



SPRING 2007

# magazine

FOR QUEENS COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS

**Pursuing the Cold Facts of Global Warming**



# Pops is Tops

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



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## Mailbag

### QC Friends Then and Now

In 1947 my best friend Frances Segall and I entered Queens College as freshmen at the age of 16. Not only were our days as students an educational experience, but our lifelong friendship, which began in high school, was cemented at the college.



On campus: Frances Segall (l.) and Beverly Lundy (r.) in 1947 and 2005

Frances received her BA and MA at Queens and her PhD at Georgia State University in Atlanta. Her 47-year career included teaching in Brooklyn, NY, North Carolina, Tennessee and lastly 23 years in Georgia, and was the recipient of many honors. In 1989 she was one of five finalists for Georgia Teacher of the Year; in 1994 she was state STAR teacher; and in 2005 she received the Margaret Bynum Award for commitment, leadership, and demonstrated excellence in educating Georgia's gifted children. She and her husband Raymond Dubner are world travelers. Frances recently retired after teaching teachers of the gifted since 1997.

I attended Queens from 1947-49. My daughter attended Queens for two years before graduating with a BS from SUNY Old Westbury. My son Edward graduated from Queens in 1994 with a BA in English literature. He and I own an engraving and design business that has done some work for various buildings on campus. Prior to that, I had a career as a church



organist and a choir director.

In July 2005 Frances and I went back to Queens to have our picture taken on the steps of the building where we were photographed 58 years before. It was wonderful to go back and see how much of the campus has changed, and how much has remained the same.

Beverly Lundy Dietrich  
Jamaica, NY

### Coach Bob Salmons

I was saddened to receive notification from Sue Salmons on January 1 that Robert Salmons, former coach of the early Queens College basketball teams, had died the pre-

vious day. I consider Coach Salmons to have been a friend forever, and a major influence on my development during my tenure at the college.

My years at Queens produced three memorable mentors: Professor John Williamson, who introduced me to the beauty of beginning mathematics in a year of night school; Professor Banesh Hoffman, who led me to the world of advanced mathematics as an adjunct to my study of physics; and Coach Salmons, who led me to the world of basketball, but more important to the world of teamwork and training to use one's skills within the limitations imposed by nature. I always "knew" that I was a poor student and a lousy basketball player based on disastrous high school experiences, but the three aforementioned directed me so that I could perform reasonably well within my physical, mental, and emotional limits, and I graduated in 1951 with a sense of self-respect and accomplishment not present upon matriculation.

I must have driven Bob Salmons berserk with my clumsiness, my limited ability, and my inability to make a foul shot, but under his tutelage I grew, and by my senior year was able to hold my own. Thank you, Bob, for all you did for me. I am grateful for our relationship and will always be in your debt.

Bohdan (Dan) Kostyshyn '51  
Charlotte, NC

Send your letters to Q Magazine, Queens College, Kiely Hall 1307, Flushing, NY 11367 or email [John.Cassidy@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:John.Cassidy@qc.cuny.edu).



## Armstrong House Museum Improves, Measure By Measure

An empty lot across the street from the Louis Armstrong House Museum will be the site of an 8,500-square-foot visitors center, thanks to a \$5 million award from New York State.

"The visitors center will provide substantial benefits not only to our visitors, but to our community," says museum director Michael Cogswell, who plans to hold exhibitions, concerts, lectures, and other events in the new space. In addition, the center will have room for the gift shop, currently based in the house's garage. When construction is finished, the garage will be restored—and occupied by a 1967 Lincoln

Town Car, the model Armstrong drove.

"We are deeply grateful to Senators John Sabini and Serf Maltese, Assemblymen José Peralta and Jeff Aubry, and all the other elected officials who worked so hard to acquire this essential funding," says Cogswell.

Because the total cost for design and construction is estimated at \$9 million, Queens College must raise \$4 million for the center, slated for completion in 2009. Lord Cultural Resources, one of the world's top museum design firms, and Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates developed the master plan for the center. The CUNY



Louis and Lucille Armstrong at home

Department of Design, Construction, and Management will supervise the project.

Other museum needs will be addressed with the help of \$100,000 from the estate of Peter John Willcocks. A London-born fan of big band music, Willcocks loved Satchmo's work in particular: his funeral in 2005 featured the Armstrong song "What a Wonderful World."

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

the design and construction of a low-rise, on-campus residence hall. No public funds will finance the project, which is estimated to cost \$63 million and expected to accommodate 450–550 students. It will also include underground parking for 200 cars—an increase of 10% in campus parking. The building will be located between the gym and the library, on the site of the current outdoor tennis courts. (New tennis courts will be built at another location.) At four to five stories, its height will not exceed that of the library, and so will not obstruct any views.

