One Professor’s Bold Experiment

Walking Toward Peace
In Unlikely Shoes
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, 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 a parent, 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

Credit card orders may also be faxed to 718-997-3924.

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.)
MORE SCIENCE JOBS
The fall issue of Q featured the sciences and what you can do with a science degree. My experiences since leaving Queens in 1952 with a chemistry degree (and subsequently obtaining a PhD from the University of Cincinnati) add further examples. In my career I have gone from bench chemist to R&D management, to a not-for-profit organization promoting technology transfer, to recycling and energy recovery from waste, to government relations. In the latter I worked with various administrations and congresses on environmental policy, legislation, and regulation, trying to infuse some science into the deliberations. For the last 12 years or so I have been involved in international hazardous waste issues, heading industry delegations to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and a UN Convention for many years, traveling to 33 countries.

My wife, Cora Wolff Alter, who graduated from Queens in 1957 with a degree in music education, is still performing, singing with the Dixieland Jazz ensemble of the Frederick Orchestra and with Opera Bel Canto, a concert opera group in Washington, DC. We are also both members of the curriculum advisory committee and pro bono faculty for the Institute for Learning in Retirement at Frederick Community College in Maryland. Curiosity and learning never retire. Both were instilled in us at Queens College.

Harvey and Cora Alter

WARTIME STORY
Sol Levine, my closest friend from the class of 1942 who died in 1996, was one of our alumni who achieved great things in his lifetime. He has even had an annual lecture series and a chair named after him at Harvard University, where he was a member of the University Professors Group. I would like to tell you an interesting story involving Sol, Leslie Behunek (also class of ’42), and myself.

During the Second World War Sol and Les fought in General Terry Allen’s Timber Wolf Division. At the end of the European war they were given a 30-day furlough after a long and tough campaign and were assigned to San Luis Obispo for additional training to ready them for the amphibious assault on Japan. During that furlough they came to visit me in Oak Ridge, where I was employed as a senior research scientist on the Manhattan Project. They were extremely depressed at the thought of what they were in for, especially since they had just barely survived with a whole skin the European conflict.

I tried to comfort them, telling them not to worry, they would be OK. Here I was a civilian who had been stateside throughout the war telling them not to worry when I had not been through their hellish experience. You can imagine how upset they were with me. Because of security restrictions I could not disclose to them that I had learned through our grapevine that the atomic bomb test at Alamogordo was a success and that we would probably be using it soon to end the war with Japan.

What a great satisfaction it was for me when it was announced that we had dropped the bomb while Sol and Les were still visiting me in Oak Ridge. We all got pretty drunk that day. I felt a very personal satisfaction that my work with the Manhattan Project at Columbia University and Oak Ridge was perhaps instrumental in saving the lives of my two friends and classmates.

Benjamin Wiener ‘42

THINKERS WANTED
I thought retirement would be fun but, as it turns out, I have yet to test the waters. I ostensibly retired a couple of years ago to southern Delaware, but can’t stay out of the maelstrom. I am currently writing a book on the media, am chair of the Southern Delaware Democrats, coordinator for the Progressive Democrats of Delaware, and working out the nonprofit status of a progressive think tank. We are currently looking for pro bono help for the DC-based think tank, people who can become our experts and research fellows. If interested, please send a resume to hubmaster@aol.com.

All of my inspiration came from Queens College’s wonderful environment and way-above-average staff of committed teachers and guides on the highway of life. Thank you, Queens College.

Les A. Friedlieb, ’59

We welcome letters about your memories of the college, what you are doing now, or even your opinion of our new design. Send them to Q Magazine, Queens College, CUNY, Kiely Hall 1307, Flushing, NY 11367.

SPRING 2005 | Q MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE 3
ONCE AND FUTURE GRADS APPEAR IN CUNY ADS

“I had a wonderful education,” says Susan Isaacs ’65, author of ten best-selling novels, including Compromising Positions and the recent Any Place I Hang My Hat. Isaacs, a member of the Queens College Foundation Board, is one of a number of prominent alumni featured in a new series of promotional ads for CUNY called “Investing in Futures @ City University.” The ads pair outstanding current students with alumni who have provided strong financial support to their alma mater.

“The college is getting fantastic students,” says Isaacs, and that description certainly applies to Sofiya Akilova, a student in the Queens Honors College and Isaacs’ partner in one of the ads. A theater and English major, Akilova came to this country from Uzbekistan at age 7. After graduating from the Performing Arts High School, she wavered between a career in theater and one in medicine. “I realized I am more passionate about the humanities,” says Akilova, who recently completed a run in the college’s production of The College Plays. She expects to graduate in 2006 and work toward a graduate degree in theater.

“I enjoyed meeting an alum and getting some idea of what can happen to you after Queens College,” she says of the recent photo-shoot.

It was quite a season for QC women’s volleyball and coach Aline-Pascale Lubin. The defending New York Collegiate Athletic Conference champion Lady Knights were undefeated approaching postseason play, only to be abruptly dropped from contention when several wins were disqualified over the question of a new player’s eligibility. An investigation confirmed the player’s eligibility and, just as abruptly, the Knights were back on top.

Then the team’s star, NYCAC Player of the Year Anna Bondarenko, injured her ankle and the Knights fell to Dowling. A week later, with Bondarenko back, they swept Dowling in the Northeast Regional finals, moving into the Elite Eight of NCAA Division II for the second straight year. Although eliminated in the quarterfinal round, the team members, as Newsday noted recently, “have made a name for themselves in national volleyball circles.”

For her remarkable season, Lubin, for the second consecutive year, was selected both NYCAC Coach of the Year and American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II Northeast Coach of the Year.

Lubin honed her championship instincts at Newtown High School in nearby Elmhurst, where her teams won four league championships. She played for a year at QC, but a knee problem curtailed her collegiate playing career. Soon her ambitions as a player were overtaken by a desire to coach.

At a summer camp in upstate New York she met her husband, Karl Pierre. A former pro player and member of the Haitian national team, he now coaches the QC men’s volleyball team.

Asked what led to the Lady Knights’ last two outstanding seasons, Lubin credits “a good core of hard-working players. They had something you can’t teach: wanting it. I’ve had stronger teams that fell short. But this team played up to its potential.”

Like the borough they represent, the team is quite diverse, with players hailing from Venezuela, Kazakhstan, Jamaica, Ukraine, Serbia-Montenegro, Poland, and the West Indies. “They sometimes get cute and run plays in their own language,” says Lubin. “But on the court we all speak the same language: volleyball.”

An exhibition of 100 photographs by Swiss photojournalist and cult figure Annemarie Schwarzenbach is on view at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum through June 2.

