Alice Artzt ’68 (front row, fourth from left) celebrates with students from her TIME 2000 project at the June 2 Q Gala. Artzt (Secondary Education) received the Q Award for her innovative program that is increasing the number of highly qualified math teachers in New York’s schools. Also receiving the award was renowned businessman and philanthropist Lewis Cullman, who is chairman of the Chess-in-the-Schools program. The gala raised $820,000 for scholarships and academic and research initiatives at the college.
ANOTHER ALUM AT LOS ALAMOS

Reading the two letters in the spring issue of Q about fellow alumni on the Manhattan Project and about retirement has inspired me to pick up the keyboard and pass on some thoughts from an old but grateful Queens College graduate. Two days after graduating in 1943, I was off to basic training. My time in the army was a great learning experience for me in that I shortly found myself at Los Alamos working on the “gadget,” as it was referred to then. Here I was with my fresh, untried BS degree working in a group under Professor Kistiakowskii and sitting in on seminars with people right out of the textbook... Nick Baker (better known as Neils Bohr), Enrico Fermi, Edward Teller, etc. I will always remember my introduction to Fermi, so to speak. This fellow in the leather jacket was cleaning the blackboard that evening at the Tech Center. He then turns around and starts talking... and me, wishing I could follow it all... it was Fermi!

My chemistry degree stood me in good stead for my two+ years at Los Alamos. My degree and time at Los Alamos led me on to the University of Minnesota where I got my MS in physical chemistry. From there after short spells at NACA (now Lewis Laboratory) and Brookhaven, I settled down to 34 years at Battelle Memorial Institute focusing most of my attention on combustion and atmospheric chemistry. Since retiring in 1985 I have spent most of my “retirement” consulting with the Ohio Coal Development Office. The point is: after 65, let the brain move into a lower gear, but don't put it in Park. And for this, I have to thank Queens College, with special thanks to the late Professor Max Eidinoff, who was a special inspiration to me.

Arthur Levy '43, Worthington, OH
**Who Sought Justice for Civil Rights Workers**

“wholehearted commitment to Holocaust memory, higher education, and the fostering of tolerance and understanding among people of all backgrounds.”

A Holocaust survivor who lost more than 60 members of his family—including his wife and sons—to the Nazis, Ungar arrived penniless on American shores in 1946. Taking night classes at CCNY, he earned a degree in mechanical engineering. In 1952 he founded the National Envelope Corporation, which is now the largest privately owned envelope producer in North America. His remarkable story of survival and success was chronicled in his 2002 book Destined to Live. “Today, I have come from depths to heights,” said Ungar in heartfelt acceptance remarks witnessed by his wife, Jerry, a graduate of the college’s Adult Collegiate Education program, and many family members. “It was my education that played a great role in saving my life through the darkest time in mankind,” he declared, reminding the audience, “Knowledge is the greatest weapon we can muster against prejudice, ignorance, and fear.” Today, Ungar is a member of the

**Pulitzers Prize? QC Grads Have Three of Them**

Considered the most prestigious award in journalism, the Pulitzer Prizes annually honor excellence in American journalism, literature, drama, and music. Three Queens College graduates have received this accolade: RICHARD OSMINE ’62 won the Pulitzer for public service in 1975 for reporting in the California weekly Point Reyes Light about the contamination of Point Reyes National Seashore by the military; LLOYD SCHWARTZ ’62 won the Pulitzer for criticism in 1994 for his columns on classical music in the Boston Phoenix; DOROTHY RABINOWITZ ’56 won the Pulitzer for commentary in 2001 for her articles in the Wall Street Journal on American society and culture.
September 2001 was not an auspicious time in New York. Yet, amid that gnawing atmosphere of grief and terror, a group of students embarked on an audacious experiment as members of the first CUNY Honors College class.

Nearly four years later, they are older, wiser, and privileged to be among the 189 members of the first graduating class (45 are from Queens). They are also cashing in on a great deal: purchasing for $1 the Apple iBook laptop computer that was on loan to them throughout those four years. The computer was one of a number of enticements—including free tuition and free access to many of New York City’s top cultural institutions—that induced some of the area’s brightest students to forego generous scholarships from other colleges and take a chance on Chancellor Matthew Goldstein’s ambitious goal “in raising standards and shifting the conversation from CUNY’s weakest students to its strongest.”

The conversation is now about a program that has won great praise and the attention of the media. That praise reverberated throughout the historic Great Hall at Cooper Union on May 31, when Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton addressed the CUNY Honors College’s first graduating class. She told them that like so many before them who set out in pursuit of opportunity in New York City, “You are pioneers.”