The residence hall, however, is not intended to increase the student population. Says Muyskens, "Queens College will remain a commuter campus, committed to our mission of educating New Yorkers."

## Laura Hunter Colwin, 1911–2006



Laura Hunter Colwin, professor emerita of biology, died December 6, 2006 in Miami. She was 95 years old and survived by three years her husband, Arthur.

Laura graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1932. Her early interest was in protozoology and she did part of her graduate research at the Marine Biological Laboratories (MBL) in Woods Hole, MA. During this time Laura met Arthur Lentz Colwin, a postdoctoral fellow from Yale. There was immediate chemistry between the two, but they decided to put off a wedding until Arthur found a permanent job. This happened in 1940, when he was offered a position at Queens College.

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

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

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

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

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

Uldis Roze (Biology)



Zubizarreta

## Manifesto Destiny: Students Speak Out on the Radio

The burden of financing a college education. Inadequate support for victims of domestic violence. Lack of health care for undocumented immigrants. These are among the issues Queens College students raised in five shows aired earlier this year on local radio station WBAI. The thought-provoking series grew out of an assignment for a social theory course taught in the fall by Sujatha Fernandes (Sociology).

"We began the class by reading texts like Marx's *Communist Manifesto*," says Fernandes. "But sometimes, reading classical social theory is hard for today's students. So I asked them to write their own manifestoes."

Encouraged to pick topics they cared about, the students made no effort to avoid controversy. Natalie Ochoa protested increases in college tuition, while Nabila Chowdury cited the obstacles faced by people who lack legal residential status. Natalie Eugene described the impact educational inequality has on minority communities. Nicole Hunchik wrote about her relatives' battles with drug addiction. And Alexandra Zubizarreta pushed for changes in the legal system to provide better protection for abused spouses.

These papers were so compelling that Fernandes shared them with her sister, host of WBAI's early morning program, *Wakeup Call*. Convinced that the student manifestoes deserved a wider audience, Deepa Fernandes and colleagues Mitch Jeserich and Abdulai Bah arranged for the youthful authors to be taped reading their work aloud at WBAI's studios in Manhattan. The recordings were integrated into *Wakeup Call* shows broadcast in late February and early March.

"My sister said listeners were excited; they called in and sent in emails," the professor reports. "The students thought the experience was great, too."

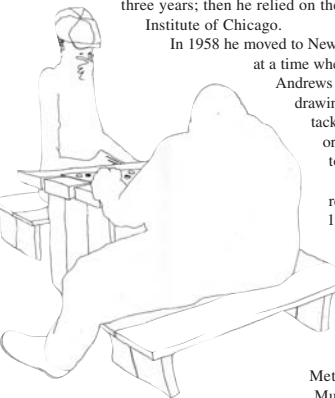
## Benny Andrews, 1930–2006

Whether standing before his canvases or in the classroom, Queens College art professor Benny Andrews struggled for social justice.

Raised in rural Georgia, Andrews, like his nine siblings, picked cotton to bolster the paltry income his parents realized from sharecropping. The first member of his family to graduate from high school, he served in the United States Air Force for three years; then he relied on the G.I. Bill to take classes at the Art Institute of Chicago.

In 1958 he moved to New York. Working in a figurative idiom at a time when abstract art was more popular, Andrews won acclaim for his paintings, prints, drawings, and collages. Never reticent, he tackled topics that ranged from his memories of the segregated American South to the war in Vietnam.

Arriving at QC in 1968, Andrews remained a campus institution until 1997; he also created a highly regarded art program for the New York state prison system. He died on November 10. "He was the quintessential art worker activist," says Lowery Stokes Sims '70, professor emerita of the Studio Museum in Harlem, one of 30 major institutions—including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art—to include Andrews's work in their collections.



Hmmm, a 1978 Benny Andrews drawing in pen and ink

## Heroine of Hit TV Show Plays a QC Grad

Queens College is back in prime time.

Having been consigned to the purgatory of syndication since first-run episodes of "Seinfeld" stopped airing in 1998, the college can now boast a new sitcom character with claims to being an alum—Betty Suarez, better known as "Ugly Betty." The series, which airs on ABC-TV, chronicles the unlikely pursuit of a career at a fashion magazine by Betty (played by actress America Ferrera, who won an Emmy for her performance), a smart, determined Latina from Jackson Heights, whose less-than-fashion-conscious exterior belies the beautiful soul within.

