Pursuing the Cold Facts of Global Warming
Jazz trumpeter Jon Faddis greets a couple of young jazz fans at one of this year’s series of free Pops is Tops concerts for local school children, held in the garden at the Louis Armstrong House Museum. Over 1500 students from Elmhurst and Forest Corona attended the event held over three days in May. Faddis led a group of musicians (below), which included renowned saxophonist and QC professor Antonio Hart ’93 (far right), in a series of performances followed by Q & A sessions in which students asked the musicians about their instruments and music.

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Cover:

Stephen Pekar ’86 in Antarctica (Photo by Pekar)
Armstrong House Museum Improves, Measure By Measure

An empty lot across the street from the Louis Armstrong House Museum will finally have a residence hall. Queens College hopes to do the same. The residence hall, however, is not intended to increase the student population. Instead, it is intended to increase the student experience. They will no longer have to cope with a commute at the beginning and end of their school year. Queens College will offer a residence hall.

“We need to retain competitive both within and outside CUNY in attracting the best students,” says President James H. Ramsey. “We are deeply grateful to Senators John Sabini and Serf Maltese, Assemblymen Joseph Peralta and Jeff Aubry, and all the other elected officials who worked so hard to acquire this essential funding,” says Cogswell.

The bequest will go toward the purchase of software that will allow the museum to catalog its growing collection. The remainder of the funds will be used for development. “We have a lot of major fundraising ahead of us, and we’ll be bringing in an outside consultant,” notes Cogswell.

Laura Hunter Colwin, 1911–2006

Laura Hunter Colwin, professor emerita of biology, died December 6, 2006 in Miami. She was 95 years old and survived by three years her husband, Arthur. Laura graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1932. Her early interest was in protozoology and she did part of her graduate research at the Marine Biological Laboratories (MBL) in Woods Hole, MA. During this time Laura met Arthur Lentz Colwin, a postdoctoral fellow from Yale. There was immediately chemistry between the two, but they decided to put off a wedding until Arthur found a permanent job. This happened in 1940, when he was offered a position at Queens College.

This job offer did not extend to Laura—regulations on hiring family members made a joint appointment impossible—so Laura worked at Vassar. In 1948 hiring regulations were relaxed to allow Laura to be hired, but only to serve as hardness. It wasn’t until 1967—by which time Laura and Arthur had co-authored 46 scientific papers, received major funding from the NIH, and co-chaired an international conference—that those regulations were repealed and Laura received a one-step promotion from faculty to professor.

The Colwins used the newly invented electron microscope to study the process of fertilization in Algeolax discoidalis, and other marine organisms. Their discoveries led to a fundamental change in the understanding of the fertilization process. They disproved the then-prevailing dogma that the sperm penetrates the egg during fertilization, and demonstrated instead that the membranes of sperm and egg undergo a complex fusion process.

A teacher and students remember Laura as an exceptionally kind and caring person who emphasized the joys of scholarship and discovery. She inspired dozens of her students to become scientists.

The Colwins made generous gifts to the college and MBL, following their QC retirement in 1973. At Queens they endowed the Colwin Prize, an annual award given to an exceptional graduating biology major. The college honored the couple in May 1993 by naming the former E Building Laura and Arthur Colwin Hall.

Laura is buried in the cemetery of the Church of the Messiah, in Woods Hole, next to her husband.

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我们收到的车基金，来

the site of an 8,500-square-foot visitors center, thanks to a $5 million award from New York State.

“The visitors center will provide substantial benefits not only to our visitors, but to our community,” says museum director Michael Cogswell, who plans to hold exhibitions, concerts, lectures, and other events in the new space. In addition, the center will have room for the gift shop, currently based in the house’s garage. When construction is finished, the garage will be restored—and occupied by a 1971 Lincoln Town Car, the model Armstrong drove.

“Thanks to the support of Laura and Arthur Colwin, the Louis Armstrong House Museum has an extraordinary opportunity to fulfill its mission,” says Cogswell. “A new building will be a fitting tribute to the great musician and his music.”
Professor of History has made some history of his own. Born in one multicultural city—Alexandria, Egypt—Rossabi easily adapted to another in of his own. His latest book: “a big history of China.” Rossabi can be found at his desk, working on his latest book: “a big history of China.”

Exciting changes are underway at both the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies and the Jewish Studies program and center. The former boasts a new named chair for Byzantine studies, made possible by the donation of $400,000 from the Kallinikeion Foundation, which tapped him to participate in its open society initaitives in Mongolia.

“After teaching at Case Western Reserve University for about 15 years, Rossabi was in New York in 1986 to accept an appointment at New York University. He also started working at Columbia as an adjunct. His growing reputation as a scholar soon attracted steady release of articles and books, including Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times—gave the Art Library 63 cartons of valuable research materials. As one of the world’s top exponents of Mongolian culture, Morris Rossabi has forged a career that spans academia and contemporary politics. In the process, the college’s latest Distinguished Professor has made some history of his own.

Rossabi is College’s Newest Distinguished Professor

Many Happy Returns for Rosenthal Library

When alumni visit Queens College, they not only reminisce about how much the school shaped their future, but many also express a desire to give something back. This was especially true of the alumni honored at this year’s Rosenthal Library Donor Reception, Am Birstein ’48, and Michael and Barbara Twomey ’48.

Rosalie M. Hamilsh and slackman receive q award

On Thursday night, June 21, Queens College hosted its annual Q Award Gala at the Marriott Marquis in New York City. Each year the Queens College Foundation bestows the Q Award on accomplished men and women who reflect the qualities of intellect and spirit the college hopes to nurture in its students. This year the Q Award was presented to Oscar and Tony Award-winner Martin Hamilsh ’68 and the founding president of Cerec Bank, David Slackman ’70. The evening also included a special salute to all QC graduates in the entertainment business.