Yosef Ibrahimi is one of those pioneers. As one of two student speakers at the event, Ibrahimi offered his classmates an unusual exhortation: to be subversives. “As hard as it might be to imagine,” he told them, “the people who created this program were subversives...they dared to put forward a different idea.”

The CUNY Honors College program is a different idea, offering a rigorous curriculum designed around the combined resources of the country’s largest urban university and the world’s leading center of finance, culture, and information. The program, which has more than 1,000 students on seven campuses, has attracted over $20 million in private donations. With many graduates expected to remain in the New York City area, the community will undoubtedly reap substantial rewards for its investment in their future.

Below are six students New Yorkers can expect to hear from in the future:

Yosef Ibrahimi

Ibrahimi, who would like to study law, confesses to an admiration for “the life of the mind” many of his professors lead. His own mind, he recalls, initially wasn’t quite set on joining the CUNY Honors College. “The economic package was quite appealing, but I wasn’t completely sold on

When 189 students from seven CUNY campuses crossed the stage of the Great Hall at Cooper Union to receive their degrees as members of the first CUNY Honors College graduating class, nearly a quarter were from Queens College. Meet six of them.
I had two older sisters and they both came here. And, yes, they were both yearbook editors, says Whited. "I even read being editor. It’s like looking through a camera lens and thinking ‘How do I get people to see the college the way I see it?’"

A Long Islander, Whited says attending Queens offered her a city experience without really being in the city. "It all led me to get more experience than if I had to commute to Manhattan. I got so much done yet still was home at a decent hour."

Upon the recommendation of Admissions Director Vincent Angrisani, Whited applied to the CUNY Honors College. It’s a decision she does not regret. "It was a great education," she says enthusiastically. "I’m graduating school with no loans and a high GPA."

A Media Studies major, Whited cites her internships as contributing to her preparation for life after graduation. These include doing research for RoperASW, a global research and marketing firm serving clients such as AOL, and an ongoing internship with the entertainment division of Hallmark Cards that is responsible for the “Hallmark Hall of Fame” television series. She also spent a semester as a teaching assistant and another as layout editor for the Business and Liberal Arts program newsletter.

Whited particularly lauds the CUNY Honors College’s efforts in preparing her to take on future challenges. "You learn how the world works; things are expected of you; you have to do the work. And you learn from mentors and faculty members. Everyone is graduating and looking for jobs. I feel more prepared and confident thanks to the Honors College."

Whited plans to continue working at Hallmark for a year before going for an MBA.

Michael Schwemmer

Music first brought Michael Schwemmer to Queens College. While a student at nearby St. Francis Prep, he attended Saturday classes at the Center for Preparatory Studies in Music and fell in love with the campus. When he was accepted into Queens, he was invited to apply to the CUNY Honors College. “It sounded like a great program,” he recalls. “I didn’t think I was going to get in. But he did get in, and this fall Schwemmer will begin the doctoral program in applied mathematics at the University of California, Davis. As a researcher in an area of math biology called computational neuroscience, he’ll be trying to learn more about how the brain works.

In the back of my mind considered being a doctor. So if I figured if I could see what it’s like to machine to study another form of art. I studied abroad last summer in Florence. I was also able to take an unpaid internship at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum."

Amazingly, Leon finds time for other pursuits. “I’m on the fencing team. I go to the gym, hang out with friends, and play guitar.”

Dr. C. Michael Schwemmer

Priya Suryanarayanan

Having considered generous offers from other schools, including NYU and Fordham, Priya Suryanarayanan nevertheless was intrigued enough by the concept of the new CUNY Honors College to decide, “I’ll take the plunge and see how this goes.” Four years later she graduated from a program she says was “a great experience.”

Born in a small town near Madras, India, Suryanarayanan arrived in the U.S. at age 11. A graduate of Richmond Hill High School, she came to Queens with a strong interest in history and government. “I imagined a position in the foreign service as my future. I had an international focus,” she says, mentioning a trip she made to China at age 16 under the auspices of the American Forum for Global Education.

“A course I took with Prof. William Tabb in economics was life-changing,” she says. “He gave me a new perspective on how the world works; things are expected of you; you have to do the work.”

With an eye on history and government, Suryanarayanan was able to further her interest in economics and international affairs via paid summer internships afforded by a Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship, which provided opportunities to work at the U.N. Population Fund and the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh.

The summer after her junior year she also won a Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship for study in Washington, D.C. “It’s kind of like a monastery where you study public policy, economics, statistics, and international affairs,” she says.