The top-rated network series among those that debuted last fall, "Ugly Betty" is produced by Buena Vista Worldwide TV, whose president is Laurie Younger '73.



## A Residence Hall for the College?



If all goes as planned, in fall 2009 a small group of Queens College students will enjoy an experience unique in the school's seven-decade existence: They will no longer have to cope with a commute at the beginning and end of their school day. Queens College

will finally have a residence hall.

"We need to remain competitive both within and outside CUNY in attracting the best students," says President James Muyskens. Hunter and City College have

halls and other CUNY colleges are following suit. Offering the residential experience has allowed these colleges to increase their population of high-achieving students, and Queens College hopes to do the same.

In addition, with a residence hall, the Aaron Copland School of Music can enroll talented musicians from around the world, and science programs can bring in doctoral and master's students who could not otherwise afford to study in New York City. The hall will also house foreign exchange students and students from the borough of Queens who prefer to attend a college that offers the residential experience.

In early March, following meetings with community leaders and elected officials, the college published a Request for Proposals, soliciting interested developers regarding

## Rossabi is College's Newest Distinguished Professor



As one of the world's top exponents of Mongolian culture, Morris Rossabi has forged a career that spans academia and contemporary politics. In the process, the college's latest Distinguished

Professor of History has made some history of his own.

Born in one multicultural city—Alexandria, Egypt—Rossabi easily adapted to another in his early teens, when his family moved to Manhattan. Already fluent in English, French, Arabic, and Farsi, he seems to have been pre-equipped for scholarly pursuits. But finding the Mideast too close to his own back-

ground to study, he looked farther afield, immersing himself in Chinese and Japanese and getting a bachelor's degree in general history at New York University.

Rossabi was in graduate school at Columbia, looking for a dissertation topic connected to Central Asia, when, like Archimedes, he had his eureka moment in the bathtub. "I realized that no one had done Khubilai Khan," he recalls. His research into the Mongolian emperor earned him a PhD and laid the foundation for his life's work, which would help change perceptions of a regime that once dominated much of Asia.

Contrary to popular belief, history isn't always written by the victor. "The Mongolians didn't develop a written language until late," Rossabi explains. "Their history was written by the people they conquered, who exaggerated the destruction and death toll. There was another side to the Mongolians, who appreciated culture and were eager to promote trade."

After teaching at Case Western Reserve University for about 15 years, Rossabi

returned to New York in 1986 to accept an appointment at Queens; he also started working at Columbia as an adjunct. His growing reputation as a scholar and his steady release of articles and books, including *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times* (1988)—hailed as one of the best biographies of Khan to be published in the West—attracted the attention of the Soros Foundation, which tapped him to participate in its open society initiatives in Mongolia.

"I interviewed the president, non-governmental organizations, and women's groups," says Rossabi, now a member of the advisory board of Soros' Project on Central Asia. "Promoting democracy is important and very rewarding." With his repeated trips to the region and his entrée to the nation's leaders, the professor has been able to develop expertise in the issues facing Mongolia, which is adjusting to the collapse of communism.

When he's not teaching, or traveling, Rossabi can be found at his desk, working on his latest book: "a big history of China."

## Many Happy Returns for Rosenthal Library

When alumni visit Queens College, they not only reminisce about how much the school shaped their future, but many also express a desire to give something back.

This was especially true of the alumni honored at this year's Rosenthal Library Donor Reception: Ann Birstein '48, and Michael and Barbara Twomey '48.

A well-known novelist, critic, and teacher, Birstein chose this occasion to give the college nine boxes of original manuscripts, research, notes, and other primary source materials spanning over half a century to thank her alma mater for "opening up a whole new world."



Opening the Twomey Lounge (left to right): Student Association Vice President Saleem Rasul; Associate Library Director Shoshana Kaufmann; President James Muyskens; alumni Barbara and Michael Twomey '48; and Chief Librarian Robert Shaddy.

Included in this treasure trove are greeting cards and notes she traded with her husband, the great literary critic and cultural historian Alfred Kazin, as well as letters from such friends and notables of the time as Bernard Malamud, Sophie Tucker, Saul Bellow, Elie Wiesel, Ralph Ellison, Erica Jong, and Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. The archive seems a

fitting tribute to the college, since Birstein began her first novel, *Star of Glass*, as an English honors paper in her senior year. Her "devoted professors" helped her win a literary prize to complete the work.

The Twomeys were on hand to "celebrate Ann's successful career and life," and also to dedicate the new student lounge named for them on the first floor of the library.

"There's really no way to pay back what we received from Queens College," says Michael. "With the opening of this lounge, we feel like we're part of the college again."