Hamblish and Slackman receive Q Award

Robert Rosenberg, 1927–2006

An art history superstar, Robert Rosenberg ‘48 celebrated the high-brow and the low, and everything in between. At the time of his death last December, he had organized simultaneous exhibitions at the Grand Palais in Paris and the Houston Museum of Fine Arts: The former show explored portraiture from 1760 to 1830, and the latter focused on several hundred years of dog art.

Rosenberg had a career that spanned academia and curatorship. After completing a bachelor’s degree at QC—where he studied with legendary art historian Frances Godwin—and a master’s in musicology from Yale, he immersed himself in art history, earning a PhD from New York University. He taught at Princeton, Yale, and Oxford before returning to NYU, where he was professor of fine arts for four decades. A curator at the Guggenheim Museum of Art since 1996, Rosenberg prided himself on overturning conventional standards. “If I can find Frank Capra’s ‘It’s a Wonderful Life’ and put it up on a 70-foot screen, I don’t think anyone can say no,” he said. When the Guggenheim show on the iconic American illustrator and cartoonist was greeted by a wall of protest against the work of the artist, Rosenberg first attracted attention with Transformations in Late Eighteenth-Century Art, which gave the rococo period a modernist spin. “With a combination of iconoclasm, faultless lucidity and wit, he smashed aesthetic prejudices the way physicists smash atoms,” noted the New York Times. Forty years after its publication, Transformations, the man he wrote it, remains widely influential.

Kathleen Gilly’s 2005 oil portrait of Robert Rosenberg as the Marcel Duchamp.
The Queens College Evening Readings program marked its 31st anniversary this past season. What makes America’s greatest writers return again and again? Some say it is Joe Cuomo ’75, founder and director of the series. “I’m always honored when he asks me,” said Jamaica Kincaid, the Antiguan-born novelist and short-story writer. She read for the first time in 1986 at an Evening Reading. She fainted. But Joe Cuomo, she said, picked her up and helped her get through it. “He is so caring. He has such kindness.” It was his siren song.

What is that song? “I feel a personal connection with each of those writers,” said Cuomo, 54, a tall man with silvery hair, ruddy cheeks, and a soft voice. “They feel I understand their work, and they respond.” In 1976 Cuomo—Queens College graduate, fiction writer, WBAI radio host, and professor—wanted to build a community of writers for his students. The first person he invited was QC professor and poet Marie Cross. Their first event was a classroom. After the readings, the growing audience would repair to Cuomo’s apartment. For several years, Cuomo brought his readers to the college in his old Dodge Dart with the leaky windows. People like Ralph Ellison, Joe: Albee, Bellow, Cheever, Doctorow, Ellision, Feinghetti, Ginsberg, Heller, Irving, James (F.D.), Kesey, Lessing, and Miller, for starters.

In fact, you could say your A.B.C.’s with all the literary lions who have not said no to him.”

Among the ones Cuomo felt especially close to was the late German novelist W.G. Sebald, whom he interviewed in 2001, ten months before Sebald was killed in a car crash. The interview was “intense,” Cuomo recalls. “I felt in sync with him. We locked eyes. Afterwards, he wrote me a postcard saying, ‘The best part about being in New York was talking to you.’” This past year’s season kicked off with a roundtable discussion featuring 2006 Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk, Booker Prize winner Salman Rushdie, and New York Public Library Literary Lion Medal winner Norman Manea: Tom Stoppard and E.L. Doctorow came on other occasions, and several years, Cuomo brought his readers to the college in his old Dodge Dart with the leaky windows. People like Ralph Ellison and Edward Albee rode in that old car, and seemed to be having a good time en route. Cuomo said.

However, in recent years he has shared those duties with Lopate. This was the first season Cuomo did not do any of the interviews. But he still introduced, directed, and prepared each event. “Nobody could conceive and run this kind of program without, himself, being part and parcel of the writing process,” said novelist and story writer Cynthia Ozick. “He is deeply, deeply literarily minded.” It was his suggestion to have the roundtable discussion about the novel, she said.

Last July the New York Times reviewed The Don in the Head (Houghton Mifflin), a collection of essays in which Ozick discusses the centrality of the novel. But she was not happy with the Times reviewer. He wrote “a horrendously hostile, nasty, mean-spirited, trivializing review,” she says. The review seemed to suggest that the novel had declined in importance, she thought. “So Joe saw this and got the idea for the roundtable discussion.”

Leonard Lopate expressed admiration for all that his friend has accomplished. “Joe is really the founder, the spirit, and everything else. The whole thing really has to do with the people that Joe has established relations with over the years, and, then, his reputation. Writers who will go out to Queens College will not go to a lot of places. Maybe the 92nd Street Y’.”

Lopate also expressed his regard for the Readings program audiences. “It is an engaged audience that cares about literature, otherwise they would not be coming to these things. It isn’t like we are bringing out J-Lo and Madonna. We’re bringing out people who are dealing with ideas and, sometimes, really complex ideas.”

Working with the Queens College Evening Readings program is “very demanding,” Lopate said. Like so many who have been a part of it, he said he does it because “the series is amazing,” and “I really love Joe.”

For more information on the Evening Readings series, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings
The couturiers represented in the Historic Costume Collection at Queens College would get most fashion plates excited. “That’s an Ungaro from the ‘80s, with the big shoulder pads of the period,” says Elizabeth Lowe, chair of the Department of Family, Nutrition, and Exercise Sciences, who has brought out a few of the more iconic examples. “The color and length—oh, lack of length—in the next one are clues that it’s the work of Emilio Pucci, probably from the late 1960s or early ’70s,” continues Lowe. Nearby, awaiting a photographer, are a pair of ladylike Chanel suits, a sumptuously tailored Galliano coat, a white lace frock from Givenchy, and a beaded black flapper dress whose designer is unknown.