An enthusiastic traveler, Suryanarayanan used a semester break to explore the Galapagos Islands. “It taught me so much about science and environmental issues.”

After graduating, she completed her third internship with the Watson Fellowship, working for the World Bank in Nairobi, Kenya. She plans to apply for the George Soros Fellowship for New Americans for graduate school in business.

“If that works out, I’ll apply to a program on international development. My top picks are Princeton and Hopkins.” She says she’ll always remember the Honors College for its “great conversations” and occasional “engaging debates.” These kids are amazing observers of their peers.

She’s also grateful for the direction provided by the program’s director, Janice Peritz, and senior advisor, Pamela Degottardi. “They both helped keep me grounded,” she remarks.

Christine Whited

For Silhouette yearbook editor Christine Whited, attending Queens College was inevitable.

Was a winner of several academic awards, says Whited, feels he had plenty of opportunities to indulge his different interests in the last four years because the faculty were so supportive. “During this time he was an intern in the office of Assemblyman Barry S. Crogendich and served as a community representative for City Council member John C. Liu. He also managed to attend the University of Arizona’s Christopher Schwemmer’s focus has largely been on an area of brain activity that may contribute to the brain’s cognitive abilities. Working in a program called Neuron, he has been creating models of brain cells and running simulations on them. These “are mathematical equations that mimic and predict how cells fire in the brain. It’s basically using math to mimic and predict it.”

Schwemmer pursued his interests in both music and math, but “ultimately decided math was what I wanted to go to grad school for.” However, with some prodding from Honors College adviser Pamela Degottardi and a program’s grant, Schwemmer, who has played rock and jazz guitar for about 12 years, was able to spend one summer taking his music interest in an entirely new direction. “It was able to go to Spain to study Flamenco guitar.”

Schwemmer is considering working after graduate school for a pharmaceutical company, where he could put his training in computational neuroscience to good use. “Ultimately,” he says, “I would like to be a professor at a university, but I would like to try out the business world first, just to see how the other half lives, so to speak.”

Adina Leon

Fern would even consider taking on another project while carrying a 2-credit load in one of CUNY’s most demanding academic programs. But Adina Leon, the student speaker at this year’s College Convocation, had something else in mind. Thinking back on the last four years, he says, “At Queens we formed a tight bond early on. We started with 40 of us in this small program. And it gave me so many other opportunities as well.”

She cites the $1500 study grant: “I’m an art major, so I got a generous amount of financial opportunities as well.”

Suryanarayanan’s academic programs. But about a month prior to decision time the university held a reception here are so supportive.” During this time she was home at a decent hour.”

If I came here, I wouldn’t be just another faceless number.”

Something different. I had attended Stuyvesant, and everyone there goes on to something different. I had attended a program called Neuron, he has been creating models of brain cells and running simulations on them. These “are mathematical equations that mimic and predict how cells fire in the brain. It’s basically using math to mimic and predict it.”

Characteristically, though, she intends to do a little preparatory exploration. “I’m looking for a job in the medical field. I want to try research to see if I would like to do it professionally.”

In the Honors College, Leon found both a suitable outlet for her enormous energy
A Thoughtful Way to Honor Someone and Support Queens College Students

Celebrate a graduation, highlight a special occasion, or remember a parent or loved one with a truly unique gift: a commemorative brick. Queens College will be setting aside areas along its beautifully landscaped quadrangle, as well as in the newly designated Alumni Plaza in front of Jefferson Hall, where your thoughtful gift will be seen daily by thousands of students, alumni, and friends who visit the campus. Your contribution will also support scholarships for the next generation of Queens College students.

A commemorative brick is also the perfect way to celebrate the members of your class, sorority, fraternity, or sports team. We will set aside a special area for your group when you submit a minimum order of only 20 bricks. Standard bricks (4 by 8 inches) are $130; larger bricks (8 by 8 inches) are available for $250 (please call for more information about ordering larger bricks).

The easiest way to purchase your brick is by visiting www.qc.cuny.edu/QC_Foundation and ordering online. You may also fill out this form and return it with your payment in the prepaid envelope in this magazine.

Inscription: Please print the information exactly as you would like it to appear on the standard 4 by 8 brick (maximum three lines and 14 characters per line, including spaces):

Samples: In Memory of John Doe Class of 1941 In Honor of My Mother Mary Smith

I would like to purchase ____ brick(s) at $130 per brick. I prefer to pay the total of $_______ with a check payable to Queens College Foundation. I will pay via credit card ___ Visa ___ Master Card ___ American Express ___ Discover

Card #: ____________________ Expiration Date

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If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Development by e-mail (QC_Foundation@QC.edu), telephone (718-997-3920), or mail (Queens College Foundation, 65-30 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, New York 11367).

