Like his mother, Higgins was a strong writer. While still at QC, he wrote a column for the Queens Tribune called "The Action Desk." "I would tackle local problems and basically do investigative-type journalism," he says. His columns garnered several New York Press Association awards, as well as a Pulitzer Prize nomination for a story he helped uncover about a major asbestos problem at Terrace Association awards. "For me, leadership is about trust—trust and no one can accuse of being a slacker. Since graduating from Queens College with a degree in political science, Higgins has gone on from the Office of the Mayor of New York City to the front office of the New York Jets.

Now, 36, Higgins credits his time at QC for much of his current success. Indeed, he refers to the school as "his path out of poverty." Higgins grew up in a working-class neighborhood in Bayarden. His parents divorced when he was nine. Raised by his mother, Linda, he fondly remembers sitting in on Saturday classes where he was attending at QC. "She was a great writer and she also became a perpetual student," Higgins says of his mother, who earned a BA from the college and also pursued two master's degrees there. A self-described "scrappy kid," Higgins dropped out of Cardozo High School at age 16 to help care for his ailing mother, who battled chronic illnesses. But, taking a cue from her, he completed his GED and SATs all within a few months and enrolled at the college in 1991. At one point in the early 1990s, Higgins and his mother were both attending classes at QC.

At the college, Higgins and his older brother Todd helped revive the then-moribund speech and debate team, each serving as president. He became such a skilled debater that he competed nationally against other schools. "The debate team gave me the confidence and polish I had lacked," Higgins says. "It taught me to think on my feet."

Higgins noted that instead of having the funeral procession go by QC en route to the cemetery. "That's what she cared that I could write. I was smart, that I would work my tail off for him, and I'm grateful for that." He also recalls the mayor's strong work ethic and that he "rarely slept or took a break." Higgins was not far behind the mayor, as he attended Fordham Law School at night while working as press secretary.

In the immediate aftermath of the September 11 attacks, Higgins assumed control of communications for the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC). During this time he wrote numerous Ground Zero speeches for then-Governor George Pataki, who remembers Higgins fondly. "Whether it was his leadership in helping New York recover from the tragic impact of September 11 or quarterbacking public affairs for the New York Jets, Matt Higgins is a proven, innovative, and effective leader," Pataki said recently.

But despite the opportunity to work with top political leaders, Higgins says the LMDC was an "emotionally charged environment where no matter what you did, you were roundly criticized." And while he says it was a privilege to work there, he felt it was time to move on to a "less weighty" position. So after years of dealing with hot-button political issues, Higgins switched teams.

"The New York Jets are big, they're in the public domain, but at the end of the day it's not life and death," says Higgins, who joined the Jets in 2004 in a business operations capacity. "It's a nice change of pace." Now an executive VP with the team, Higgins has helped revitalizer the New York Jets' brand by overseeing the team's efforts in marketing, sponsorships, merchandising, broadcasting, social media, and human resources. He also helped transform the team's website, created a host of new TV shows centered around the team, helped build a production studio, created a cheerleader squad, and was instrumental in bringing the Super Bowl to New York/New Jersey in 2014.

Higgins clearly enjoys the challenge of the Jets, and the Jets clearly feel strongly about him. "For me, leadership is about trust—trust in a person's ability to make sound, sometimes difficult, decisions and to continually innovate, driving the Jets to new heights," says Jets Chairman and CEO Woody Johnson. "I have seen nothing but both of these leadership qualities showcased by Matt time and time again since the day he joined the organization."

Things were going well for Higgins and then, in April 2007, he was diagnosed with testicular cancer. He chose to see this as a wake-up call that forced him to re-examine his life. "Knowing that I had another chance, I wanted to make sure that I would live my life the way I had hoped I always would," he explains.
Meeting in the Middle

The Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding helps different cultures find common ground.