But for all their vintage appeal, these items are no longer meant to be worn, except perhaps by a dress form. They are unique teaching tools that give Queens College textile and apparel majors a better understanding of history and design. “We call it a working collection,” explains Lowe, who has been in charge of it since 1991. “We have thousands of pieces spanning the late 18th century to the present, and they’re used primarily for instruction.”

The potential applications are limitless. Professors may bring garments into the classroom flat or on mannequins, or take photos of them to accompany lectures. In the course History of Costumes and Furnishings, French Revelations to the Present, the clothes could be used to show changes in Western tailoring techniques and materials; in Apparel Science I and II, they might illustrate the differences between mass production and couture. Additionally, items sometimes make appearances in exhibitions on campus, such as the Fabric of Cultures show presented at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum last spring. Every article arrives as a donation; in recent years, many have been sent over to the college by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Women’s outerwear is the core of the collection. “We’re strongest in designer clothing from the ’80s on,” reports Lowe. But her collection also comprises undergarments and accessories, as well as items for men and children, and even a few pieces such as kimonos and caftans from non-Western cultures. They’re carefully numbered and tucked away in an approximately 30-by-30 foot room in Remsen Hall. Hats, lingerie, and wedding gowns rest in acid-free boxes. Gowns hang in metal wardrobes or, for lack of storage space, on racks under clean cotton sheets. “We have to move the dress forms to access the clothes,” says the professor, clearing space so she can open one of the wardrobes and pull out a cheerful print dress by Marimekko of Finland and a black velvet number by Oscar de la Renta, with crisp taffeta cuffs, collar, and hem. Shoes stand two-by-two in glass-door cabinets, shelved by the decade. “Typically, these collections are labors of love,” admits Lowe, who has literally put heart and soul into the job. There, among the footwear, is a pair of suede sandals that she wore several decades ago.

Every article arrives as a donation; in recent years, many have been sent over to the college by the Metropolitan Museum of Art.
Building Bridges Between Muslims and Jews

By Bob Sater

The crowd in LeFrak Concert Hall on May 1 had come to hear Common Chords, a joyous concert of Klezmer and South Asian music. But first, they heard one of the saddest stories to come out of 9/11.

“A recent graduate of Queens College as well as a trained paramedic and ambulance driver, Mohammad Salman Hamdani saw the Twin Towers on fire and knew that he had to get downtown and try to save lives,” noted President James Myskens on the stage of the silent hall. “Sal didn’t come home that night. No one saw Sal for days.”

Not too much later, the rumors began. “The rumors claimed that Sal, a Pakistani-American Muslim, must have felt: raising their son to care for others, knowing in their hearts that he must be dead, and still having to deal with these whispers that Sal was an accomplice to an unspeakable crime.”

“Finally, on March 21, 2002, Sal’s remains were identified at the site of the World Trade Center. Sal was no terrorist, he is a hero.”

President James Myskens presents Talat Hamdani ‘98 with an engraved remembrance of her son, who died at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

“Sal, of course, was a Muslim. Andrew was a Jew. How dare people say that our differences are greater than the things we have in common?”

Finding Common Ground

Finding what Jews and Muslims have in common has been the goal of the remarkable project The Middle East and America: Clash of Civilizations or Meeting of the Minds (see Q Spring 2005, available online), of which that day’s concert was the final event of the semester. Begun in 2004 by Mark Rosenblum (Director of Jewish Studies and the Michael Harrington Center) and Michael Keusner (Political Science), the project examines the historically contentious relationship between Muslims and Jews with the aim of proving, as Myskens noted, “that people of good will, with seemingly irreconcilable differences, can come together and understand each other better.”

The semester’s events reflected the lessons being explored in Rosenblum’s classroom, where Muslim and Jewish students have been learning “to walk in the other side’s shoes,” immersing themselves in the history and culture of the side antithetical to their own beliefs and advocating for that side’s position in the ongoing Middle East conflict.

In February the initial event in the series, Bridging the Cultural Divides, highlighted similarities in the Islamic and Jewish traditions. Nasser David Dewidar of the Islamic Society of Mid-Manhattan presents a slide from his presentation in which side by side are two maps of the Middle East, with a side-by-side comparison of the Jewish and Muslim holy sites. In the overhead projection, you can see the stark differences in the land masses, but you can also make out the similarities in the history of the region. In the discussion that followed, students shared their experiences and thoughts on the event.

In the following months, the series continued with a series of events that brought students into contact with Muslims and Jews. In April, for instance, students were able to hear from a representative of Islamic traditions who advocated for a peaceful coexistence of cultures. The final event of the series, a concert, took place on May 1.

The concert, which was attended by a diverse audience of students, faculty, and community members, showcased a variety of musical styles and performers. The concert began with a Klezmer band, followed by a South Asian band, and ended with a concert that brought together both musical traditions. The audience was treated to a range of music, from traditional Klezmer to contemporary South Asian genres. The performers included Salman Ahmad of Junoon, who is also a member of the popular South Asian band Junoon, and fiddler Yale Strom, an American Jew. The concert ended with a collaborative performance by the two bands, with both bands playing individual sets, then joining in an impromptu collaboration.

“The students got the media’s draft of ‘Building an International Community of Muslims and Jews with the Children of Abraham’ and ‘Sesame Street in the Middle East: Paving the Road to Coexistence.’”

“Sesame Stories” is credited with helping to break down stereotypes and fostering greater understanding among young Palestinians, Israelis, and Jordanians.

In addition to the performance programs, Rosenblum’s students saw their class undergo a change in focus, reflecting the shifting nature of the Middle East conflict. During and following the days of warfare between Israel and Lebanon last year, they monitored multiple Arab, Israeli, and American news media outlets online.

“The students got the media’s draft of history,” Rosenblum said, “now where it was wrong, where it was right, with competing national and ethnic spins on it. They got an experience in the complexities of trying to nail down facts, which was a little bit like nailing Jell-O on a wall.”