Celebrated abroad and the subject of films and books, Schwarzenbach (1908-1942) led a short but intense life marked by conflict, drug addiction, unhappy lesbian affairs, and prodigious talent as a photographer and author. Only recently has she become known beyond the German-speaking world. This exhibition—one of the first to present Schwarzenbach to the American public—documents her travels through Europe, the United States, and the Middle East during the 1930s. Included are photographs made by Schwarzenbach on her overland travels through Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and Afghanistan.
When Chancellor Matthew Goldstein announced the $2.6 billion “Campaign for the Colleges of the City University” in November, an Honors College student from Queens was on hand to put a human face on the ambitious undertaking.

In many regards, Andre Harding is the personification of those goals. He offered his experience in the Honors College as an example of what CUNY students have done in recent years and, with proper financial support, can continue to do. A graduate of the High School of Economics and Finance in lower Manhattan, Harding recounted how he experimented with a chemistry major at Queens before switching to history, in which he’s considering earning a PhD. During his sophomore year he landed an internship with Smith-Barney and, more recently, has worked in a Bronx assemblyman’s office.

He spoke eloquently of his fellow CUNY students, some of whom juggle work, family, and other responsibilities while pursuing an education. “They’re determined and tough. These are people who take the education and training that they receive and put it to good use.”

Expected to be completed over eight years, this first universitywide campaign will encompass 19 separate campaigns keyed to the needs of each CUNY college. The university is encouraging all the colleges to expand their fund-raising efforts and will offer resources and marketing assistance. This ambitious fund-raising goal, noted Goldstein, is made possible because of the academic renewal that has taken place at CUNY in the past decade.

Finding the Fat in America’s Eating Habits

Americans, by all accounts, are getting fatter, and Ashima Kant (Family, Nutrition & Exercise Sciences) wants to find out why.

“We don’t think our activity levels have changed a whole lot. It’s not that we are less active than we used to be,” she says in explaining the impetus for her new two-year study, Trends in Food Consumption Patterns of Americans, for which she has received a grant of $154,000 from the National Institutes of Health.

Using food consumption data gleaned from a series of National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) conducted over the last three decades, Kant hopes to gain a better understanding as to why obesity is spreading throughout our culture. “My study looks at changes in diet-related behavior from 1971 to 2002. What proportion of our calories are we consuming during the evening compared to 1971? Are we eating bigger meals? Are we eating different kinds of food? Are the foods’ nutrient densities or calorie densities different? Are the patterns in which foods are combined different? How long is our meal time? Are we consuming fewer or more meals?”

Kant is looking at a representative sample of the U.S. population “so whatever conclusions we draw we can apply nationwide.”

Queens Student Helps Launch “Campaign for CUNY”

When Chancellor Matthew Goldstein announced the $2.6 billion “Campaign for the Colleges of the City University” in November, an Honors College student from Queens was on hand to put a human face on the ambitious undertaking.

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Award for Powdermaker

Powdermaker Hall, the college’s state-of-the-art classroom building, has won the hearts of more than students. The Queens Chamber of Commerce recently announced that Powdermaker finished first in its Annual Building Awards Competition. In accepting the award, President James Muyskens noted that “Because of the partnership between the State of New York Dormitory Authority and CUNY, the borough of Queens now has one of the finest classroom buildings in the nation.”

Time and the Tabletop: Still Life Paintings, 1998–2004, an exhibition by the seminal American realist artist Harold Bruder, is on view at the Queens College Art Center through April 7. Praised as “an artist who was in the forefront of the American realist movement” and the recipient of awards from the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Bruder has exhibited in major museums and galleries throughout the U.S., including 11 solo shows in New York City. As a professor in the college’s Art Department (1965–1995), Bruder inspired several generations of art students. Gallery hours: Mon-Thurs, 9 am to 8 pm; Fri, 9 am to 5 pm.
Created in the aftermath of Sept. 11, Mark Rosenblum’s novel education project on the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has drawn national attention for its fundamental challenge that Jewish and Muslim students see the conflict from the other side’s point of view.

Walking Toward Peace in Unlikely Shoes

By BOB SUTER
On both sides there are so many attacks, there are so many incidents. I don’t really think it has a long-term effect on history. But I guess it has an emotional effect.

—Ezra Herskovits

“On both sides there are so many attacks, there are so many incidents. I don’t really think it has a long-term effect on history. But I guess it has an emotional effect.”

—I only saw things from my perspective. Being able to understand the other side makes you that much closer to seeing peace.

—Sadia Mohammed

broadcast on the CBS Evening News

January 8—is its requirement that Jewish and Muslim students immerse themselves in the opposing group’s history relative to the Middle East conflict and construct a compelling “narrative” that supports the opposing viewpoint. It’s a process Rosenblum calls “walking in the other’s shoes.”

Taking the First Steps

It comes as no surprise to learn that in 2003 Rosenblum received a Queens College President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. A visitor to his class quickly notices that he connects with his students in a way other instructors might envy. The students are attentive and well prepared, and he has an easy rapport with them. To achieve the necessary balance for the class, Rosenblum actively solicited the six Muslim, five Jewish, and four Christian students. Also attending are an assistant principal and six teachers of world studies and history courses from Queens public high schools. They observe in hopes of learning from their students. Also attending are an assistant principal and six teachers of world studies and history courses from Queens public high schools. They observe in hopes of learning from their students.

Twelve senior auditors from the community also attend. They are mostly Jewish and include a Holocaust survivor. One woman has an even more startling history: born in Germany in the 1930s, she had been a member of the Hitler Youth. The revelations of the Holocaust at the war’s end jolted her into a lifetime commitment to Israel, including service in the Israeli army.

Class begins with an announcement that the course’s final guest speaker, the Middle East desk officer from the White House, will be visiting on December 19. Then it’s on to the important work of the final two classes: students reading their narratives. This is the culmination of weeks of immersion in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and Rosenblum’s constant admonishments to balance every partisan observation with a counter-argument.

Alternating between pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli speakers, students offer detailed arguments supported by particular incidents and historical analysis—arguments they might never have imagined themselves making. Each presentation is followed by a critique from other class members with occasional prodding from Rosenblum. In the course of his narrative, Iman Khan, a Muslim student, bravely mentions how his belief in the Palestinian cause was shaken after two members of the Israeli security forces who roamed into Ramallah were seized by Palestinians and lynched. “It was a turning point for me to see how Palestinians joined in, were happy about it; it almost seemed festive.”

In the follow-up discussion, Ezra Herskovits, a Jewish student, responds, “On both sides there are so many attacks, there are so many incidents. I don’t really think it has a long-term effect on history. But I guess it has an emotional effect.”