Meanwhile, other members of the college community have helped expand Rosenthal's holdings. Elena Frangakis-Syrett (History) donated about 750 volumes owned by her husband, the late David Syrett (History). Included in the gift are scarce primary sources published by the Navy Records Society of the United Kingdom. Ina Avrich donated about 600 volumes from the library of her late husband,

Paul Avrich (History), an authority on Russian history and anarchism. And Kenneth Soehner, the Arthur K. Watson Chief Librarian of the Metropolitan Museum of Art—employed at Rosenthal a decade ago as a part-time reference librarian—gave the Art Library 63 cartons of valuable art monographs and exhibition catalogs, many of them recent imprints.

## Gifts for Byzantine, Jewish Studies

Exciting changes are underway at both the Center for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies and the Jewish Studies program and center.

The former boasts a new named chair for Byzantine studies, made possible by a donation of \$400,000 from the Kallinikeion Foundation. "It is necessary to emphasize the study of Byzantium at Queens College," says Christos Ioannides, director of the Greek Studies Center, "because we have the largest number of students of Greek origin of any university in the United States. At the same time, more non-Greek students are being attracted to the study of Byzantium, a world civilization that lasted one thousand years and provides the link between antiquity and modern Greece." Vasileios Marinis, a scholar who has been a fellow at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, is the first Kallinikeion Visiting Professor of Byzantine Studies.

For the Jewish Studies program, entrepreneur William Ungar and his wife, Jerry, a QC graduate, have endowed a professorship

in Holocaust studies. Ungar, the founder and chairman of National Envelope Corporation, was the only Jewish soldier in a Polish military unit that fought the Nazis at the onset of World War II. In 1942 he was taken to the Janowska Concentration Camp, from which he later escaped. "It is crucial that the history of the Holocaust not be forgotten," says President James Muyskens. "The Ungars' generosity will ensure that generations of students learn about this terrible time in human history and the importance of tolerance."

Meanwhile, Arthur Anderman, chairman of the advisory board of the Center for Jewish Studies, has donated \$100,000 to the center as a 70th birthday gift to his wife, Carole, a Queens alum. "This gift will help the center continue to thrive and grow," says center director William Helmreich. Because the Andermans are particularly interested in the arts, some of the money will be earmarked for semi-annual concerts. Lectures and film series are also likely to be funded.

## Hamlich and Slackman Receive Q Award

On Thursday evening, June 21, Queens College hosted its annual Q Award Gala at the Marriott Marquis in New York City. Each year the Queens College



Slackman



Hamlich

Foundation bestows the Q Award on accomplished men and women who reflect the qualities of intellect and spirit the college hopes to

nurture in its students. This year the Q Award was presented to Oscar and Tony Award-winner Marvin Hamlich '68 and the founding president of Commerce

Bank, David Slackman '70. The evening also included a special salute to all QC graduates in the entertainment business.

## Talking to Students About Television



experiences included collaborating with brother Chris and fellow student Gus Makris in shooting a short film on campus starring another alum who went on to a successful entertainment career: Jerry Seinfeld '76.

Vincent Misiano '72 has been one of the most in-demand television directors of the last decade. (Another, coincidentally, is brother Chris '76.) His credits include "Law and Order," "The West Wing," "Prison Break," and "Medium," to name a few. Misiano took some time from his busy production schedule in December to visit his alma mater. At a lunchtime speaking appearance—part of a program for students to meet successful alumni—he noted how his experiences at a school that's not exactly known as a quick route into the entertainment industry provided just that. Those



Kathleen Gilje's 2005 oil portrait of Robert Rosenblum as the Marquis de Pastoret.

## Robert Rosenblum, 1927-2006

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

Rosenblum had a career that spanned academia and curatorship. After completing a bachelor's degree at QC—where he studied with legendary art historian Frances Godwin—and a master's in musicology from Yale, he immersed himself in art history, earning a PhD from New York University. He taught at Princeton, Yale, and Oxford before returning to NYU, where he was professor of fine arts for four decades. A curator at the Guggenheim Museum of Art since 1996, Rosenblum prided himself on overturning conventional standards. "If I can enjoy Frank Capra, why can't I enjoy Norman Rockwell?" he asked, when his Guggenheim show on the iconic American illustrator angered art-world cognoscenti.

Rosenblum first attracted attention with *Transformations in Late Eighteenth-Century Art*, which gave the neoclassical period a modernist spin. "With a combination of iconoclasm, faultless lucidity and wit, he smashed aesthetic prejudices the way physicists smash atoms," noted the *New York Times*. Forty years after its publication, *Transformations*, like the man who wrote it, remains widely influential.