(Photo for illustrative purposes only; does not depict actual campus site.)

In Memory of In Honor of

John Doe Mary Smith

Class of 1941 My Mother

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(Photo for illustrative purposes only; does not depict actual campus site.)
This Land to Me

SEPTEMBER

Louis Armstrong House Museum

The Louis Armstrong House Museum offers hourly tours, interactive exhibits, a gift shop, and special events in the Armstrong garden. 34-56 107th Street, Tuxedo, NY 10987 Hours: Tues–Fri, 10 am–5 pm; Sat–Sun, noon–5 pm; closed on some holidays. Group tours are available. For information, call 718-478-0374.

SEPTMBER 8–OCTOBER 27, 2005

Wiggle & Wave: Paintings by Roberta Crown & Sculpture by Barbara Lubliner

Crown’s highly coloristic, powerful paintings in dialogue with Lubliner’s playful sculptures made of found metal, allow the artists to explore tensions and resolutions, harmony and discord, the search for inner value. In silent peace, they refer to minimalist abstract idiom, they answer the question of what the land means to individuals throughout Queens and metropolis. Their stories, referring to minimalist abstract idiom, they preserve its dimensions, its absurdities and humor—have made it of one of the most influential gent fiction writers in the English language.

In addition to reading from his work, Mr. Rushdie will also be interviewed by Leonard Lopate. For ticket information, call 718-997-3800.

TUES–SUN

Fall Play “The Mandrake”

By Nikolai Leschetizky, directed by Stephen Row.

The Mandrake, Wordsworth’s 1812 Romantic comedy, is performed at Godwin-Ternbach Museum 405 Klapper Hall, 4th floor.

Reception immediately follows, 6–8 pm. For tickets or information, call 718-793-8080.

THURS–SUN

Special Concert “A Life in Music: Remembering Ruth Laredo”

Queens College Choir: Dr. Ida & Amir Karavani, violins, Paul Newbauer, viola.

For ticket information, call 718-997-3800.

DECEMBER

1

Allen Cohen Memorial Scholarship Concert

Michael Laven, coordinator.

LeFrak Concert Hall, 8 pm.

7

Queens College Orchestra

Maurice Peress, music director; Myra Ritt, piano. Schumann Piano Concerto, Rapsghi, Pines of Rome.

LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

11

Student Chamber Music Concert

Merritt Ritt, Mary Rozman, coordinators; “Highlights of the Semester.”

LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm. For information, call 718-997-3800.

17

Faculty Dance Concert

Directed by Susan Matthews.

Goldstein Theatre, 7 pm; Fri, 8 pm; Sat 2 & 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm. $14/$11 QCID, seniors, $7, students. For information, please call 718-997-3788. Tickets also available one hour before each performance.

21

Newday Family Theatre: The Nutcracker

Saint Petersurg Classic Ballet. Since its founding in 1996 under the artistic direction of prima ballerina Marina Medvedevskaya, St. Petersburg Classic Ballet has performed to much acclaim throughout Russia, England, and Scandinavia. This full-length world premiere production of the Nutcracker—with the beloved Tchakovsky score—incorporates newly designed sets, gorgeous costumes, and brilliant choreography performed by the troupe’s leading soloists and principal dancers from Russia. Call early for the best seats to this perennial Colden Center holiday favorite!

Colden Center, Colden Auditorium, 5 pm. Adults $15; children 12 & under $12. For information, call 718-997-3800.

22

Queens College Evening Readings

Glyn Maxwell & Derek Walcott

Glyn Maxwell is the author of the volumes of poetry The Boys at Twilight, The Brokedge, Time’s Fool, The Nerve, and The Sugar Miles. The Observer has said “Glyn Maxwell’s work is astonishing in the consistency of control of subject matter and form, and the subtle manipulation of voice. Maxwell has that rare knack of making it live with a reality beyond its own . . .”

Derek Walcott is the Nobel Prize-winning author of the volumes of poetry, Collected Poems 1948–1986, Omeros, The Beaute, and The Prodigal. The New York Times Book Review has said “Derek Walcott’s virtuosity as a poet are extraordinary . . . He could turn his attention on anything at all and make it live with a reality beyond its own . . .”