By David McKay Wilson

Batya Septimus ’12 grew up an Orthodox Jew, attending Jewish schools, studying for a year in Israel, and socializing within her close-knit community in Queens. So when she arrived at Queens College and was the only Jew in her introductory class in Arabic, she was confronted with many preconceptions she had about her Muslim classmates. They were Muslims, so they hated Jews, she figured. She was Jewish, so they hated her.

But that all changed as Septimus and her classmates hung out and discussed their religious and cultural backgrounds at sessions held by the college’s Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding (CERRU), recently founded by Mark Rosenblum (History).

She soon became involved in Rosenblum’s training sessions in conflict resolution, in which students with differing points of view come to understand each other better through role-playing, guided conversations, and learning how to listen to those who hold diametrically opposing views.

“There’s such a need for this kind of dialogue, and Queens College is the perfect place for it to happen,” says Septimus. “You start talking to people as you walk home with them, and you realize they are pretty much the same as you. And they may have had the same preconceptions about me that I had about them.”

CERRU is founded on the concept that dialogue and shared experiences are essential to combating intolerance, overcoming stereotypes, and promoting understanding. It has also reached out to myriad clubs and groups across campus—such as Hillel and the Muslim Student Association—to foster more cross-cultural exchange.

Queens College President James Muyseks believes that the center has shown that students can get beyond their divisions and embrace diversity. “We can celebrate our differences and make certain we understand what we have in common,” he says. “And there’s no better place than Queens College to take advantage of such diversity.”

Muyseks was among over 400 people from the QC community who saw the center in action one evening last November. CERRU students had arranged for an evening of dialogue about the controversial plan to build an Islamic center a few blocks from the site of the September 11 attacks in lower Manhattan. The high-rise Islamic center, called Park51, would include a community center and prayer space. Many politicians joined the 9/11 families to denote the project, while others countered that it was wrong to discriminate against a religious group with a right to build there.

On the podium that evening were Daisy Khan, executive director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement, and a former deputy chief of the New York City Fire Department, Jim Riches, whose son died in the attack. Riches himself spent 16 days in a coma due to injuries he received as a first responder. On the evening was an opportunity to initiate, and sustain, respectful dialogue on this difficult topic. He noted that after Khan and Riches spoke, a panel of students would question them about the issue as part of the center’s process of finding common ground on tough issues.

“We’re hoping to get something of a win-win here tonight.”

Rosenblum said.

Khan, who was born in Kashmir, India, and raised a Muslim, said she welcomed the dialogue, noting that she has long honored all religions from her childhood attending Catholic schools in India, to her arrival in Jericho, NY, where she lived in a predominantly Jewish neighborhood.

“We’re here to pave the way across the divide;” she said. “When we proposed the project, we didn’t realize it would create such pain. There’s a national conversation we haven’t had yet, and we need to have it.”

Almost a decade after his son’s death, Riches said the pain is ever-present. He asked Khan to consider relocating the project farther away in recognition of the feelings of some 9/11 families. He strongly believes that the site two blocks from the World Trade Center towers is “sacred ground.”

“We are the victims too,” Riches said. “We lost our loved ones. They will never come back.”

The CERRU students then helped focus the discussion. Alexandra Ruiz ’07, now a history graduate student, asked the opposing sides how they might find a compromise that wouldn’t compromise either group’s rights. Sahar Khatri ’12 asked how society could stop the demonization of Muslims. And Charlie Wohlberg ’12 asked Riches just how far away from Ground Zero was far enough.

Rosenblum said he’d be satisfied if it moved a few blocks away. “That would be fine with me, but I know it might not be possible,” he said. “They have to study the pains and claims of the other,” says Rosenblum. “They have to stand in the other side’s shoes.”

The center’s student dialogues, held on campus throughout the spring and fall, attracted scores of students. Participants had to agree to certain ground rules. They would speak for themselves, not criticize or comment until the proper time, be mindful of historical patterns and power relations, not interrupt, honor requests for confidences, and listen to what emerged in the conversations.