From the outset, another important component of the Middle East and America project has been training public school social studies teachers to pass on the lessons of its unique curriculum. To date, over 3,000 teachers—who are in contact daily with over 40,000 students—have received the training. Salman Ahmad of Junoon, who is also a visiting professor in the college’s Cupola School of Music, joined Rosenblum in taking the curriculum and cultural programs to local high schools. This culminated in April in an exuberant musical performance and educational exchange at Forest Hills High School with over 700 students.

Many students were so moved by the performance that they came by the busload to join the overflow crowd at the semester’s final program Common Chords, where Ahmad and Strom reunited for an extended performance. At the conclusion, with both bands on stage and many in the audience on their feet, Ahmad announced that they would lose the performance “at an old Sufi song,” referring to the Islamic mystical tradition. It turned out to be John Lennon’s anthem to world peace, “Imagine.”

“I am the spirit of meeting of minds, rather than clash of civilizations, that we’ve organized this art exhibition and public programs, which celebrate our mutual achievements and probe our common challenges,” said Rosenblum of the ambitious effort that has been funded by grants from the Ford Foundation and the Clinton Global Initiative.

Imagine the Possibilities of Peace

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Brown frequently offers controversial perspectives not just on the music but also on the film for which the music was composed, often stressing the interactions between the cinematic action and the score, an aspect generally ignored by critics. Included are conversations about film and music, the cinematic action and the score. There are also interviews with composers such as Howard Shore (The Silence of the Lambs).

By Leslie Jay and Bob Suter

Film Musings

(Scarcecrow Press) assembles material from 20 years of columns about film music by Royalty Brown (European Langs.) wrote under that heading for Filmfare magazine. Brown frequently offers controversial perspectives not just on the music but also on the film for which the music was composed, often stressing the interactions between the cinematic action and the score, an aspect generally ignored by critics. Included are reviews of soundtrack recordings for new films as well as reissues of classic scores. There are also interviews with composers such as Howard Shore (The Silence of the Lambs).

Fidel’s powerful grip. Cuba Represent? Cuban Art, State Power and the Making of New Revolutionary Culture (Duke University Press) demonstrates how the economic liberalization of the mid-1990s created a critical layer of artists, intellectuals, and ordinary citizens who sought to engage the leadership in defining new directions for the Cuban Revolution. Fernandes, who spent a year in Cuba as a musician and ethnographer, argues that this sector will shape the nature of any future transition.

Harriet Hosmer was raised by her father, a Massachusetts doctor who encouraged her to ride horseback and learn to use a gun. He believed that outdoor sports would bolster her against tuberculosis, which had killed his wife and three of their children. As Harriet grew up, she continued to defy convention. In 1852 the 22-year-old sailed to Florence, where she became an accomplished sculptor and a member of a circle that included Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry James. This remarkable woman is the subject of Walking Stone (University of Arkansas Press), the latest volume of poetry by Garoile Simmonds Onoa ‘93. The 50-poem cycle draws on biographical material and Hosmer’s letters, and is supplemented by several pages of notes for readers who are eager to learn more.

John Waldman (Biology) and his co-editors offer a comprehensive examination of one of the most scientifically studied rivers in the world in Hudson River Fishes and Their Environment (American Fisheries Society). This volume contains new findings about the ecological and environmental workings of the Hudson and its effects on fishes. The authors present important new findings, including the impact of power plants on pelagic fish; the effects of pollution, climate, and nonnative plants and animals on the Hudson’s fishes; and the impact of human activities, such as angling and changing land use, on fish populations.

Co-winner of the 2005 McGovern Prize, A Secret Room in Fall (Ashland Poetry Press) is Maria Terrone’s (Asst. Vice President, Communications) second collection of poems. These poems journey from past to present, assuming the voices of a multiplicity of characters, from an Egyptian queen to Pontius Pilate’s wife, from pedicurists to subway riders. Poet Eamon Grennan notes: “Whether confronting matters close to home and family, taking in gritty facets of the urban landscape, or bringing to sympathetic light anonymous, mainly female workers in the shadows and giving each moment of perfectly articulated presence, Maria Terrone’s poems are quietly insistent, recuperative acts of imagination.”

QC’s familiar Spanish-style buildings, in their original incarnation as the New York Parental School, provide the setting for Polvart Weller’s (Emeritus Director of ACE) two-volume novel Abundance of Devils (Author House). The book follows the adventures of Odie Hart who, by virtue of the “scientific charity” of the early 20th-century “progressive era,” is consigned to the succo-and-taracotta enclave in Flushing. For those interested in the campus’s early history, book two offers a lengthy set of Author’s Notes in which Weller separates fact from fiction regarding the Parental School. His narrative also contains considerable detail gleaned from his acquaintance with a man who had been incarcerated in B Building circa 1910.

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I walked into that building [FitzGerald Gymnasium] and said to myself, ‘Okay, this is home,’“ Rick Wettan recalls. Today, he is the college’s assistant vice president for athletics.

By Leslie Jay

In 1961, on his first day as an undergraduate at Queens College, Richard Wettan ’65 was understandably a little overwhelmed. As a baby-faced 16-year-old, he headed across the border to Brooklyn College for his master’s, while serving as a lecturer and track coach at his alma mater. For his doctorate, Wettan went even farther afield, moving to Ohio to obtain his degree at Ohio State University. By 1969 he was back at Queens, teaching physics and coaching soccer. He has been here ever since, working his way up from lecturer to associate professor to assistant vice president for athletics.

Over the decades, Wettan has seen the school grow and modernize. “There’s been a tremendous amount of construction,” he reports. “The facilities have improved greatly.” So have campus-wide systems. “Registration used to take several days,” he adds. But other changes proved more traumatic. “Until 1975, there was no tuition here,” he says. “In effect, every athlete had a scholarship.”

To maintain Queens’s appeal for student athletes, the college applied for Division II status from the National Collegiate Athletic Association, becoming the only branch of CUNY to achieve that status. As if that weren’t enough, Wettan’s undergraduate home away from home, is also due for a rehab. “It’s a great old building,” muses Wettan. “It’s huge—45,000 square feet. That space would be very difficult to duplicate today.”