# THE Write Stuff



By Margo Nash

The Queens College Evening Readings program marked its 31st anniversary this past season. What makes America's greatest writers return again and again? Some say it is Joe Cuomo '75, founder and director of the series.

"I'm always honored when he asks me," said Jamaica Kincaid, the Antiguan-born novelist and short-story writer. She read for the first time in 1986 at an Evening Reading. She fainted. But Joe Cuomo, she said, picked her up and helped her get through it. "He is so caring. He has such good literary judgment. I could never say no to him."

In fact, you could say your A.B.C.'s with all the literary lions who have not said no to Joe: Albee, Bellow, Cheever, Doctorow, Ellison, Ferlinghetti, Ginsberg, Heller, Irving, James (P.D.), Kesey, Lessing, and Miller, for starters.

Nobelists, Booker Prize winners, magical realists, post-colonialists, post-modernists, freedom fighters, Beats, New Journalists, old journalists, reclusive writers and dueling writers have all answered his siren song.

What is that song? "I feel a personal connection with each of those writers," said Cuomo, 54, a tall man with silvery hair, ruddy cheeks, and a soft voice. "They feel I understand their work, and they respond."

In 1976 Cuomo—Queens College graduate, fiction writer, WBAI radio host, and professor—wanted to build a community of writers for his students. The first person he invited was QC professor and poet Marie Ponsot. Their first venue was a classroom. After the readings, the growing audience would repair to Cuomo's apartment. For several years, Cuomo brought his readers to the college in his old Dodge Dart with the leaky windows. People like Ralph Ellison

Clockwise from top left: Cynthia Ozick, E.L. Doctorow, Norman Rush, Joyce Carol Oates

and Edward Albee rode in that old car, and seemed to be having a good time en route, Cuomo said.

It has been a long road to lovely oak-paneled LeFrak Hall, with many writers along the way.

Among the ones Cuomo felt especially close to was the late German novelist W. G. Sebald, whom he interviewed in 2001, ten months before Sebald was killed in a car crash. The interview was "intense," Cuomo recalls.

"I felt in sync with him. We locked eyes. Afterwards, he wrote me a postcard saying, 'The best part about being in New York was talking to you.'"

This past year's season kicked off with a roundtable discussion featuring 2006 Nobel Prize winner Orhan Pamuk, Booker Prize winner Salman Rushdie, and New York Public Library Literary Lion Medal winner Norman Manea. Tom Stoppard and E.L. Doctorow came on other occasions, and there was a roundtable with Cynthia Ozick, Norman Rush, and James Wood titled *The Life and Death of the Novel*. Mary Gordon, winner of the 2006 Story Prize in February, also spoke. All the talks were moderated by WNYC radio host Leonard Lopate.

For years, Cuomo did all the interviews. However, in recent years he has shared those duties with Lopate. This was the first season Cuomo did not do any of the interviews. But

**"I felt in sync with him [W.G. Sebald]. We locked eyes. Afterwards, he wrote me a postcard saying, 'The best part about being in New York was talking to you'."** —Joe Cuomo

he still introduced, directed, and prepared each event.

"Nobody could conceive and run this kind of program without, himself, being part and parcel of the writing process," said novelist and story writer Cynthia Ozick. "He is deeply, deeply literarily minded." It was his suggestion to have the roundtable discussion about the novel, she said.

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

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

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

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

For more information on the Evening Readings series, visit [www.qc.cuny.edu/readings](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/readings)

Clockwise from top right: Susan Sontag, Frank McCourt, Tom Wolfe, Derek Walcott, Jhumpa Lahiri, and Jamaica Kincaid

Above left to right: Norman Manea, 2006 Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk, Salman Rushdie, Evening Readings Director Joseph Cuomo, and moderator Leonard Lopate, backstage just after the November 7 roundtable on *The Art of Writing*.



**The couturiers** represented in the Historic Costume Collection at Queens College would get most fashion plates excited. "That's an Ungaro from the '80s, with the big shoulder pads of the period," says Elizabeth Lowe, chair of the Department of Family, Nutrition, and Exercise Sciences, who has brought out a few of the more iconic examples. The colors and length—or lack of length—in the next one are clues that it's the work of Emilio Pucci, "probably from the late 1960s or early '70s," continues Lowe. Nearby, awaiting a photographer, are a pair of ladylike Chanel suits, a sumptuously tailored Galliano coat, a white lacy frock from Givenchy, and a beaded black flapper dress whose designer is unknown.