“Great music making always balances passion and precision, distinctly and intensely. In the chamber music arena, only a few ensembles such balances consistently.” The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center is a member of that elite. “A jewel in this nation’s musical crown” Lawrence Journal/Wild

“Fresh, versatile . . . radiant.” The New York Times

Tickets also available one hour before each performance.

November 17

Faculty Chamber Music Concert

Urra Mygi, violin; Ham Aivati, trombone; Kyle Adams, piano; Brahms; Horn Trio and other works.

LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

November 24

American Guild of Organists, Queens Chapter

Vincent Alakon, Dean, Church Music Repertoire Workshop, 11:30 am. Dr. Stephen Hamilton playing the Maynard-Walker Memorial Organ, 1 pm; Dr. James John conducting readings of new choral music.

LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

November 30–December 3, 2005

Monologues: Works on Paper by Seonmng Ahn

Cerebral shadowy drawings with a strong sculptural presence transform space, suggest calm and inkomte contemplation. Based on Buddhist meditation techniques of philosophical deliberation and ritual practice that the artist employs in her struggle with chronic physical pain, and referring to minimalistic abstract idiom, they search for inner value. In silent peace, they reveal life’s endurance and beauty.

Queens College Art Center.

Rosenthal Library, 5th Floor

Gallery Talk: Thursday, November 3, 5–6 pm.

Reception immediately follows, 6–8 pm. For tickets or information, call 718-793-8080.

December 3

Queens College Orchestra

Maurice Peress, music director. Mahler, Symphony No. 4.

LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

December 19

Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center

Anne Marie McDermott, piano

Iidi & Ann Karavani, violins

Paul Newbauer, viola

Fred Sherry, cello

As resident company at Lincoln Center, the Chamber Music Society’s pioneering structures—a core of distinguished Artist Members augmented by invited guests—allows CMS to present concerts of every instrumentation, style, and historical period.

“Great music making always balances passion and precision, distinctly and intensely. In the chamber music arena, only a few ensembles such balances consistently.” The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center is a member of that elite. “A jewel in this nation’s musical crown” Lawrence Journal/Wild

“Fresh, versatile . . . radiant.” The New York Times

Tickets also available one hour before each performance.

December 21

Music Building, 7 pm. $10.

November 29

Family Theatre: The Nutcracker

Classic Ballet has performed to much acclaim throughout Russia, England, and Scandinavia. This full-length world premiere production of the Nutcracker—with the beloved Tchaikovsky score—incorporates newly designed sets, gorgeous costumes, and brilliant choreography performed by the troupe’s leading soloists and principal dancers from Russia. Call early for the best seats to this perennial Colden Center holiday favorite!

Colden Center, Colden Auditorium, 5 pm. Adults $15; children 12 & under $12. For information, call 718-997-3800.
Nearly a quarter-century after she left professional basketball, Donna (Chair) Orender ‘78 is finally making a living from the game. In April, the former Lady Knight and All-American guard became president of the WNBA—the second person to hold that position.

By LESLIE JAY

“I am thrilled to return to the sport of basketball, which has taught me so much,” says Orender, who hopes to expand the nine-year-old league, develop its fan base, and bring in more corporate sponsors.

Orender has spent most of her life competing for a slot on the boys’ roster. “I had to outwork the boys,” she says. “It was a boy I really liked, too.”

Orender has been offering a sophisticated range of classical music, jazz, contemporary entertainment, and children’s events since 1961. Colden Center is comprised of the 2,127-seat Colden Auditorium and the 48-seat LeFrak Concert Hall, a recital hall boasting state-of-the-art acoustics and recording facilities.

Colden Center for the Performing Arts

Colden Center for the Performing Arts has been offering a sophisticated range of classical music, jazz, contemporary entertainment, and children’s events since 1961. Colden Center is comprised of the 2,127-seat Colden Auditorium and the 48-seat LeFrak Concert Hall, a recital hall boasting state-of-the-art acoustics and recording facilities. Both venues are available for rental year-round. Box Office Hours: Mon, 10 am–4 pm; Wed, 12 noon–8 pm; Fri, 12–7 pm; Sat, 10 am–2 pm. Discount tickets are available for groups, seniors, students, and alumni.

For information, please call 718-997-4000 or visit www.coldencenter.org.

Queens College Art Center

Rosenthal Library, 6th Floor

The Queens College Art Center presents an exciting series of mostly free events featuring faculty, students, alumni, and distinguished guests. To receive a complete Music Calendar, send your name and address to the School of Music Office (Music Building, Room 203A). For information, call 718-997-4000 or go to the Events Calendar at www.qc.cuny.edu.