Time allows for a half-dozen more presentations. One Muslim student, Sadia Mohammed, has so much material to offer in support of the Israeli side she rushes to cover it all within her allotted time.

After class Gisele Adamski, one of the senior auditors, is obviously moved by what she just witnessed. “I’m pleased by how much they learned, how much they picked continued on page 19
Mention the name Theodore Kheel to many New Yorkers and they will easily identify him as the man who helped mediate many of the great labor conflicts of the last half century. But in recent years Kheel, who recently turned 90, has turned his attention to a conflict even greater than that between labor and management: the battle between Earth and its seven billion inhabitants. “In the long run,” Kheel believes, “the destruction of the environment through industrial development is more serious than terrorism.”

To help mediate this conflict, Kheel’s foundation, Nurture New York’s Nature (NNYN), is donating $1 million to help fund a City University urban environmental institute that will be based at Queens College. The donation is made possible through the largesse of environmental artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude, who have given NNYN an exclusive, worldwide royalty-free license to use their intellectual property rights from their latest public installation, The Gates Project for Central Park, to raise money.

Queens is the logical place for this new institute as it is already home to the highly respected School of Earth and Environmental Sciences and the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems, founded by renowned environmentalist Barry Commoner.

“For Queens College, the Institute to Nurture New York’s Nature truly is a match made in heaven,” says President James Muyskens. “It builds on our resources, including our own eminent scientists, and focuses on the challenges of living in an urban environment. A lot of us living in the city hardly notice the wetlands around us, or the birds or the marshes.”

Announced November 30 by CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, the Institute to Nurture New York’s Nature will promote sound management of the city’s natural resources; conduct and sponsor research on such pressing topics as the region’s changing climate and aquasphere (wetlands, shorelines, etc.); educate the community, including elementary and secondary school teachers, about the urban natural environment; organize conferences for specialists and the public; and work closely with policymakers, government officials, and scientists to preserve New York’s natural environment. It will draw on resources from all 19 CUNY campuses.

Mediating on Nature’s Behalf
Theodore Kheel has devoted much of his energy to environmental problems ever since he attended the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. “Fifty years ago,” Kheel observes, “less than one-third of the population lived in urban areas; by 2007 more than one-half of the earth’s people will be living in cities with populations of a million or more. This alliance of NNYN and CUNY’s Institute to Nurture New York’s Nature will improve our relationship with the city.” His hope is that the CUNY program will become a model for other urban universities.

New Faculty for the New Institute
While the institute is still very much in the formative phase, with its location on campus yet to be determined and a nationwide search for a director to be held,
QUEENS COLLEGE
SPRING FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
Your guide to the best of the arts in Queens

Clockwise from top left: Soh Daiko: Japanese Taiko Drummers, May 7; Louis Armstrong; Winter Still Life, oil, 2000-01, by Harold Bruder; LeFrak Center; Annemarie Schwarzenbach: Photographs and Writings, 1933–1940; Joyce Carol Oates
FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1–APRIL 7, 2005
Recent work by an influential American realist, Professor Emeritus of Art, Queens College, 1965–1995.
Queens College Art Center
Rosenthal Library, 6th Floor
Gallery Hours: Mon–Thurs, 9 am–8 pm; Fri, 9 am–5 pm.
Closed weekends and holidays.
Co-sponsored by the Queens College Art Dept.

FEBRUARY 7–JUNE 2, 2005
Annemarie Schwarzenbach: Photographs and Writings, 1933–1940
Photographs by Swiss author and photographer Annemarie Schwarzenbach, whose historic images of the 1930s depict the Nazi uprising, the Great Depression in America, and her travels in Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, and other Middle Eastern territories.
Godwin-Ternbach Museum
405 Klapper Hall, 4th floor
Public symposium Sat, March 19, 10 am–5 pm.
For further information and schedules call 718-997-4724. Hours: Mon–Thurs, 11 am–7 pm; Sat, 11 am–5 pm.

FEBRUARY 19–MAY 15, 2005
What’s New: Recent Acquisitions from the Louis Armstrong Archives
Louis Armstrong House Museum
The Museum is located at 34-56 107th Street, Corona. Hours: Tues–Fri, 10 am–5 pm; Sat–Sun, 12 noon–5 pm.
For information, call 718-478-8274.

MARCH

MARCH 6
Venice Baroque Orchestra
The Venice Baroque Orchestra has become an important new force in the field of period-instruments performance.
LeFrak Concert Hall, 3 pm; $34/$32 seniors, students, QC alumni, and staff.
For tickets or information, call 718-793-8080.

MARCH 20
Newsday Family Theatre
Beauty and the Beast
American Family Theatre’s award-winning production incorporates multidimensional sets, dazzling costumes, state-of-the-art sound, and original music.
Colden Auditorium, 2 pm; $12.
For tickets or information, call 718-793-8080.

APRIL

APRIL 2
Tango Jazz Fusion
Featuring Golden Eye Tango Dancers
Experience the sensuous rhythms of Latin jazz with renowned Flamenco dancer Mayte Vincens and her dance troupe, under the baton of noted Latin jazz performer and composer, Michael Philip Mossman.
LeFrak Concert Hall, 8 pm; $22/$20 seniors, students, QC alumni, and staff.
For tickets or information, call 718-793-8080.
commanding violinists of our time.
LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm; $34/$32 seniors, students, QC alumni, and staff. For ticket information, call 718-793-8080.

8-10 FRI–SUN
Musical The Pajama Game
Directed by Charles Repole.
Goldstein Theatre. Fri & Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm; $17/$14 QC students, staff, alumni, seniors; Sat; $15/$12 QC students, staff, alumni, seniors, Fri & Sun. For tickets, call 718-793-8080.

10 SUN
Newsday Family Theatre
Russian American Kids Circus
A breathtaking spectacle performed entirely by boys and girls ages 6 to 16. Call now for the best seats to this family favorite.
Colden Auditorium, 2 pm; $12.
For ticket information, call 718-793-8080.

APRIL 12–JULY 14, 2005
Suzanne Benton: Face & Figure – Selected Works, 1955–2005
Sculpture, multimedia works, paintings, drawings, prints and metal masks by a strikingly humanitarian, multicultural artist, and Queens College alumna (Suzanne Elkins, BA 1956).
Queens College Art Center
Rosenthal Library, 6th Floor
Gallery Talk and Reception: Tues, April 12, 5–8 pm.
Gallery Hours:
Mon–Thurs, 9 am–8 pm; Fri, 9 am–5 pm. Closed weekends and holidays. After May 30, call for summer hours, 718-997-3770.