They learned the process of reflective listening, in which participants quietly listen and only ask clarifying questions. They then paired off to address issues of identity, asking about key events in each other’s lives, and the genesis of their involvement in social issues. They spoke about their core values and their hopes for societal change.

The consensus among the participants at the end of the evening was what Rosenblum had hoped it would be: a win-win situation, with both sides agreeing that they should talk together again.

For Rosenblum, that evening of dialogue on Park51 was the kind of event he thought might unfold when, in the fall of 2009, a core group of 18 facilitators learned his process of promoting understanding, which puts participants in role-playing exercises in which they take on the argument of the person most different from themselves.

“They have to study the pain and claims of the other,” says Rosenblum. “They have to stand in the other side’s shoes.”

The Ongoing dialogue (l-r): Student Alexandra Ruiz, Muslim community leader Daisy Khan, retired NYC Fire Department Deputy Chief Jim Riches, and QC students Sahar Khatri, Charlie Wohlberg, and Batya Septimus are among the people who participated in discussions organized by CERRU Director Mark Rosenblum.
cated when three QC students, all of them volunteers with the
a discussion about breakfast choices proved surprisingly compli-
the larger group.

You realize that it’s OK if you don’t agree, but you can listen and
also a commemoration of Kristallnacht—the pogroms in Nazi Ger-
many and Austria in 1938—that featured six students from diverse
backgrounds reading the personal stories of six Holocaust survivors
and making specific commitments to combat hatred.

“Change can happen because the conversation changes,” observes
and came up with new strategies for handling difficult situations.

We discovered that while both communities identify strongly
and religious divides while reflecting on the growing influence of
and Austria in 1938—that featured six students from diverse
backgrounds reading the personal stories of six Holocaust survivors
and making specific commitments to combat hatred.

The event in November came six months after the center’s
first annual Evening of Uncommon Courage, held at LeFrak Concert
Hall. The event honored three activists involved in bridging ethnic
and religious divides while reflecting on the growing influence of
Rosenthal’s work on campus among students committed to recon-
ciliation.

The honorees included Dr. Izreelid Abulofa, a Palestinian
physician who advocates peace with Israel despite the fact that three
of his daughters and a niece were killed when a suicide bomber
in Gaza in 2009; Lewis Bernstein ’69, executive vice president at
Sesame Workshop (see p. 15); and Dear Aunaetitrakul ’10, president
of QC’s Political Science Club and coordinator of the school’s War
on Hate event.

“We’ve seen amazing successes,” says Wohlberg of the work of
the still-new center. “I’m a pragmatist who takes a realistic view of
the world, and I see that this process works. Engaging with each other is
far better than cutting yourself off and indulging in stereotypes.”

For more about the center, visit qcenterforunderstanding.org.
Internships: More Important than Ever

Internships are intended to give students a taste of a permanent job. But sometimes they lead to a permanent job.

By Burton Bollag

In recent years internships have become more important in preparing students for their work life, says Tesfaye Asfaw, director of QC’s Office of Career Development and Internships. “I’ve heard recruiters say, ‘When I read a resume, if I don’t see an internship, I don’t take the resume seriously,’” says Asfaw. “A comment that strong is unusual, but it shows how important internships have become.”

Many QC students hold part-time jobs. But an internship is typically more enriching and chosen for its relevance to a student’s field of study. Students learn about teamwork, the latest in modern technologies, and other skills. The typical internship lasts one semester and involves 20 hours of work per week. The majority, including all jobs at for-profit enterprises, are paid. About a third of the 80 to 100 internships organized through Asfaw’s office each semester carry academic credit. (A number of individual departments also arrange internships; some, like urban studies and media studies, require them.) Below we highlight three students whose lives were changed by an internship.

Unusually, Alfonso Castillo ’99 did his summer internship at Newsday just after graduating with honors from Queens with a major in studio art and a minor in journalism. “I was very young, very green,” he recalls. In fact, he had few clippings to show the newspaper when he applied. Mostly were online outlines for practitioners of professional wrestling, with which he has long been fascinated.