Queens College Evening Readings

Queens College Evening Readings celebrates its 30th Anniversary Season of Readings and interviews with some of the greatest living writers in the world. For information, call 718-997-4464, or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings. To order Season Tickets, call the Colden Center Box Office at 718-997-8000.

Godwin-Ternbach Museum

Klapper Hall, Room 405

The Godwin-Ternbach Museum is a professional non-profit art museum unique in Queens with a comprehensive permanent collection of 3,500 objects, ranging from the ancient world to the present day, serving the Queens community and the New York metropolitan area. To make a donation, please call 718-997-4724.

For information, call 718-997-4464, or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings. To order Season Tickets, call the Colden Center Box Office at 718-997-8000.

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For information, call 718-997-4724 or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/godwin_ternbach

For directions visit www.qc.cuny.edu/directions

For more information, please call 718-997-3770, or visit www.coldencenter.org.
RAOBASSA REMEMBERS

Rabassa characteristically offering a summation of what he’s observed in the mind's eye about quoting Sydney Greenstreet's villainous character in the classic film The Maltese Falcon, "I’ll allow him who can go in either direction or none at all. You can’t trust a man who’s sure of himself. He’s hard and brittle and runs the risk of falling apart on you."

"I’ve said quite often," he remarks, "I’m a temporal immigrant from the 20th century. As a translator, I’ll translate Elvis into Frank Sinatra and I’ll translate the Beatles into Count Basie and get along very fine that way."

It comes as no surprise to find that this lover of old films and character actors once pretended to be an Englishman in the class of a student teacher. "I managed to keep the charade going for about a week. He seemed sort of puzzled as to what I was doing there," he says, relishing the recollection.

A CAPRERA ESQUE CHILDHOOD

"My family was a very mischievous family, always making jokes about people, but always in gentle fun, nicknames, things like that."

"Good word people" is how Rabassa describes his parents in his memoir. His mother was of Scotch and English ancestry and "brought with her the lingo of Hell’s Kitchen New York and also her mother’s colorful parlance, partly from Manchester but mainly from an older New York." His father was Cuban and "just only had become fluent in English, but could fool around with it as only someone with an outside vantage could." Born in 1912 in Yonkers, NY, Rabassa spent his childhood years on a large farm outside Hanover, NH, that seems to have been populated with enough eccentric relatives to fill a full Cata Capra film. "With all the diverse mannerisms of speech I heard around me, including the various different New England ones, I developed, I think, the ability to understand what was being said and to be able to understand what was being said," he recounts in his memoir.

Rabassa studied French and Latin in high school, not limiting his father’s tongue until attending Dartmouth, where he also studied Portuguese, French, and German. College was interrupted by the Second World War in which, after about a year in the infantry, his talent for languages earned him an assignment as a cryptographer in North Africa and Italy for the Office of Strategic Services, the precursors of the CIA.

Following wartime service, Rabassa went to Columbia University, where he received a master’s in Spanish literature and a doctorate in Portuguese. He stayed on at Columbia teaching the two languages. During this period, translations he did as an editor for the literary magazine Odyssey led to an opportunity to translate an experimental novel by Argentine writer Julio Cortázar. Rayuela became Hopscotch in Rabassa’s English translation and earned him the first National Book Award for translation in 1967. The following year he joined the faculty of Queens College.

In the decades ahead came translations of 50 books by that generation of Latin American writers who are sometimes collectively referred to as "the Boom." So too, came recognition of Rabassa’s pivotal contribution in making their works and culture available to a wider English-speaking audience.

THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS

Translation is an enterprise inherently ripe for controversy, given the potential for imprecision, cultural bias, and the occasional absence in one culture of a concept common to another. Then there is the problem of the translator with a personal agenda. Asked about the recent controversy over W. H. Auden’s alleged insertion of his own thoughts and inclinations into his 1964 translation of former U.N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld’s biographical manuscript Markings, Rabassa observes, "I expected no less from Auden. It’s not a problem of translation; it’s a problem of Auden, and he [Ezra Pound, they always thought: ‘I can make it better.’"

Rabassa has never been the object of such controversy. Perhaps it’s a reflection of his New England upbringing, his reticence to personally embellish the work of another. If anything, he has set a standard for the profession perhaps best observed by García Márquez, who famously called Rabassa “the best Latin American writer in the English language.”