But for all their vintage appeal, these items are no longer meant to be worn, except perhaps by a dress form. They are unique teaching tools that give Queens

College textile and apparel majors a better understanding of history and design. "We call it a working collection," explains Lowe, who has been in charge of it since 1991. "We have thousands of pieces spanning the late 18th century to the present, and they're used primarily for instruction."

The potential applications are limitless. Professors may bring garments into the classroom flat or on mannequins, or take photos of them to accompany lectures. In the course History of Costumes and Furnishings: French Revolution to the Present, the clothes could be used to show changes in Western tailoring techniques and materials; in Apparel Science I and II, they might illustrate the differences between mass production and couture. Additionally, items sometimes make appearances in exhibitions on campus, such as *The Fabric of Cultures* show presented at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum last spring.

Every article arrives as a donation; in

# Elements of Style

By Leslie Jay



Prof. Gene Lakin explains the finer attributes of a Givenchy dress to students (l to r) Gloria Wu, Nijah Howard, Jordana Mandel, Linda Harkem, Zoe Ross, and Mia-Moore Ray.

recent years, many have been sent over to the college by the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Women's outerwear is the core of the collection. "We're strongest in designer clothing from the '80s on," reports Lowe. But her collection also comprises undergarments and accessories, as well as items for men and children, and even a few pieces—such as kimonos and caftans—from non-Western cultures. They're carefully num-

bered and tucked away in an approximately 30-by-30 foot room in Remsen Hall.

Hats, lingerie, and wedding gowns rest in acid-free boxes. Gowns hang in metal wardrobes or, for lack of storage space, on racks under clean cotton sheets. "We have to move the dress forms to access the clothes," says the professor, clearing space so she can open one of the wardrobes and pull out a cheerful print dress by Marimekko of

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

Finland and a black velvet number by Oscar de la Renta, with crisp taffeta cuffs, collar, and hem. Shoes stand two-by-two in glass-door cabinets, shelved by the decade. "Typically, these collections are labors of love," admits Lowe, who has literally put heart and sole into the job: There, among the footwear, is a pair of suede sandals that she wore several decades ago.

Displayed against an Oscar De La Renta dress (background) are an Emilio Pucci dress and other items representative of '60s fashion, including a "Mod" shoe and samples of paisley print fabric (left) and fabric bearing a Marimekko "dot" pattern.



# Building Bridges

## Between Muslims and Jews

By Bob Suter

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

"A recent graduate of Queens College as well as a trained paramedic and ambulance driver, Mohammad Salman Hamdani saw the Twin Towers on fire and knew that he had to get downtown and try to save lives," noted President James Muyskens on the stage of the silent hall. "Sal didn't come home that night. No one saw Sal for days. Not too much later, the rumors began.

"The rumors claimed that Sal, a Pakistani-American Muslim, must have conspired in this outrageous act of terrorism, a



Mohammad Salman Hamdani '01 (Photo courtesy of Talat Hamdani)

charge that was unbelievable to anyone who knew him. I can't imagine the pain his parents must have felt: raising their son to care for others, knowing in their hearts that he

must be dead, and still having to deal with these whispers that Sal was an accomplice to an unspeakable crime.

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

On stage with Muyskens was Sal's mother, Talat Hamdani '98. Before presenting her with a memorial in honor of her son, the president noted, "When I think of Sal, I think of another exceptional Queens College student: Andrew Goodman. Both Andrew and Sal freely chose to go to one of the most dangerous places in America: Andrew to the Deep South in 1964 to help with the registration of black voters, and Sal to the burning World Trade Center on September 11. Both knew their decision might cost them their lives, and both paid dearly for their actions.

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

### FINDING COMMON GROUND

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



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

and understand each other better."

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

In February the initial event in the series, *Bridging the Cultural Divides*, highlighted similarities in the Islamic and Jewish traditions. Nasser David Khalili '74, an Iranian-born Jew who has amassed the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of Islamic artifacts (see Q, Spring 2006), returned to campus to present an illustrated lecture on "The Art of the Possible."

Khalili is co-founder of the London-

based Maimonides Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting peace and understanding between Jews and Muslims. "The reason I have worked so hard to put the culture of Islam on the map," he has said, "is because I have always believed that the real weapon of mass destruction is ignorance. Once you tackle that, you have solved a lot of problems."

Khalili was followed by two musicians Rosenblum described as "rock stars" in their genres: Salman Ahmad, a native of Pakistan who founded the popular South Asian band Junoon, and fiddler Yale Strom, an American Jew in the forefront of the revival of the Hebrew music form Klezmer. Their groups played individual sets, then joined in an impromptu collaboration.