14–17 THURS–SUN
Musical The Pajama Game
Directed by Charles Repole.
Goldstein Theatre. Thurs, 7 pm; Fri & Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm; $17/$14 QC students, staff, alumni, seniors; Sat; $15/$12 QC students, staff, alumni, seniors, Thurs, Fri & Sun. For tickets, call 718-793-8080.

16 SAT
Ahn Trio: Ahn-Plugged
Don’t miss this innovative performance geared especially for families by the three Seoul sisters — Lucia on piano, Angella on violin, and Maria on cello.
LeFrak Concert Hall, 3 pm; $12.
For ticket information, call 718-793-8080.

21 THURS
Queens College Evening Readings
A Roundtable on the Art of Writing with Edward Hirsch, Richard Howard, and Adam Zagajewski
EDWARD HIRSCH is the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning author of Wild Gratitude, On Love, and Lay Back the Darkness.
ADAM ZAGAJEWSKI is the 2004 Neustadt International Prize-winning author of Another Beauty: New & Selected Poems, and A Defense of Ardor: Essays.
Music Building, 7 pm; $10.
For information, call 718-997-4646.

MAY
1 SUN
David Finckel and Wu Han, cello and piano
Garnering superlatives from the press and public, David Finckel and Wu Han have emerged as one of the most popular cello-piano duos on the musical scene today.
LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm; $34/$32, seniors, students, alumni, and staff.
For ticket information, call 718-793-8080.

5–8 THURS–SUN
Student Choreographers’ Showcase
The Performance Space, Rathaus Hall. Thurs & Fri, 8 pm; Sat, 2 pm & 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm; $6. For tickets, call 718-997-2788.

7 SAT
Soh Daiko: Japanese Taiko Drummers
Celebrate Asian Heritage Month with Soh Daiko, whose startling and invigorating drumming also features movement and choreography.
LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm; $12.
For ticket information, call 718-793-8080.
Aaron Copland School of Music
The Aaron Copland School of Music 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 718-997-3800 or go to the Events Calendar at www.qc.cuny.edu

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 489-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, 12–4 pm; Sat, 10 am–2 pm. Discounts are available for groups, seniors, students, and alumni. For information, to receive a season brochure, or to be placed on our email list, please call 718-793-8080, or visit www.coldencenter.org

Drama, Theatre & Dance
The Drama, Theatre & Dance Department produces four mainstage productions each season: a musical or opera (co-produced with the School of Music), a classical play, a contemporary or world premiere production, and a dance concert. These are directed by our faculty and guest artists.
For information, call the Arts Hotline at 718-997-3075.

Godwin-Ternbach Museum
The Godwin-Ternbach Museum is a professional not-for-profit art museum unique in Queens with a comprehensive permanent collection of 3,500 objects, ranging from the ancient world to the present day. Recently we have received over 500 gifts of objects from alumni and friends of the museum. To make a donation of art, please call 718-997-4724.
Hours: Mon–Thurs, 11 am–7 pm; Sat, 11 am–5 pm. For information, call 718-997-4724 or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/art/gtmus.html

Queens College Evening Readings
Queens College Evening Readings celebrates its 29th Anniversary Season of readings and interviews with some of the greatest living writers in the world.
For information, call 718-997-4646, or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings. To order Season Tickets, call the Colden Center Box Office at 718-793-8080.

SAVE THE DATE!
QUEENS SUMMER FEST
Sunday, July 31
Enjoy a day of music, dance, and food on the Quad at Queens College. From noon to dusk.
For information, call 718-544-2996
Queens College is moving ahead with the initiative. In September the college hired two scientists who will have critical roles in advancing the institute’s goals.

John Waldman (Biology) spent 20 years with the Hudson River Foundation and is an expert on the environment and management of New York Harbor and the Hudson River Estuary. He is the author of *Heartbeats in the Muck*, a history of the Hudson River.

A self-described “CUNY product” who got his undergraduate education at Lehman College and his PhD at the CUNY Graduate Center, Waldman believes he was selected for this project because “I had had this in-your-own-backyard experience with our endlessly fascinating and challenging water bodies and can bring that to the students here and help develop a research program, too.”

Waldman, who is teaching a graduate seminar this semester on “Urban Conservation Biology,” has contact with both grass-roots and national environmental organizations. “We want to listen to all and take a rational middle-ground role,” he says. “It’s also up to us to become effective in tapping available funds from private foundations and government agencies.”

The other new hire, George Hendrey (Earth and Environmental Sciences), was previously senior ecologist at Brookhaven National Laboratory. His work on atmospheric contaminants led to a proposal for the Urban Atmospheric Observatory being developed in New York City, a project supported by the departments of Defense and Homeland Security.

“As the global population continues to increase, the mega-cities of the world—New York being one of them—are going to have a larger and larger environmental impact regionally and globally,” says Hendrey. “I see Nurturing New York’s Nature as a matter of educating New Yorkers about what they have—the environment that surrounds them and the importance of that environment.”

**IN MEMORIAM**

**David Syrett**

The Queens College community was saddened by the sudden passing October 18 of Distinguished Professor of History David Syrett, who died of cardiac arrest just outside his home in Leonia, NJ. He was 65.

“Bluff” is the word history chair Frank Warren used to describe Syrett’s teaching style which, he explained, Webster’s defines as “roughly, but good-naturedly frank, unceremonious, outspoken.” His students and colleagues loved him for these qualities, Warren said.

A prodigious author and researcher, Syrett attained an international reputation for his writings on the British Navy during the 18th and 20th centuries and his study of the American War of Independence. He published ten books (with four more in press) and over 80 articles. Among his most notable works are *The Royal Navy in North American Waters During the American Revolution* and *The Defeat of the German U-Boats*, for which he analyzed some 49,000 decrypted German communications.

“A veritable dynamo in terms of scholarship,” said Richard L. DiNardo of his former mentor, with whom he later co-authored *The Commissioned Sea Officers of the Royal Navy, 1775–1783*, which has become the reference work on the subject most often used in Britain. Syrett, he also noted, was the first American to have his work published by the British Navy Records Society.

Tough and demanding, Syrett was always willing to put in the time needed to get his students through orals and dissertations, said DiNardo. “Professor Syrett truly exemplified the meaning of the German term *Doktorvater* [Doctor father].”

Syrett’s knowledge of the British, American, and Canadian archives in his areas of study was near legendary. “His work was original, based on archival research that enabled him to look afresh even on subjects that had been the object of considerable study,” said Jon Sumida, holder of the Major General Matthew C. Horner Chair of Military Theory at the U.S. Marine Corps University in Quantico, VA. “For David Syrett, historical scholarship was both a discipline and an intelligent expression about things that matter.”