Of course, athletes are not the only beneficiaries of an improving infrastructure. All kinds of bodies surface at the new college fitness center. “Wettan admits that his isn’t one of them; at the moment, his favorite form of exercise is sharing long walks with his wife, Leslie.” He takes particular pride in the fact that 1500 to 1800 local children come here every summer for day camp, where the activities include languages, science, and drama, as well as sports. “We try to make it fun for the kids and help them keep up their schoolwork,” he says. The rest of the year, a similar program is held on Saturdays.

The big item on Wettan’s long-term agenda is the construction of a residence hall. “We do house some students in apartments off-campus,” he observes. “However, dorms would allow us to recruit on a much wider scale. Teams that are successful bring in students from across the country and the world.”

“My overall philosophy is, the more students you help, the better your life is,” he concludes. “A lot of people helped me; I consider this payback.”
GLOBAL WARMING COMES TO A BOIL

By Bob Suter

At the coldest place on Earth, Stephen Pekar ’86 is searching for clues that may help explain why our planet is rapidly getting warmer.

An assistant professor in the college’s School of Earth & Environmental Sciences (SEES) and a research scientist at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University, Pekar is part of ANDRILL (Antarctic Drilling), a multinational program that aims to unlock the secrets of Antarctica’s climatic and glacial history over the past 50 million years. The group is trying to learn more about the Earth’s history of extreme climate change by drilling, through ice and the sea below, penetrating over 1000 meters into the seafloor to obtain core samples of sediment deposited up to 20 million years ago. Pekar is examining sediment and microfossil evidence within the core samples to learn about a period when the now-frigid landscape of Antarctica was still vegetative—and the climate of the Antarctic coast was probably at least 16°F warmer than today.

The increased warmth led to the ice sheets retreating into the interior of the continent, causing the sea level to rise over 100 feet above what it is now.

“Only by understanding what happened in the past can we begin to understand what’s happening today and try to predict the future,” says Pekar.

There is a correlation between levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and global warming: more carbon dioxide yields more global warming. The planet has gone through periods of extreme global warming before, Pekar notes, typically during times of enhanced volcanic activity, resulting in much higher levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. But rising carbon dioxide levels today aren’t coming from volcanoes; they’re coming from human activity, he asserts.

“The ice core samples confirm that we haven’t seen levels like these for 800,000 years.”

QC HELPS FOCUS THE NATION

Pekar is one of a number of faculty whose research relates to this escalating problem. Their findings support the conclusion reached by a long-standing and solid consensus of scientists and international organizations: Global warming has become perhaps the greatest threat to human societies.

The most compelling statement was offered February in Paris—which was experiencing its warmest winter in 500 years. At that time the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a report, Climate Change 2007, which offered the unequivocal consensus of 2,500 scientists from 130 countries that the trend toward potentially catastrophic global warming is caused by human activity, which began with the dramatic increase in fossil fuel use during the 19th-century Industrial Revolution. Even President George W. Bush, who adamantly opposed the
1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate change, con-
ceded recently that climate change is a “serious challenge.”

The enormity of the challenge was brought home to the QC community on January 31, when Pekar convened a panel of faculty with global warming expertise as part of Focus the Nation, a one-day event taking place at hundreds of colleges, universi-
ties, and public schools, intended to kick off a yearlong discussion on climate change. Pekar’s panel took to the stage at LeFrak Concert Hall following a screening of An Inconvenient Truth, the Academy Award-winning account of Al Gore’s crusade to raise awareness about global warming. The panel included Judith Kimerling (Political Science), Leonard Rosdberg (Urban Studies), and George Hendrey (SEES).

Kimerling had just returned from the Amazon rainforest, where she has been chronicling for 18 years the disastrous effects of oil exploitation and pro-
duction on indigenous peo-
ples. “We have less than 5% of the world’s popula-
tion in this country,” she observed, “yet we use more than 25% of the world’s energy resources,” in the process, releasing about 30% of the greenhouse gases that produce global warming.

Citing the Bush administration’s rejec-
tion of the Kyoto Protocol, Kimerling noted, “There is no real disconnect between the leadership of this country and the inter-
national political climate. Around the world people say: ‘You guys got rich contributing to this problem; you need to lead the way in solving it.’”

Rosdberg is a long-time advocate of energy conservation, having issued a call to action nearly three decades ago in a Milestone magazine article entitled “An Energy Plan for New York City.” He surprised many in the audience by noting that New York City is one of the most energy-efficient cities in the country thanks to its extensive public transit system, its use of steam heat—a by-product of electricity gen-
eration—and its population density, which makes more efficient use of public services such as street lighting. But Rosdberg empha-
sized, much more needs to be done.

STORMS AND THE CITY

One aspect of global warming that could have particularly dire impact for coastal cities like New York is the increase in ocean temperatures. In addition to rising sea levels caused by the melting of the polar ices caps, higher ocean temperatures might contribute to the frequency of large, destructive hurricanes.

Nick Coch (Earth & Environmental Sciences) believes the metropolitan region will soon face a storm as savage as the 1938 hurricane that struck Long Island and New England, killing nearly 700 people.

Coch has spent 25 years trying to recon-
structing all of the hurricanes that have occurred north of Virginia. “They are much more catastrophic when they get away from a hurricane center,” he says. “In only two or three times faster than the ones in the south are saying.”

Because northern hurricanes leave the easterly wind belts around Georgia and become influenced by the westerly wind belts, he explains, “It becomes bigger; it expands its wind field so that two to three times the area is affected. And the right angle formed by the New York-New Jersey coastline makes this the most dangerous place in the country for a hurricane,” Coch warns.