In his memoir Rabassa states, “The private sphere where we inhabit is largely secret, else we would reveal it more often. His feeling is that this may hold the deepest instincts we put to use when we translate, before we laid it over with reason and its concomitant rational attributes. These latter, of course, are absolutely essential to our craft, yet, as in life itself, a balance must be maintained.”

Rabassa believes the translator must not use his own experience to color what is being translated so much as to help explain it to the members of his own language group. It’s a process he refuses to dress up in scholarly terms. He once told the New York Times that the true spirit of translation “comes out in casual,” “Curses are never translated literally,” he said. "You find out what is the spirit of the curse, what direction the curse is going. Then you try to find the English. The ultimate is to take out a hammer and hit your own thumb.”

When it comes to language, he prefers to distance himself from the purists and linguists in favor of “the other side of language creativity.” A fan of jazz, Rabassa acknowledges similarities in the translation process and the jazz musician’s ability to improvise. “It’s instinctive, if one can use that word. The right expression comes to you; you have to have picked it up somewhere along the line. And putting it together is something that’s unconscious, subconscious, proto-conscious...”

Or maybe a Spanish proverb he quotes in his memoir best explains his process: “The devil knows more from being old than from being the devil.”

In his new memoir, the longtime Queens professor reflects on his life and celebrated career as the foremost translator of Latin American writers.
1951: Eileen Luisi Hayward, a senior advocate for 25 years, has been chosen to be a national delegate to the Women’s Conference on Aging this October. She will represent the Lt. Governor’s Advisory Council from the state of South Carolina. Eileen’s research on geriatric education has resulted in the Geriatric Loan Forgiveness Act, a bill currently in Congress. 

1952: Albert Z. Kapikian recently received the Albert B. Sabin Gold Medal from the Sabin Vaccine Institute, which honors achievements by vaccinologists and infectious disease experts. Albert’s distinguished career includes a number of groundbreaking contributions to medical research. He is renowned for pioneering studies on enteroviruses, which characterize viruses causing major diseases in humans. In 1973 he and two colleagues identified the polio virus, which was later used to develop an oral rotavirus vaccine. Albert led a nearly 25-year effort to characterize viruses causing major diseases in humans. His research has resulted in the discovery of nearly 100 new viruses that cause diseases in humans.

1953: [Name Redacted] was recently admitted as an assistant attorney general of New York State and an assistant U.S. attorney. George, who received a BA in political science at QC, also holds a BS in foreign service from the Graduate School of the City University of New York and a master’s degree in international affairs at Columbia University at North-ridge. She has held positions in the diplomatic corps, teaching courses such as reporting, writing, editing, and journalistic ethics. Most recently she had been a media and communications specialist at Columbia University in the early 1980s. Cynthia was named outstanding journalism educator by the California Newspaper Publishers Association. She earned her master’s degree in journalism from Northwestern University and her PhD in education from UCLA.

Craig R. Smith, the author of Daniel Webster and the Anatomy of Civil Religion, the first biography of Webster to focus on his talent as an orator. While several biographies have been written about the great statesman who served in the House, the Senate, and twice as secretary of state, none has focused on what he particularly remembered for: his legendary speaking skills. Craig has firsthand knowledge of political oratory, having once been a speechwriter for President Gerald Ford. He is currently professor of communications at California State University, Long Beach, where he has taught since 1969. He is a composer, software designer, and a professor at Princeton University, where he has taught since 1980.

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French Minister of Defense Michele Alliot-Marie presented France and its foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner, with the Medal of Commander of the Legion of Honor, France’s highest decoration. She acknowledged their wartime service and France’s long-standing advocacy of friendship between France and America.

The remarkable exploits of France and its ally in the battle of World War II have been translated into nearly a dozen languages. A retired chemist, Inge is active in the arts and is an advocate for the arts. She has received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Long Island University this past May. Inge has been a long-time resident of New York City and is known for her contributions to the arts and visual human rights. She has dedicated his efforts to studying this lead-living cause of severe diarrheas in infants and children, which accounts for more than 500,000 deaths annually, predominantly in the developing world. Working with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Albert led a nearly 25-year effort to successfully develop an oral rotavirus vaccine, the first virus vaccine associated with an acute epidemic gastroenteritis. In 1973 he and two colleagues identified the polio virus, which was later used to develop an oral rotavirus vaccine. Albert led a nearly 25-year effort to characterize viruses causing major diseases in humans. His research has resulted in the discovery of nearly 100 new viruses that cause diseases in humans. His research has resulted in the discovery of nearly 100 new viruses that cause diseases in humans.