In 1985 Syrett was cited in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as one of a handful of scholars who were elevating military history “out of its exile in the history offices of the armed forces and into increasing acceptance and respectability in academic departments.”

“The old military history was gunshot history,” Syrett said in the article. “The new military history is looking at the social, political, and institutional roles the military plays in our society, and at the way social, political, and economic factors influence military affairs.”

“Prof. Syrett was one of the half-dozen most distinguished practitioners of military history in the United States today, and the best in naval history,” said Richard Kohn, professor of history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. “His articles were model interpretative gems, always addressed to a major point in an important historiographical problem. His *Siege and Capture of Havana* gave us the precedents for 20th-century warfare that are still raising consciousness in the historical profession and the armed services; here Syrett was years ahead of the rest of us.”

The son of a historian, Syrett grew up in Manhattan. A 1961 graduate of Columbia University, he received his MA there in 1964. Syrett earned his PhD from the University of London in 1966 and joined the faculty at Queens College. He also taught at the CUNY Graduate Center, and in 2000 was named distinguished professor by CUNY. He also served as John F. Morrison Professor of Military History for the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Leavenworth, KS, and visiting professor of history at Rutgers College.

Syrett is survived by his wife, Elena Frangakis-Syrett, also a history professor at the college and the Graduate Center, three sons, two grandchildren, and two brothers.

A history scholarship prize is being established in his honor. Donations may be made to the David Syrett Memorial Fund, Queens College, Office of Development, Flushing, NY 11367.
They managed to open the elevator doors and, using keys, pocket knives, a steel cover pried from a control panel, and Lombardi’s money clip, began to score a hole in the thick gypsum wall. Lombardi laughs now, recalling how the hole they created led into a bathroom. As the group exited through the hole, they had to be careful not to step in the toilet. “We were able to get out, see what we looked like in the mirror, and walk down 58 flights. Then I was involved in the recovery and, later, the rebuilding effort.”

Two years later, Lombardi capped a 24-year rise through the ranks at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey when he was named chief engineer. “Anything to do with engineering and construction,” Lombardi declares, “that’s my
A FUTURE FORMED IN QUEENS

The father of two grown children, Lombardi lives in Howard Beach with his wife, Christine. The recipient of many awards, he is frequently in demand as a speaker by professional groups around the country. His professional memberships include the Society of American Military Engineers, the Moles, and the New York State Society of Professional Engineers. He also serves on the board of directors for the field.

By his own account, Lombardi has had a remarkable career for someone whose family emigrated from a small town near Naples, Italy, when he was only seven. "We didn’t have the money for me to go to a school like Manhattan College or NYU," he recalls. "And Queens offered this preliminary engineering curriculum. It was nearby and the tuition was nominal, a registration fee. The more expensive items were books, and there was a bookstore across the street where you could purchase used books and sell them back. That’s how tight things were.”

The engineering curriculum Lombardi enrolled in was a cooperative arrangement between Queens and NYU whereby students would spend three years pursuing liberal arts at Queens and two years studying engineering at NYU. Lombardi graduated in 1970 with both a BA from Queens and a degree in civil engineering from NYU. (The program still exists, offering a 2-2 arrangement with City College and a 3-2 arrangement with Columbia University.)

His study of the liberal arts at Queens, Lombardi feels, was a perfect complement to his engineering studies. “Learning how to open up the technical mind in a broader context was very rewarding,” he notes. “The liberal arts prepared me for being a supervisor and being able to speak in front of a group of people.”

Lombardi is committed to seeing that future generations of young people, perhaps lacking in advantages as he was, have the opportunity to pursue engineering as a career path. This is reflected in his work as a member of the board of directors of the Salvadori Educational Center, a nonprofit educational center at City College dedicated to helping inner-city youth appreciate science and mathematics through hands-on study of bridges and other structures. He has also expressed an interest in making some of the Salvadori’s educational programs available to Queens College students who are considering engineering, “to have them ask me any questions associated with the field.”

REBUILDING GROUND ZERO

Today, from a temporary office on Park Avenue South, Lombardi finds himself again committed to rebuilding at the World Trade Center site, but on a scale no one could have previously imagined. He was involved in the construction of the recently reopened interim PATH terminal which, when fully reconstructed, will display a wing-like motif that suggests a phoenix rising from the ashes of Ground Zero.

As he explains it, the massive undertaking that remains is still in the site-planning stages of determining how to “geometrically fix” the locations and shapes of buildings within the 16-acre site. “I’m not actively involved until the final design gets underway and we’re able to see something on paper,” he says. “We can then look at the issues of life safety and code compliance.”

But while Lombardi can speak at length in dry, technical terms of the challenges of rebuilding, he still acknowledges that, for him, having lost 84 colleagues (some were friends), it can never be a truly dispasionate exercise: “I still have skin in the game here,” he says. “There’s an emotional bond.”
1946: Alfred Di Lascia has been teaching philosophy at Manhattan College since 1949. He has dedicated his scholarly life to the philosophical thought and political activity of Luigi Sturzo, for whom he worked while he was a student at QC and Sturzo was in exile from fascist Italy (1944–46). In 1971 Alfred won first prize in an international contest sponsored by the Institute Luigi Sturzo in Rome for a book he wrote on Sturzo’s thought. Alfred reports that “When I first read in the NY Times about James Muyssens’ appointment as president of QC, I immediately rejoiced and chiefly for two reasons: 1) I am an alumnus and chief-in-charge of our leisure time,” Barbara notes. “I recently attended my 50th reunion of grads from Jamaica High School and look forward to QC’s 50th in ’07.” Classmates can reach Barbara at basu62@aol.com . . .

1957: Barbara Federgreen Anderson recently retired as coordinator of San Francisco’s city-run mental health program for transgenders. She continues to have a private practice focusing on general mental health concerns and sexual dysfunction; writes on transgender issues, and trains clinicians in these subjects. “Our children and grandchildren are distributed between Scotland and New Jersey, so travel takes up a fair amount of our leisure time,” Barbara notes. “I recently attended my 50th reunion of grads from Jamaica High School and look forward to QC’s 50th in ’07.” Classmates can reach Barbara at basu62@aol.com . . .

1958: Jean-Bernard Bucky is the director of the Center for Technology in the Arts and Humanities (CTAH) at Williams College, where he has been since 1974. CTAH helps faculty explore the uses of innovative technologies in their teaching and research. In addition to teaching, Jean-Bernard has directed professional theatre productions around the country, including Stage West, the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Michigan Opera Theatre, and the San Francisco Opera. Jean-Bernard received his MS from New York University and his MFA in theatre and directing from Carnegie-Mellon University . . .