“I didn’t think I was entitled to anything,” says Castillo, who was born in the Bronx to parents who had emigrated from Latin America. “I worked twice as hard as everyone else” at the newspaper.

At the end of the summer Castillo was asked to stay on for a few months. That fall of 1999 was a busy time for the editorial world of computers and the Internet, which Castillo had long been fascinated by. So Castillo worked two to three days a week at the magazine and overlapped with his academic studies. He was given small jobs to do by investment advisors and learned the importance of doing those tasks well and on time.

“I was living on his own and couldn’t afford even the modest tuition payments. Then one of his professors nominated him for an award from a fund for deserving but needy students set up by the Leeds family—including Lilo Leeds ’48—who ran a magazine publishing company in Nassau County. The award he won included financial support and a summer internship as a proofreader at one of the family’s publications, Information Week. “At the end of the summer I went to the publisher and said good-bye.” But instead, he was invited to stay on. So Colonna worked two to three days a week at the magazine while continuing his studies. After graduating with a major in English literature, he stayed with Information Week as a reporter for another eight years, and then worked two more years for the publisher, where he was responsible for launching an Internet version of the magazine in 1994.

After more than a decade writing about the fast-developing world of computers and the Internet, Colonna went on to co-found two venture capital firms at Ventures, established in 1995, was the first investment firm focused entirely on the then-emerging Internet. Flatten Partners also concentrated on companies developing online business. Flatten was a very successful early stage investment operation, says Colonna. During its six years of active investing, from 1996 to 2001, Flatten invested more than $500 million and, has, to date, returned more than $1.3 billion.

Today Colonna works as a life coach, helping about 55 clients, mostly young CEOs, deal with work and life issues related to their demanding jobs. He is also active with various nonprofit projects. The most recent involves frequent travel to Tibet, where he helps a program aiding micro-businesses. Colonna also is passionate about serving as co-chair of the QC Scholarship Committee, along with fellow QC Foundation Board Members Kathy Hu ’91 and Renée Kroll Zarbin ’54. They are asking former scholarship recipients to give to current students the support they received when attending the college.

If you would like to offer a student an internship with your company, please contact the Office of Career Development & Internships at 718-997-4465.

Keysian C. Gordon got an internship with a large financial advising company in 2000.

Keysian C. Gordon graduated from Queens in 2002 with a major in accounting. In her junior year she was accepted for an unusually long-term internship with UBS Financial Services: it lasted 2½ years, including one year after graduation.

“Since starting college I had always been working,” says Gordon. “But the internship was definitely different.” The service she worked for advised wealthy clients on how to invest their money. She was given small jobs to do by investment advisors and learned the importance of doing those tasks well and on time.

Two of the key lessons she learned from the experience, says Gordon, is “never to take ‘No’ for an answer,” but also, perhaps paradoxically, to say “No” if asked to do something she felt she could not realistically accomplish.

“The internship definitely opened the door for me at the next job I got,” which is advising wealthy clients at UBS. She works hard but enjoys it. “You’d be surprised just how nice the clients are.”

Jerry Colonna ’85 says that his internship became a job that “led to my work as a venture capitalist and to the rest of my life.”

WHO’S ON THE PHONE?

For the first time in over 20 years, the Queens College Phonathon is back on campus and student staffed. Five nights a week since October (excluding winter break and some treacherous snowstorms), undergraduate and graduate student callers gather in a calling room in CEP 2, put on a headset, and reach out to alumni, staff, faculty, and friends to ask them to support the Queens College Annual Fund. As of early March they have logged 975 calling hours, made 9,078 phone calls, and have surpassed pledge dollars raised last fiscal year. And they still have 10 weeks to go! Not only are these students gaining transferable, real-world skills, but they are also helping to raise essential unrestricted dollars to keep quality education affordable and accessible for future Queens College students. Additionally, they are realizing the importance of private contributions at Queens and are on the road to becoming alumni supporters themselves.