“Winds are blowing from east to west and piling all the waters of the continental shelf along the shore. In the south, this is no problem because it goes down to Florida and out. In the north, there’s no place for the water to go up, so it generates the most dan-
gerous storm surges in America.”

While a storm surge here would be more severe, we would have an easier time escaping. “If you’re in South Carolina and you get away from a hurricane, you get a 50-mile drive. In New York it’s a two-

mille drive because the core of Long Island is these high glacial hills like Ridgewood, Forest Hills, and Kew Gardens. All we have to do is move people to the high central

www.andrill.org (Antarctic Drilling)

He is also submitting proposals for research programs in the Arctic, up on the North Slope of Alaska, for the Department of Energy.” George Hendrey told the Focus the Nation audience. In a calm, deliberate voice, he then described perhaps the most frighten-
ing theory of a “green roof” on a portion of the col-
lege’s Science Building. Students under the supervision of Hendrey developed a feasi-
ability study, which determined that by creating vegetative surface of selected plants, cooling costs for the building could be cut dramati-
cally while improving air quality.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Stephen Pekar is preparing to return to Antarctica with the ANDRILL program this fall. “We’re going to have 30 scientists from four countries. I’ve been selected to be a stratigrapher,” he says, referring to his role studying the layers they will penetrate. “And I hope an undergraduate student will join the scientific team.”

He is also submitting proposals for seismic and drilling projects in 2008 and beyond, and projects to go even deeper to retrieve evidence from a time about 50 mil-

MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE

1. Your car

When buying a car, look for the one with the best fuel economy. Each gal-

2. Choose clean power

More than half the electricity in the U.S. comes from polluting, coal-fired power plants, the single largest source of heat-trapping carbon dioxide. Better gas mileage reduces global warming and saves you thousands of dollars at the pump. Look for new technologies like hybrid engines.

5. Plant a tree

In addition to storing carbon, trees planted in and around urban areas and their shade in the summer, reducing energy bills and fossil fuel use.

6. Make your voice heard

If elected officials and business lead-
ers hear from enough people that their energy policies may lose them votes and business, they will respond.

Sources: Global Warming Web site of the Union of Concerned Scientists www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/
Cupid on campus

By Leslie Jay

Flushing may not have the romantic reputation of Paris or Rome. But Cupid can show up anywhere. For decades, students have been meeting their soulmates at Queens College. Here are the stories of three couples who found enduring love on campus.

Michael Twomey & Barbara Moore

When Michael Twomey ’48 and Barbara Moore Twomey ’48 matriculated, the college was new and small and most students were on limited budgets. “Nobody had any money,” recalls Barbara, a Jamaica High School grad who chose Queens over Hunter at the recommendation of a neighbor. Michael, an alum of La Salle Academy in Manhattan, was a case in point: He juggled classes and multiple jobs. “I majored in economics because it was easy,” he comments, “but I also liked to attend school at night, so I was too busy to be choosy.”

At first, the pair moved frequently. He proposed and barely within a deadline of Tulsa—“people thought I must be brilliant because I’d gone to Queens College,” Barbara notes—and worked as a volunteer in Houston’s probation department. Once their daughter was born, the Twomeys settled in Westbury, Long Island. Now ensconced in a Manhattan apartment, they’re enjoying a vigorous retirement as they look forward to their 55th anniversary. “We’ve had great lives,” says Michael. “We’ve had really lucky,” says Michael. “We’ve had great lives.”

Chris Cannon & Pat Riccioli Cannon

Like the Twomeys, Chris Cannon ’68 and Pat Riccioli Cannon ’73 met serendipitously—in a Russian history course. One of them had no affinity for the subject matter. “I was immersed in student government activities,” she says. “I barely went to class.” The other was interested in the topic—he took Russian for two years. He was also interested in Pat, the only female in the room, whose late arrivals gave him an opportunity. “She came in wearing a hat, and I thought, ‘That’s a gorgeous girl! I want to sit next to her,’” he says. “So I’d get to class early enough to make sure that the seat next to me was available.” Striking up conversations in a variety of foreign accents, he struck his serious, bookish classmate as silly. She described him to her mom, who promptly advised, “Go out with him.”

When the goofy guy invited Pat to go bowling, she said yes, even though she dis-liked the sport, and surprised herself by having a good time. Eventually, the two became an item. They got married a year after Chris’s graduation and set up their first household in Germany, where the groom, who had been drafted by the army, was stationed. By the fall of 1970 they were back in Queens. Both got jobs, and Pat finished her degree. Today, the Cannons live in the New Jersey suburbs. He is a lawyer for a pharmaceutical company; she, after careers in politics, public relations, and education, is a freelance writer. “They’re the parents of three children in their twenties. ‘I owe it all to Queens College and that Russian history class,’” concludes Pat.

Lori Berger & Richard Pollina

The story of Lori Berger ’82 and Richard Pollina ’82 is another example of the powerful attraction of opposites. Lori, an extroverted poli sci major from Whiteestone, was immersed in student government activities. “I was the campus affairs coordinator responsible for clubs,” she explains. “I barely went to class. I was involved in a lot of extracurriculars.” One of those extracurriculars was the college radio station, where she became a newscaster. And Richard, a quiet, reserved type with no discernible fashion sense, worked behind the scenes. He asked her on a date after she, as a joke, said, “I’d love to go out with someone like you.” That first evening was a disaster. The movie was boring and, to make matters worse, a policeman spied the broken headlight on Richard’s car and gave him a ticket. Nonetheless, the two went out a second time, and a third. “He grew on me,” admits Lori. “Like a fungus,” adds Richard, a Rego Park native who might be expected to appreciate differences in temperament and behavior—he majored in anthropology. They got engaged at the end of their junior year and married in December 1983, astonishing many of their friends and acquaintances, who didn’t think they’d make it to the altar.