1961: Mark Willner received a Spirit of Anne Frank Award from the Anne Frank Center USA. The award recognized his involvement with Holocaust studies at Midwood High School and Temple Emanuel El Religious School, as well as his work on Global Studies: Volume II, the only history textbook in the United States that features a whole chapter devoted to the Holocaust. Mark is the assistant principal at Midwood High School at Brooklyn College. He lives in Manhattan with his wife, Sheila . . .

1962: Alice Eisenberg Mattison’s fourth novel, The Wedding of the Two-Headed Woman, was recently published by Morrow. Alice, whose stories and essays have appeared in the New Yorker, Best American Short Stories, The Pushcart Prize, and elsewhere, teaches fiction in the MFA program at Bennington College in Vermont. She lives in New Haven, CT . . .

1964: After 32 years of teaching gym in New York City elementary schools, Leonard Grossman decided to try his hand at acting. Among his credits, he was an extra in the film Pollack, which starred Ed Harris, and was a stand-in for Mayor Ed Koch in Marriage Guide for Single Men. Leonard, who lives in Manhattan, has also appeared in a number of films made by graduate students at Columbia and New York University . . .

1965: Michael Gottlieb is associate director for science for the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative at the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health. This grant-making program focuses on increasing research on diseases in the developing world. Previously Michael was at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), where he was chief of the parasitology and international programs branch. Prior to this, Michael was an associate professor in the department of immunology and infectious diseases at the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health. The author of more than 50 articles and book chapters, he has received the NIH Director’s Award for his efforts in developing the international tropical disease research program, and twice received the Department of Health & Human Services Secretary’s Award for his efforts in genomics research. A native of New York City, Michael received his PhD in biology from the CUNY Graduate Center. He lives in Owings Mills, MD, with his wife, Joan (MS Education, 1972). They have two daughters . . .

1966: William Westney, after winning the Geneva International Competition and other concert-pianist awards, and after many years of teaching and performing, has written a book: The Perfect Wrong Note (Amadeus Press, 2003). A synthesis of his ideas about learning, perfectionism, and healthy self-integration through music, it has been described by reviewers as “rewarding and refreshing” (American Record Guide). The arts section of the New York Times published an extensive article in 1997 on Bill’s unique performance workshops, which have been given around the world. Since 1978 he has been artist-in-residence and distinguished professor at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. The QC music faculty, Bill notes, “taught me how to welcome challenges, formulate goals, and be accountable—I owe them a lot!” . . .

1969: Deborah Gewertz is the co-author (with husband Frederick Errington) of Yali’s Question: Sugar, Culture, and History (University of Chicago Press, 2004). She is the G. Henry Whitcomb Professor of Anthropology at Amherst College in Massachu-
setts. Deborah, who has done much fieldwork in Papua New Guinea as well as in Rock Creek, Montana, received her PhD in anthropology from the CUNY Graduate Center in 1977. **1975: Michael Poust** is retired and living in Columbia County, where the Korean War veteran now teaches rifle marksmanship to high school girls. For many years he lectured at the City University and had a practice as a psychotherapist. He holds a master’s in public health from New York University and is a MENSIA member. Michael would like to hear from old friends and classmates at Box 551, Manor Rock Road, Claryville, NY 12521

**1979: Shoshana T. Bookson**, a senior partner in the law firm of Shandell, Blit, Blit & Bookson in Manhattan, was recently named president of the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, only the fourth woman to hold this position. She is the daughter of former state senator Paul Bookson, who used to bring her up to Albany for the start of every session. Shoshana graduated from Cardozo Law School in 1982. She and her husband, physician Saul Stromer, have three children . . . **Frank Supovitz** is the author of The Sports Event Management & Marketing Playbook (Wiley & Sons). He is group VP of events and entertainment for the National Hockey League, and recently received an honorary doctor of business administration degree in sports, entertainment, and event management from Johnson & Wales University . . . **1982: Peter Calandra** (MA ’95), a composer for television and movies, recently scored a movie, *Unknown Soldier*, that won the top prize at the Los Angeles Film Festival. It also won the top prize at the Philly Film fest in the spring of 2004

**1985: Daphne Gleit-Caduri**, a pediatrician in Commack, NY, is president of the Suffolk Pediatric Society. She was featured in a November article in Newsday concerning the shortage of meningitis vaccine . . . **1986: Beverley Sibblies** is senior VP and chief accounting officer of Household International, Inc. She leads all accounting activities for the company. Prior to joining the company, Beverley served as executive VP and chief financial officer for EMC Mortgage, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bear Stearns. Prior to that, she was a partner in the financial services practice of Deloitte & Touche, LLP . . . **1989: Susan E. Canter** has been appointed general counsel of Project Renewal, Inc., an organization that runs programs to renew the lives of homeless people who are also coping with mental illness and/or addiction to drugs or alcohol. Project Renewal provides everything homeless people need to move from the streets to independent living . . . **1996: Mark Brecker** and his brother Bruce must now believe that ice cream is the way to a woman’s heart. The co-founders of Max & Mia’s Homemade Ice Cream and Ices, a kosher ice cream parlor in Flushing known for such flavors as lox, corn on the cob, and pizza, the brothers were named two of the nation’s top 50 bachelors by People magazine in 2002. They became interested in ice cream after discovering some (more traditional) ice cream recipes in the attic of their grandfather, who was a chemist. Mark, who graduated with a major in Urban Studies and a minor in Business and Liberal Arts, says his ideal woman would be “willing to try garlic ice cream.” The brothers have experimented with close to 600 different flavors, about 50 of which are offered at any one time. And yes, you can get chocolate and vanilla . . . **1997: Leigh Harrison** recently released her first CD of mostly original material, Eclectic Chanteuse (SongCrew Records), available at www.CDBaby.com. Leigh, who hosts a monthly open mic for poets and musicians at the Back Fence in Greenwich Village, received the 2004 Vault Award as Best Female Singer-Songwriter. She has taught several poetry workshops through QC’s ACE program and is the author of two volumes of poetry, *Tour de Force* (New Spirit Press) and *Our Harps Upon the Willows* (Cross-Cultural Communications). You can check out Leigh’s music, poetry, and artwork at www.leighharrison.com . . .**2001: Javier Torres Cortes** received the Carnegie Hero Fund Commission Award for saving a five-year-old autistic boy from drowning in the East River. Javier saw Jonathan Flores floating face down and being swept along by a strong current toward a power plant. He went into the 42-degree water and swam out 20 feet, secured Jonathan, and attempted to return to the pier. Spectators threw him a life ring and then an

**REVISITING QUEENS COLLEGE’S FIRST RHODES SCHOLAR**

“*I always intended to go to Queens College and Harvard Law School, and I never saw anything incongruous in that,*” says Raymond Paretzky ’83. While he accomplished the first half of the course he had decided upon as a teenager, Robert Picken, chair of QC’s Romance Languages Department, had other plans for this English major. Paretzky received a note from Picken asking him to come to his office. “I didn’t know what it was about,” recalls Paretzky. “I was a French minor but I never had him as a professor. He may have known of me through the student-faculty senate. Professor Picken said every few years he suggested to a student that he apply for the Rhodes Scholarship. He, himself, was a Rhodes Scholar. I really hadn’t considered it. I was planning to go straight to law school. But I didn’t see any harm in applying.”