But it’s not just about the dollars. Student callers update alumni on college activities, encourage campus visits, and respond to questions. So the next time your phone rings, pick it up . . . it might just be a student from QC!

A THOUGHTFUL GIFT

If you believe in the work of Queens College and want to ensure it will continue to serve generations of students to come, you may wish to consider a planned gift. Regardless of your age or income, you can benefit from estate planning, and a planned gift can be an important tool in your overall financial strategy. There are many creative ways to make a meaningful gift to Queens College while enhancing and safeguarding your own financial situation. Whether you choose to include the college in your will or establish a Charitable Gift Annuity that would provide you income during your lifetime, we can help you maximize the tax benefits of your charitable giving while allowing you to create a gift you may not have thought possible. Please contact the Queens College Foundation at 718-997-3920 for more information.
she and her husband retired in 1987, she and her husband Wilbert S. Aronow live in the Bronx. . .

1953: a widow in 1996, she has “tried to improve the status of gay people in this country.”

1949: turned 90, would like to hear from other members of the Class of ’41.

1948: . . .

QUEENS

1941: Stein, Irwin, who recently turned 90, would like to hear from other members of the Class of ’41. You can reach him at awedl@stonybrook.edu.

1940: Franklin Kameny warns “I warned QC in September 1940 and in March 1941 to regard the gay people who were in WWI” graduated in 1948, with a B.S. in physics; he went on to studies in meteorology at Harvard for the 1956 in astronomy from Harvard University. I have been a resident of Washington, DC, since 1954. On June 10, 2010, in a formal ceremony at the office of our Mayor Adrian Fenty, a two-block section of 17th Street, NW, was renamed Trask Kamen Way, NW by way of an extremely terse summary of the half-century of personal history leading up to this life, that takes up the uneventful turns. Although I certainly didn’t expect to be a professor of medicine in the future, when I was at QC or when I came to Washington, I am now widely recognized among my fellow students as President Obama, personally as one of the Founding Fathers of the ACLU. I am an ardent gay activist and militancy and naturalistically and locally in 1961 I coined the slogan “Gay is Good.” In 1968, after the years since then, I have been an advocate for the gay liberation movement, which has to date improved the status of gay people in a number of ways. I am unimpressed with the potential double talk, and while at age 85, I am pleased to pass the baton to others in recognition of that fact that was honored on June 10, and will remain so honored in 1996, she has “said that she is still a resident of Queens College. I remember it fondly.”

1984: . . .

1969: . . .

1947: Barton Berenson retired in 1947 at 45 years of Stanford University, where he taught the history of medicine. The Milner Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies, and charmed American History, he wrote a number of books on Latin American and International Policy Studies programs. History bulbs and many highly respected and influential books and articles. Over the years he has received numerous awards and fellowships and, despite “remittance,” he continues to write, his work is widely read, and he is a good sport as a member of the Milner Library. Barton wrote that he remembered his time at QC for the education he received and that he feels “especially indebted to JH and FS for their help and guidance.”

1972: For over 25 years he has been devoted entirely to ghostly spirits. . .

1968: . . .

1965: . . .

1964: . . .

1963: After teaching for 35 years, Edward Butcher received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and is now teaching at the University of California, Irvine. She recently published three books: As Heel Hooking the Enemy: A Contrary (Prager Library Series, 2008). The Psychobitch: Why Asians and Why Asians Are So Bad at Sports (Regnery, 2009), and Fate, Fortune and Finnegan: The Complete Works of J. D. Salinger (ExLibris, 2009). Working on a series of books about the history of science and religion, she says: “Gabrielle is an expert in early modern and contemporary science.”

1962: recently retired as executive director of the Nassau County Dental Society. He has been the chairman of the board of directors of the National Food and Nutrition Council and is a consultant to the New York State Health Department. His firm, William McCourt Associates, is not only a QC graduate but was also a professor in the department of art history and music at Fordham University. .

1961: John Bissinger Prize for Distinguished Scholarship awarded to Edward Butcher. .