After more than 20 years of marriage, in which they moved to Long Island and had a daughter, now in her teens, the couple has seen their personalities adapt. “I was loud,” observes Lori, who used to be an advertising sales rep for magazines and newspapers, and now sells mortgages. “I’ve calmed down a lot,” she says. Richard, vice president of research at a TV rep firm, has become more outgoing. But one thing hasn’t changed. “We’re really each other’s best friend,” she says.
Lost in World War II, Remembered on Campus

By Bob Suter

When four students solemnly announced the names of Queens College’s war dead at the dedication last November of the World War II Veterans Memorial Plaza, their representation participated considerably more than a ceremonial gesture. The event would not have transpired in quite the same way were it not for their efforts as part of a small group of students who were determined to learn the fate of hundreds of their predecessors who served in the pivotal conflict of the last century.

The memorial and the student research effort were both ideas of Arnold Franco ’43, a veteran whose own distinguished service with an elite group of code breakers in World War II was recently recognized by the French government with its highest award, the Legion of Honor. A former history major who funds an annual prize for the history department, Franco provided the $100,000 funding for the memorial and suggested the important student role in the project.

YOUTHFUL HEROES

“Here you have this brand-new college whose first five classes are sacrificed to World War II,” says Franco. “You’re talking about a body of 1,600 students; the school was small.” Describing the many Queens College students who were either killed or, like himself, wounded, Franco declares, “The toll was enormous.”

“I see it as a loop,” he says of the current narrative of World War II based on where students were active in the war. “That was a big task,” observes Allen, “because we didn’t have anything written down. The military provided the numbers, and they were very detailed histories and in some cases not complete.”

Franco offered some heartfelt to bring about, Franco offered some heartfelt words to the assembled dignitaries and invited guests, who included Rosemary McCarthy, the sister of one of the first QC students to die in the war, Robert Francis Minnick, Jr. Also participating in the ceremony—which included addresses from elected officials, a representative from the military, and a military honor guard—was another QC alum whose life was dramatically affected by the war. Samuel Menashe ’47 was just 19 when his unit was thrown into the devastation of the Battle of the Bulge. He was one of the few members of his company to survive. Menashe read a few of his works specially chosen for the occasion. He included a poem called “The Offering,” which concludes with the words:

The dead outlast
Whatever we offer.

FINAL ROLL CALL

The names of the 59 dead, cast in a bronze plaque atop a black granite pedestal situated at the base of the campus flagpole, were unveiled at the November 10 ceremony—the day before Veterans Day. Looking crisp in his uniform from his service days, Franco attended the dedication ceremony under a clear autumn sky, accompanied by members of his family spanning three generations. Visibly moved at finally witnessing an event he had so long wished to bring about, Franco offered some heartfelt words to the assembled dignitaries and invited guests, who included Rosemary McCarthy, the sister of one of the first QC students to die in the war, Robert Francis Minnick, Jr.

In one case, the student was missing in action. In the Long Island Press, it is reported that “With the remaining 59,” says Allen, “the students did research like a WWII history buff would do: ‘What was going on at Bougainville Island where so-and-so died in January 1943?’ They constructed this whole narrative of World War II based on where Queens College kids were—and they were all over the place.”

Allen and the students were surprised to learn that some of those who died never even left the country: “A sizable number—12 or 13—died in military training in the U.S. A few had been aviation cadets in the days before the Air Force.”

During the summer months the group switched its focus from the dead to the bigger challenge of creating a list of all members of the QC community who had served in the war. “That was a big task,” observes Allen, “because we didn’t have anything like the Long Island Press or the Crown, no one had come up with this list before. We came up with 1,200 names, but a lot of them were repeats—someone would be listed as Robert and then again as Bob. Where we had distinct individuals, we put them on the final list, which is 977 names. That’s surely not complete, but that’s all we have at this moment. It was interesting to see that there was a sizable number of women on the list, as well as a large number of faculty.”

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At the World War II Veterans Memorial Plaza, Arnold Franco joins Will Spisak, one of the students who researched QC’s war dead.
Kaitsen Woo: “A Fish In Water”

A year after he had graduated from Queens College with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics, Woo ’87 landed a job at a personal coaching business in New York City—and the position made him miserable. “It was an important job, but it was the wrong kind of personal coaching business. I thought I wasn’t cut out to be a public servant.”

Then, using the money he had saved by living at home with his parents, he enrolled as a janitor in architecture school at SUNY Buffalo. “I felt like a fish in water,” he says, the sense of relief audible in his voice. “Suddenly, everything I had touched became easy.” Apparently, other people liked the results. Woo’s eponymous firm has a High P.Q. (Play Quotient), which has been published in nine countries. Her Web site, Dr. Toy’s Guide, has been named a valuable resource for parents, teachers, buyers, consumers, and the toy industry since 1995. His latest book is “A Possible Explanation,” his first poetry collection, has been published by Parsei Press, a small, not-for-profit press committed to progressive prose and poetry. The book is available from Parsei Press (www.parseipress.org) and/or Blue Book Stocks, P.O. Box 4, Calaisville, VT 05826. 

Vincent Dunn spent 42 years with the Fire Department of New York, becoming a deputy chief before retiring from the force. Now, as a contributing editor to Firehouse magazine and the author of best-selling books and instructional videos, he shares his firefighting knowledge with others. His latest book, “My 35th Anniversary of Practicing Law with the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C.,” is a self-published memoir that includes contacts he made there have stayed with him. His wife, Jewel Cohen, has been an attorney for 33 years as a professor and administrator at City College of The City University of New York. For more than 30 years, she has been a member of its alumni committee. “The contacts I made there have stayed with me,” says Woo. “I feel indebted to the program, and I would like to see it continue.”

Leslie Jay

Barry Cohen ’69 and son Tony

Tony, who has the conditions of muscular dystrophy and organizational psychology who holds graduate degrees from Columbia University and the University of Tennessee, has been the director of the University of West Florida since launching his own firm. A state panel to the short list of candidates, he describes himself as a professional and administrative psychologist, ultimately becoming executive vice president and provost. Edward assumed the presidency of the organization in 2000. Although I will soon mark my 35th anniversary of practicing law with the United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and I arrange our time so that we can travel and cruise several times a year.....