He did apply and he got it, becoming QC’s first Rhodes Scholar. Paretzky is quick to give his alma mater much of the credit for preparing him for the rigorous Rhodes vetting process, which put him in competition with students from the country’s top schools. “Being from Queens definitely set me apart. At the New York State finals, I think there were 15 of us interviewed, including four from Harvard.” The group was winnowed to two: a student from Harvard and Paretzky. Paretzky prevailed.

Besides his academic accomplishments, Paretzky believes the Rhodes committee was impressed with his extracurricular activities. He was editor of the Jewish newspaper *Ha-Or* and was involved in other campus Jewish organizations. “I was vice president of the Student Association and before that a senator,” he says. “It helped me with the Rhodes because it made for a very well-rounded application.”

After two years at Oxford, where he studied English language and literature, Paretzky elected to go to Yale Law School instead of Harvard. Then he spent a year clerking for Douglas P. Woodlock, U.S. District Court Judge for the District of Massachusetts, before setting off on a six-month world tour.

After his travels Paretzky settled in Washington, DC, and began working for a general litigation firm. Today, he practices international trade law for McDermott, Will and Emery in DC. He and his wife, Karen Zacharia, an executive with Verizon, live in Bethesda, MD, and have two sons.

Paretzky returns to campus fairly often as his mother still lives in the area. He particularly remembers returning in 1998 when the college paid tribute to 100 of its most illustrious alumni. “There were a lot of obvious music and show business types like Paul Simon and Jerry Seinfeld and a lot of business types being honored. I think I was one of the few who made the list by virtue of what they had done while at Queens.”
electricity that he was able to hold onto until the police came and removed him and Jonathan from the river. They were taken to the hospital, suffering from mild hypothermia, scrapes, and bruises. Jonathan and Javier both recovered.

**2002:** Last fall Paul Branca’s work was part of the Queens International Exhibit at the Queens Museum of Art, and will be represented in group shows in Paris and Berlin this year. He cites James Saslow and Liliana Porter of the Art Department as being among the professors who most inspired him.

**WE REMEMBER**

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<td>1942</td>
<td>Celso-Ramón García</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>Ruth Cleary-Dolan (née Reisiger)</td>
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Marie M. Daly ‘42

The college recently learned of the death of Marie M. Daly, a 1942 honors graduate who became the first African American woman to receive a PhD in chemistry. She died Oct. 28, 2003 at the age of 83.

Daly grew up in Corona, Queens, and attended Hunter College HS with the intention of going on to Hunter College. But, as she explained in a 1988 letter to QC President Shirley Strum Kenny: “By the time I graduated from Hunter High, Queens College had opened, giving me an opportunity to attend an excellent college with a smaller student body, a shorter commuting distance, and a campus!”

Daly obtained her MS from NYU in 1943 and her PhD in chemistry from Columbia University in 1948. She taught briefly at Howard University before joining the Rockefeller Institute as a visiting investigator. She later taught at Columbia’s College of Physicians & Surgeons and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Daly was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the American Chemical Society.

In 1988 Daly contacted the college to create a scholarship to benefit black students studying physical sciences. In her letter to President Kenny she said, “I have referred to my contribution as a gift, but it may more accurately be described as a debt... My days at college were shadowed by the specter of World War II and the impact it would have on my generation, but I was happy at Queens. My studies were stimulating, I was developing the basis for a satisfying career, and I made friendships that have lasted a lifetime.” Her gift became the Ivan C. Daly and Helen H. Daly Scholarship.

Daly is survived by her husband, Vincent.

**Jolyon Hofsted**

Jolyon Hofsted, a professor of art who taught at the college for 37 years and headed the ceramics program, died of cancer on October 12. He came to New York in the early 1960s on a full Max Beckman Memorial Scholarship to the Brooklyn Museum Art School and quickly became a full-time instructor at the school, as well as director from 1969 to 1973. A believer in the restorative power of art, Hofsted set up arts programs in a number of prisons, including Riker’s Island.

Hofsted’s works in clay and bronze were featured in 23 one-person shows in New York, and more than 100 invitational exhibitions. His art can be found in numerous collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto, the Museum of Contemporary Crafts in New York City, the Brooklyn Museum, and the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore. His book Ceramics, printed in six editions and four languages, is considered a definitive text in its field.

Jolyon Hofsted is survived by his wife of 22 years, Janet Hofsted, of Woodstock, NY; his mother, two sons, a stepson, and two grandsons.

**Mervyn Meggitt**

Mervyn Meggitt, distinguished professor of anthropology emeritus, died on November 13, 2004. He was born in 1924 in Warwick, Australia. Following military service with the Royal Australian Navy (1942–46), he enrolled at the University of Sydney, receiving his BA in psychology and anthropology in 1953 and his PhD in anthropology in 1960. He taught at the University of Sydney and the University of Michigan before joining Queens College in 1967, teaching here until his retirement in 1993. Meggitt served as chair of the department from 1968 to 1970 and as executive officer of the CUNY PhD program in anthropology from 1970 to 1973. He was named distinguished professor in 1980.

The author of eight books and over 40 articles, Meggitt is best known for his fieldwork among the Walbiri in Central Australia and among the Enga of the Western Highlands of Papua New Guinea. His detailed description of Walbiri social organization in his book Desert People and his account of New Guinea warfare in Blood Is Their Argument have become anthropological classics.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**Next Alumni Trip: Normandy**

The next trip for alumni, to Normandy, France, will take place this summer from July 18-26. The trip includes three meals a day, accommodations at the Grand Hotel de l’Esperance in Lisieux, and day trips to Bayeux and the Bayeux Tapestry, Monet’s home and studio in Giverny, Rouen, Mont- St-Michel and the D-Day battle sites. Informati

**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 a special bookplate and support the library. A $50 gift to the Rosenthal Library entitles you to choose a bookplate inside with the name of the donor and the honoree, and promptly acknowledge the gift to both. To get a bookplate, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/ and click on “Book Donations” under “Support the Library.”