After the musical interlude, Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch of Manhattan's Stephen Wise Free Synagogue and Sheik Ahmed Dewidar of the Islamic Society of Mid-Manhattan took the stage for an interfaith dialogue on the theme "A Search for Common Ground." Following this, the audience was invited to sample foods from Kosher and Halal dietary traditions, offered under the banner of "Food for Thought."

Rosenblum presented two other programs in March: "Building an International Community of Muslims and Jews with the Children of Abraham" and "Sesame Street in the Middle East: Paving the Road to Coexistence." The latter featured Lewis Bernstein '69, executive vice president for education, research, and outreach for Sesame Street Workshop and executive producer of its award-winning series "Sesame Street." Bernstein also supervises the workshop's global outreach programs, which includes a Middle Eastern version of the popular children's show called "Sesame Stories," broadcast in Arabic and Hebrew. "Sesame Stories" is credited with helping to break down stereotypes and fostering greater understanding among young Palestinians, Israelis, and Jordanians.

In addition to the performance programs, an exhibition of fine art photographs of objects from Khalili's collection, *The Grandeur of Islamic Art in Image and Object*, appeared at QC's Godwin-Ternbach Museum throughout the semester.



Salman Ahmad, who performed at the May *Common Chords* concert, is also teaching a course on Islamic Music and the Culture of South Asia at the college.

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

### IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES OF PEACE

While deeply involved in organizing the semester's programs, Rosenblum's students saw their class undergo a change in focus, reflecting the shifting nature of the Middle East conflict. During and following the days of warfare between Israel and Lebanon last year, they monitored multiple outlets online.

"The students got the media's draft of history," Rosenblum said, "saw where it was wrong, where it was right, with competing national and ethnic spins on it. They got an experience in the complexities of trying to nail down facts, which was a little bit like

nailing Jell-O on a wall."

From the outset, another important component of the *Middle East and America* project has been training public school social studies teachers to pass on the lessons of its unique curriculum. To date, over 300 teachers—who are in contact daily with over 40,000 students—have received the training.

Salman Ahmad of Junoon, who is also a visiting professor in the college's Copland School of Music, joined Rosenblum in taking the curriculum and cultural programs to local high schools. This culminated in April in an exuberant musical performance and educational exchange at Forest Hills High School with over 700 students.

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





# TeamPlayer

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

By Leslie Jay

In 1961, on his first day as an undergraduate at Queens College, Richard Wettan '65 was understandably a little overwhelmed. So he made a beeline for the place where

he'd feel comfortable: FitzGerald Gym. “I walked into that building and said to myself, ‘Okay, this is home,’” he recalls. Today, as assistant vice president for athletics, he oversees all the varsity teams and recreational programs.

A Queens native raised in Little Neck, he was the only athlete in the Wettan household. “My interests were unusual in my family,” he says. “My brother is an oral surgeon.” Nonetheless, at Martin Van Buren High School, Rick experimented with several sports before settling on cross country—“I was too short for basketball,” he notes—and track. He ran long-distance events of a half-mile and more. In college he did get to play basketball as well as baseball, soccer, and track.

Because he'd skipped a grade, Wettan was all of 16 when he matriculated at college. Despite his youth, he had already chosen his major: physical education. “I knew where I belonged right off,” he explains. “The people in the department were extremely supportive.” (For some sports high points during Wettan's years at the college, see sidebar page 17.)

After completing his bachelor's degree, he headed across the border

to Brooklyn College for his master's, while serving as a lecturer and track coach at his alma mater. For his doctorate, Wettan went even farther afield, moving to Ohio to obtain his degree at Ohio State University. By 1969 he was back at Queens, teaching phys ed and coaching soccer. He has been here ever since, working his way up from lecturer to associate professor to assistant vice president for athletics.

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

To maintain Queens's appeal for sports-minded students, the college applied for Division II status from the National Collegiate Athletic Association, becoming the only branch of CUNY to achieve that distinction. Subsequently, Wettan encouraged the school to create incentives for athletes. “Some people think athletes should be pure amateurs. But if students don't get financial aid and have to work 20 hours a week, how can they be students?” he asks. “Financial aid takes the pressure off.”

By offering grants in aid, Queens has been able to elevate its sports profile. Men's and women's track and men's soccer are the latest squads to be added; others may be introduced in the future. The college currently fields 20 teams, nine for men and 11 for women. “We've always had a strong name in women's athletics,” Wettan comments. “We're very aware of Title IX.” At this school, academic performance matters, too. Athletes get as much tutoring as they need. Indeed, statistics

show that the graduation rate of the Knights and Lady Knights is higher than that for the general student population.