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President Gerald R. Ford, who autographed cards on the occasion. Sue’s expertise is not limited to money. The Boss Baby Handbook, which she and her husband co-authored, spent six months on the New York Times best-seller list in 1998.

2017: Norma Kershaw gave a lecture on ancient Mediterranean mosaics in January at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa, CA. Not long after, she graduated from college at age 45 by volunteering at a dig near Jerusalem.

Leslie Leach, administrative judge of the eleventh judicial district, Supreme Court, Queens County, was named a deputy attorney general by Attorney General Andrew Cuomo.

2012: Andrea G. Zetlin recently received the Outstanding Professor Award from California State University, Los Angeles. Zetlin is a professor of English and Counseling at the Charter College of Education. Andra represents the university in its efforts to support the improvement of urban education throughout the greater Los Angeles community. A member of the Cal State LA faculty since 1989, she has written more than 100 book chapters, journal articles, and other professional publications.

2006: Gail Satler is the author of Two Tales of a City: Rebuilding Chicago's Architectural Landscape, 1960–2005 (Northern Illinois University Press). A professor of sociology at Hofstra University, Gail received her MA in sociology from QC and went on to receive her PhD in the same subject from the CUNYGrad Center. In Two Tales of a City, she explores how architecture shapes the social environment.

1979: Sooyeon Cho, now a police officer with three children of her own, would go on to have a successful career as a social worker.

1977: Lesley Leach received her PhD in social work from SUNY Buffalo in 1977. After working as a social worker for several years, she became a professor at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In 1984, she joined the faculty of Queens College, where she has been a professor of criminal justice since 1989.

1976: Andrea G. Zetlin received her MA in education from the University of Maryland and a juris doctor from Columbia Law School.

1974: Dario Cortés was named a deputy attorney general by Attorney General Andrew Cuomo.

2015: Bruce Eder created the script for the music documentary The Moody Blues, part of the Classic Artists Series from Britain’s Impact Films. The movie covers the history of the celebrated English rock band best known for the song “Nights in White Satin.” A journalist who has written for the Village Voice, Newsday, and other publications, Bruce has a second career in the film industry. As a writer/producer/associate producer, he has recorded more than two dozen audio commentary tracks for movies issued by the Criterion Collection and other video companies. Additionally, he has overseen numerous CD releases devoted to classic film music, historical classical recordings, and vintage rock, country, and blues.

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and academic chair of the arts and humanities division. A member of the board of directors of the League of Composers International, he is also a frequent contributor to Common Sense, a leading online independent bookshop across the nation. Brian lives in San Francisco and holds a master’s degree in broadcast management from Pepperdine University.

in broadcast management from Pepperdine University, 1980: Dan Schechter was elected vice president of GEICO, where he oversees staff development. Until February, Dan was the insurance company’s assistant vice president of staff development, 1991: Fran Capo, a comedienne, author, and stand-up comic who serves as a literacy consultant to grade school classes, is now providing content for FORA.tv, a number of leading arts organizations, including the Cato Institute, the Hoover Institution, and t

In 2006, he began writing for an adventure magazine called Write to Heal. 1965: Linda Ardito is provost of Drexel College, where her previous positions appeared last fall at the School of Arts & Sciences, chair of the department of music, executive chair of faculty, and as an emergency room volunteer at New York

Sight to Sound, a Weiskopf composition that includes music penned by Joan Marie, Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, and other artists. Walt is also making a name for himself as a composer. “I’m doing what I was born to do,” says Walt. “I’m lucky to be able to do it” 1990: Alicia Weissmeier studied law at Pace University. After graduation. Now she’s the managing partner of Lapatin Lewis Kaplan & Weissmeier, PLLC, in midtown Manhattan. She says that her personal life is thriving, too. On August 28, 2005, I married Jason A. Marek at the millenium Graduates Event.

Homecoming Weekend Sept. 15–17!

On Sunday, September 16, all alumni are invited to campus for a special day of events, including the free admission to our fine arts programs all day and on Monday, September 17, we will be holding our Second Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament at the beautiful Fresh Meadow Country Club in Lake Success, NY.

Each day will feature a different special event. On Saturday, September 15 we will be holding a special Millennium Graduates Event starting at 7:30 pm. On Sunday, September 16, all alumni are invited to campus for a special day of events, including the free admission to our fine arts programs all day and on Monday, September 17, we will be holding our Second Annual Golf and Tennis Tournament at the beautiful Fresh Meadow Country Club in Lake Success, NY.

We have lost touch with many of our alumni. Usually they did not let us know when they moved. Addresses can be updated at www.qc.edu/alumni_affairs.

SUPPORT THE ARTS @ QC

You may never see your name up in lights on Broadway, but you can see it in one of QC’s theaters. Celebrate yourself, a friend, or a loved one—while supporting the arts on campus—with a plaque affixed to one of the new seats in Colden Auditorium. To find out more, contact the Development Office by phone (718-997-9220), email QC_Foundation@qc.cuny.edu, or write to the QC Foundation (65-30 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, New York 11367).

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Look for us on the Web as we are always adding news about the college and upcoming events:

www.qc.edu/alumni_affairs

MISSING ALUMNI

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Q MAGAZINE UPDATES

Check the college’s Web site this summer for a Web-only update of Q.
Distinguished Professor Gregory L. Rabassa (Hispanic Languages), one of the world’s leading translators of Latin American literature, has been awarded the 2006 National Medal of Arts. He received the nation's highest honor for artistic excellence from President George W. and Mrs. Laura Bush at a ceremony last November in the White House Oval Office. Rabassa, who has taught at the college since 1968, is perhaps best known for his translation of Gabriel García Márquez’s masterpiece One Hundred Years of Solitude.