**Save the Dates**

**Class of ’55:** Be part of the Golden Jubilee procession at Commencement on June 2. Watch the mail for your invitation.

**Homecoming:** will take place on October 1. Check the fall issue of Q magazine for your invitation and registration form.

**Missing Alumni**

We have lost touch with many of our over 100,000 alumni. In most cases they did not let us know when they moved. Addresses can be updated online by going to www.qc.cuny.edu/QC_Foundation. If you know alumni who do not hear from the college, please let us know.

**Send Us Your News!**

We want to hear more from graduates—especially our recent graduates. Tell us where you are and what you are doing, and enclose a photo. Be sure to let us know when you move. Mail to: Alumni News, Office of Alumni Affairs, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, NY 11367

Phone: 718-997-3930 Fax: 718-997-3924 Email: alumni@qc.edu

Look for us on the Web. We are always adding information about news at the college and upcoming events. And be sure to click on Entertainment Alumni Updates. You will be pleasantly surprised.

**Alumni Affairs Web site:** www.qc.cuny.edu/alumni_affairs
Student Government: A Model for World Leaders?

According to Zeeshan Suhail, vice president of the Student Association, and president Elliot Schimel “spend more time working together than we spend at home. The majority of our day is not spent in classes; it’s spent in the office working with each other.”

Despite the seemingly intractable divisions that plague relations between many Muslims and Jews worldwide, that amicable pair—who like to refer to Queens College as “the Middle East of the Northeast”—can work together and virtually live together on a daily basis without any hint of hostility, by their account, not exactly remarkable—at least at Queens College.

Says Schimel, “Our student government has such diversity. Zeeshan is Muslim and I’m Jewish, and I am learning so much about Muslim culture and vice versa. For example, I saw Zeeshan going through Ramadan, and he saw me celebrating Chanukah.”

Even before running for office, the two decided they would give high priority to the problems of international students—regardless of origin. Schimel, who has strong ties to several Jewish groups, went to bat for all international students when he went to Albany on Lobbying Day to protest recent tuition increases that he says make these students “pay almost as much as they would for private school.”

Diplomacy is something of a family affair for Suhail, whose father is a diplomat posted to the Pakistan Mission to the U.N. “If you just go to the second floor of the student union,” he observes, “all the religious clubs are housed together. Their first interaction is just bumping into each other. But it grows from there. They develop close friendships.

“Sometimes I stop and think: Why would you ever put a Muslim club in front of a Jewish club?” says Suhail. “It’s pretty obvious why it works out so well. Because they play up the similarities in their backgrounds and they forget about the differences they have.”

DECADES DEVOTED TO DIALOGUE

Since the 1980s Rosenblum has combined academic research and policy analysis with direct involvement in resolving the Middle East conflict. He attended the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991 and has monitored all subsequent peace talks. He has organized and moderated six major conferences with leaders of the PLO and Israeli national figures; hosted a roundtable discussion series, “From the Battlefield to the Negotiating Table,” on U.S. television; and founded the Israeli-Palestinian Youth Dialogue program, which brought together Palestinian and Israeli junior high and high school students.

Rosenblum has also had a long association with Peace Now, a pro-peace group founded in Israel in 1978 by former Israeli military officers. He describes them as “Machiavellian doves”—very tough and security oriented, but also very pragmatic in their desire to reach an accommodation with the Palestinians. In his work with this group, Rosenblum became a bridge when Israel enacted a law (now defunct) that forbade direct dialogue with the PLO. “I found myself playing a facilitating role, bringing messages back and forth—not violating the Israeli law but finding those open spaces where I could bring together those in the PLO who had begun to reject violence with peace-minded Israelis.” Perhaps in recognition of this work, the Forward newspaper selected Rosenblum as one of the 50 most influential American Jews.

The author of scholarly and popular articles, Rosenblum has appeared as a Middle East analyst on many networks, including CNN, CBS, NBC, and National Public Radio. He has met with virtually all the major players in the region, including Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, King Abdullah II, Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Quria, and Syrian cabinet ministers and foreign ministry officials. He had a two-hour meeting with President Bush in 2001 and met numerous times with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, including sessions at his largely gutted compound in Ramallah. He has also often met with Arafat’s successor, the recently elected president of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas.

In his many years at Queens, Rosenblum has addressed the Middle East conflict in different ways, but he attributes his new, more radical approach to two pivotal incidents. The first was the collapse of the peace negotiations initiated by President Clinton in July 2000. These ended, he recalls, “not with a whimper, but with a horrific bang of murder and mayhem as Israelis and Palestinians returned to the battlefield. It dragged on and then, bang! one year later, the second incident, September 11, 2001. The Middle East had come to visit us in a very unexpected and deadly way.”

These events, combined with increased friction between Jewish and Muslim students (“They felt they had to present a public relations campaign which presented their side as totally righteous and the other side with complete ridicule”), forced Rosenblum to think about “What do I do as an educator? How do I teach about this with an increasingly diverse student population?”

The answer, as played out in his classroom, may be viewed as a logical progression, given Rosenblum’s years of devotion to maintaining a dialogue between opposing factions, even in the face of open hostilities. Ultimately, he hopes his work at Queens becomes the foundation “for the creation of a learning community” where the lessons of his class would extend through undergraduates, senior citizens, high school teachers, and their students. Ideally, he would like to be able to bring Israeli and Palestinian high school students to serve as mentors in both his classes and others in New York City.

“The point is,” he says in a calm, deliberate tone that belies the urgency of his cause, “to bring the Middle East here in a more systematic and positive way.”
Hemingway may have written about the snows of Kilimanjaro, but it took a Queens College graduate to hold the first ever book signing on top of that famous mountain, according to the 2005 edition of Ripley's Believe It or Not. Fran Capo ’81, who already holds the record for World’s Fastest Talking Female at 603.32 words a minute (that’s the Gettysburg Address about two-and-a-half times), held a book signing at the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro on July 10, 2004 to celebrate the publication of Adrenaline Adventures: Dream It, Read It, Do It! Next to the seated Fran is her son, Spencer Patterson, who has an entry of his own in Ripley’s for World’s Youngest Comic. Mother and son climbed the 19,340-foot mountain in 15-degree weather. Fran says she hopes Spencer will follow in her footsteps one more time and attend Queens College.