1960: Rosalyn T. Bush, an expert on New York history who has written extensively on the history of the Borough of Queens, has been selected for the Queens County Bar Association. .

1959: . . .

1958: . . .

1957: . . .

1956: . . .

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1944: . . .

1943: . . .

1942: . . .

1941: . . .
1976: Leonard Friedlander is retired, but feels that he followed in his father’s footsteps: Gabriel Friedlander, a policeman, was among those who had hard work of salvaging the Pacific fleet after Pearl Harbor, which later was key to winning the war at Midway.

Leonard worked as a high-rise firefighter in Lower Manhattan, where he ended up as FDNY’s director (3rd fl.), he became part of the Funeral Desk, which organized funerals and memorials for the 343 firefighters who died that day.

1977: Maryann Friedlander Walter goes to New York to community organizations. A teacher at PS 89 in Elmhurst, she has won many awards for her work for the Girl Scouts. She led a group in Manhattan for 25 years and, as the service unit manager of southwest Queens, she organizes Girl Scout community service projects. As a member of the United Veterans and fraternal Organizations of Mapaugh, she also chairs her own contest. Maryann and her husband, Michael, have four daughters and one son-in-law.

1979: Julian Fortuna was named to the board of directors of the United Veterans and Fraternal Organizations of Maspeth, she also serves as a sales executive at Berlitz.

1980: Howard Friedlander, a global tax partner at the Deloitte LLP, based in Atlanta, is an expert in tax law and a partner in the Saltzer Law firm.

1984: Laura Curr Bandrowski was selected for the McCarthy Scholarship, which shows how law study is the basis of many liberal arts disciplines. The latter is also a contributor, including chapters by Ann Jakobson ’71, ’76 and Helen Smith Cashin ’76.

1990: Ivan Friedlander Schementi has been living in Chicago, where he is a serious photographer who photographs document everyday life.

1992: Michael Friedlander Rogers and the Jerry Bock were critically acclaimed productions. He previously won the Richard Rodgers and the Jerry Bock Award for his words. He is a bestselling author. Friedlander was named the Eugene J. Flynn award winner for his book.

1993: Laura Odenyo is a serious writer and has published two books: “Language in International and a sales executive at Berlitz.

1994: Foy Spatafora writes: “I graduated from QC in February 2002 with a bachelor’s degree in music and a minor in music. I have been living right in the neighborhood, grew up Kenyan American, and China.

2000: Aaron Ellner (MSE ’95) has started his business as that name as a masonic person. The Weisman, describes his role as a guide to his clients through introductions and steaks with them through the dating process. “It’s a great mistravels to set people up,” he says, and so for he seems to be having success at it. He is living in Woodmere, N.Y., where he also works as a milestone teacher in the public schools.

2010: Laura Friedlander was interviewed for the Ravi Coltrane Quartet lead by the son of the late John and Alice Coltrane. Laura, who appeared with many acclaimed jazz artists, including Ray Barretto and Oscar Peterson.

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QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES
31

30 QUEENS: The Magazine of Queens College

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31
Queens College thrives because of the generosity of 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 their support, we are pleased to present our Fiscal Year 2010 Honor Roll.

Alumni Families

By Donna Scher

A zigzag here, a zigzag there—the routes students take to and through college are anything but direct. Often applicants have had to chance a jump of their own to lead through someone else's eyes. Looking to apply to College quite likewise, anyone who has the experience of earning a diploma at such a global campus opens other doors, not only in the city but internationally. Come along as we visit with three of the many families where a parent or sibling was the one who first came to study on campus. In these stories of the Landaus, the Adlers, and the Dobrins, you won’t find any arm-twisting at college decision time.
The Landau family has been a familiar presence on campus, beginning with father Ronald (right), who taught physics and did research on plasma instabilities at QC in the 1970s. Since then (it’s son Mayer, wife Linda, and daughter Jaelyn have all earned degrees at Queens. 

of an expanding universe of education for this nuclear family of landaus. The three QC are PhD graduates and the fourth is a former professor of physics at the college. Mayer LANDAU ‘87, the son, found his niche at QC “hanging out in the astrophysics” lounge, being tutored by faculty “they were a great bunch, willing to spend a lot of time with undergraduates.” In A Ph.D in physics and electrical engineering, a second undergraduate degree (engineering), and a Ph.D in optics. 