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Montreal, now in its 10th edition, and the recently published Drive I-95: East by exit Info Maps History and trivia, an original type of mapguide written with her husband, Stan Power. The book was a finalist in 2004 for both the Foreword Magazine Book of the Year Award and the Independent Publisher Book Award, and has been reviewed in newspapers and magazines such as The New York Times, Booklist, and the Library Journal.

Rochelle tells us that “I graduated from Queens College in 1969. That was a very interesting time, but secretly I was doing psychic phone readings on the side, and then venturing into them full time. I began writing in 1995 for the School Administrators Association of New York State, which is my part-time job.”

For the last 15 years, she has been the Editorial Director of Match.com’s new magazine, happenmag.com. She has had seven of his compositions performed by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, among many others around the world. In addition to guest-conducting the Spokane Symphony Orchestra, he has worked with various orchestras around the world, including the National Symphony Orchestra, the Filharmonia Sudecka (Poland), and the Filharmonia Domini (Republic). In addition to guest-conducting the Spokane Symphony Orchestra, he has worked with various orchestras around the world, including the National Symphony Orchestra, the Filharmonia Sudecka (Poland), and the Filharmonia Domini (Republic).
MAP, visit www.classicalsinger.net/aljmap

Hand: Operas Composed by Women 1625–1913

In Her Own Harvard University in 2003 called of opera scores based on an exhibit she curated for entitled, currently finishing a book on Queens County College Community Advisory Council. He is Latimer House; and is a member of the York School; the board of advisors of the Louis Board of trustees of the Renaissance Charter School; he was the distinguished Alumnus in 1996. He sits on the board College in 1990 and was selected as their Distinguished Alumnus in 1991: Alison Hoffman

1999: Andrew P. Jackson (MLS), who has been executive director of the Queens Public Library's Longport Hughes Community Library and Cultural Center for the past 25 years, is currently president of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. A member of theALA since 1989 and the Black Caucus since American history. Donations can be made to: Professor Cannistraro's name that will be used to the Donations for Books donation by Drew Sachs '98. The three plays were the Samuel French/Love Creek Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival in July. The other plays were She Lives Alone in Maine by Regina Corrado '90 and Stabbing OJ by Drew Sachs '90. The three plays were featured last fall as part of QC's presentation The College Plays.

Donation for Books

Donate for Books is a program that allows you to help generations of students and faculty while honoring a family member, colleague, or friend. A $50 gift to the Rosenthal Library entitles you to choose a subject area for a new book the library will purchase. The library will insert a special bookplate inside with the name of the donor and the honoree, and promptly acknowledge the gift to both. To get a Donate for Books form, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/Library and click on “Book Donations” under “Support the Library.”

Professors of the Year

Professor Cannistraro wrote several books on fascism and coauthored two major college textbooks, The Western Periphery: A History of Germany in the West and Civilizations of the World. At the time of his death he was writing a biography of Benito Mussolini and completing a biography of Gesa Peroni. The Graduate Center has established a fund in Professor Cannistraro’s name that will be used to provide awards to graduate students who demonstrate excellence in modern Italian or Italian American history. Donations can be made to: The Philip V. Cannistraro Fund. The Graduate Center Foundation, Inc. The Graduate Center, CUNY 115 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4200 New York, NY 10016-4109 For more information call (212) 817-1312.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni Take Center Stage

A play by Elizabeth Barton ’93, The Paint of All Return, was one of three plays by QC graduates selected to be staged in the Samuel French/Love Creek Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival in July. The other plays were She Lives Alone in Maine by Regina Corrado ’90 and Stabbing OJ by Drew Sachs ’90. The three plays were featured last fall as part of QC’s presentation The College Plays.

Donation for Books

Donate for Books is a program that allows you to help generations of students and faculty while honoring a family member, colleague, or friend. A $50 gift to the Rosenthal Library entitles you to choose a subject area for a new book the library will purchase. The library will insert a special bookplate inside with the name of the donor and the honoree, and promptly acknowledge the gift to both. To get a Donate for Books form, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/Library and click on “Book Donations” under “Support the Library.”

Q Magazine Updates

Check the College’s Web site this November for a Web-only update of Q.

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Dead End Boys Celebrate

A reunion for the Dead End Boys (1937–1970) was held at the home of President James Mulvihill on May 10. The Dead End Boys was not your typical Greek fraternity as it was open to all, which led to a camaraderie that has lasted over the decades. Over 50 Dead End Boys attended the reunion. For more photos from the reunion and a slide show of the Dead End Boys, visit the Alumni Affairs Web site at www.qc.cuny.edu/Alumni_Affairs.