MayerLANDAU ‘87, the son, found his niche at QC “hanging out in the astrophysics” lounge, being tutored by faculty “they were a great bunch, willing to spend a lot of time with undergraduates.” In A Ph.D in physics and electrical engineering, a second undergraduate degree (engineering), and a Ph.D in optics. 

The mother retired from teaching English to immigrants and became a stand-up comic. The daughter directs specialized in reproductive genetics. The son is a space agency. And the father did research in plasma physics and MRI imaging at various government, company, and university laboratories. Queens College has been a favorite-
basing their bios on authentic sources. David, while researching his first book, Churchill's War, in 1960, used the biographies of his fictional offspring to study the real-life experiences of wartime leaders. By doing so, he was able to accurately portray the trials and tribulations faced by these historical figures.

David's research methods have been widely praised. In 1961, he received the Pulitzer Prize for History for his book, The War Years. This book, which covered the European and Pacific theaters of World War II, was described by a reviewer as "a masterpiece of historical scholarship." It was also hailed for its "brilliant" and "eloquent" writing.

David's work continues to influence historians today. In 1962, he published The War at Home, a book that explored the impact of World War II on American society. This book was praised for its "perceptive" and "scholarly" analysis of the war's effects on the home front.

David has also been recognized for his contributions to the field of literary criticism. In 1963, he published The Literature of War, a book that analyzed the works of several prominent war correspondents and novelists. This book was described as "a significant contribution to the study of war literature." It was also praised for its "clear" and "well-organized" presentation.

David's work has had a lasting impact on the field of history. His books have been translated into several languages, and his ideas have been incorporated into the works of many other historians. He has been described as "one of the foremost historians of the 20th century," and his contributions to the field have been widely recognized.

In 1965, David was awarded the National Medal of Science, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a scientist by the United States government. He was honored for his "outstanding contributions to the field of history." The medal was presented to him by President Lyndon B. Johnson.

David has also been recognized for his commitment to education. In 1966, he was appointed as the first director of the new National Endowment for the Humanities, a government agency that supports the study of history and the humanities. He served as director for several years, and his leadership was characterized by a strong commitment to the preservation of American history.

David's contributions to the field of history have been widely recognized, and his work continues to inspire new generations of historians. His dedication to scholarship and his commitment to the preservation of American history have earned him the admiration and respect of his colleagues and students alike.
of the Dobrins

Queens College was ‘absolutely first-rate. I didn’t love high school but I did love to get education while at Queens. And now to have major responsibilities in the place that gave me my opportunities is just spectacular.’

The Dobrins enjoy living with that confluence of cultures. QC and CUNY first (streamlined initiatives, CUNYalert (safety), and the political science department invites him annually to campus, and the city’s Chief Information Officer. The Dobrins enjoy living in the borough known for its confluence of culture. QC’s COO points out, ‘I make better decisions because of having that opportunity to study in such a diverse atmosphere.’

‘There is one thing he wishes had been different: He had met his wife eight months after he was pregnant with their younger son, Michael, now a junior at QC.’

Assistantprincipal of P.S. 009 (‘The School with Heart’), Lynda works with these students to channel their passion.

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QC Music Professor Antonio Hart (far left) had an instrumental role when Hu Jinto, president of the People’s Republic of China, visited the White House in January for a “quintessentially American” evening hosted by President Barack Obama. The musical lineup included pianist Herbie Hancock (to the Commander-in-Chief’s left), vocalist Dianne Reeves, and bassist James Genus. Inset: Complementing a meal of Maine lobster, rib-eye steak, and apple pie a la mode, Hancock, Hart, and Genus served up a few standards of their own.