With college sports restored to fitness, Wettan's next challenge is to upgrade school facilities. “We've sought grants from the city, the state, and the university,” he says. “This spring, with money from the City Council, we're renovating the outdoor fields. Previously, we did the indoor tennis center.” FitzGerald, his undergraduate home away from home, is also due for a rehab. “It's a great old building,” muses Wettan. “It's huge—45,000 square feet. That space would be very difficult to duplicate today.”

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

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

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

**Important sporting events that have occurred during Richard Wettan's years at QC:**



## March 1973

Women's Basketball finished second in the nation after losing to Immaculata College, 59–52, in the AIAW Championship game played in FitzGerald Gym.



## February 1975

Lady Knights become the first women's basketball team to play at Madison Square Garden.

## March 1977

Montclair State defeated QC, 102–91, in the opening game of the first women's basketball doubleheader ever played at Madison Square Garden. The games drew 12,336 fans, then a record for a women's event at the Garden.

## December 1980

FitzGerald Gym hosted a charity basketball game for Italian earthquake relief. Some notables in attendance included Rick Cerone, Willie Randolph, and Joe Pepitone of the Yankees, Ron Duguay of the NY Rangers, Bobby Mystrom of the NY Islanders, and boxer Gerry Cooney.

## 1981

Glen March—now Dr. Glen March—was awarded the first Queens College Athletics Grant in Aid.

## May 1995

Women's Tennis defeated Quinnipiac College on QC's outdoor courts to win the NCAA Division II East Regional in their first of five appearances and advance to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen.

## December 1997

Men's Water Polo defeated UC San Diego to finish third at the NCAA Division I Final Four, becoming the first team from the East Coast to ever win a game at the Final Four.



## May 1998

Men's Baseball beat Dowling College to capture their first New York College Athletic Conference Tournament Championship, as well as their first NCAA Division II Bid.

## May 1999

Women's Softball beat Molloy College—6–5 in 12 innings and 9–0—for their first NYCAC Championship and earn their first NCAA Bid.

## March 2002

Queens College won their first of two NYCAC Men's Basketball Championships by beating New York Tech, 80–63, in FitzGerald Gym. In doing so, they received their first of three NCAA Bids.



## November 2003

The NYCAC Champion Women's Volleyball team defeated Bryant College, 3–0, in 22–30, 30–28, 30–27, in FitzGerald Gym to win the first of two consecutive NCAA Division II Northeast Regional titles and advance to the NCAA Elite Eight.



## September 2004

1972–73 Women's Basketball made history as the first women's team to be inducted into NYC Basketball Hall of Fame.



# GLOBAL WARMING COMES TO A BOIL

By Bob Suter

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

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

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

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

There is a correlation between levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and global warming: more carbon dioxide yields more global warming. The planet has gone through periods of extreme global warming before, Pekar notes, typically during times of enhanced volcanic activity, resulting in much higher levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide. But rising carbon dioxide levels today aren't coming from volcanoes; they're coming from human activity, he asserts. "The ice core samples confirm that we haven't seen levels like these for 800,000 years."

## QC HELPS FOCUS THE NATION

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

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



Members of the ANDRILL Program at work in the Southern McMurdo Sound area of Antarctica



1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate change, conceded recently that climate change is a "serious challenge."

The enormity of the challenge was brought home to the QC community on January 31, when Pekar convened a panel of faculty with global warming experience as part of Focus the Nation, a one-day event taking place at hundreds of colleges, universities, and public schools, intended to kick off a yearlong discussion on climate change.

Pekar's panel took to the stage at LeFrak Concert Hall following a screening of *An Inconvenient Truth*, the Academy Award-winning account of Al Gore's crusade to raise awareness about global warming. The panel included Judith Kimerling (Political Science), Leonard Rodberg (Urban Studies), and George Hendrey (SEES).



Kimerling

Kimerling had just returned from the Amazon rainforest, where she has been chronicling for 18 years the disastrous effects of oil exploration and production on indigenous peoples. "We have less than 5% of the world's population in this country," she observed, "yet we use more than 25% of the world's energy resources," in the process, releasing about 30% of the greenhouse gases that produce global warming.

Citing the Bush administration's rejection of the Kyoto Protocol, Kimerling noted, "There is a real disconnect between the leadership of this country and the international political climate. Around the world

people say: 'You guys got rich contributing to this problem; you need to lead the way in solving it, then we will take action.'"

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

#### AN UNEXPECTED THREAT

If global warming has a ground zero, it's likely to be in one of the world's coldest regions.

"I've had the pleasure of managing large research programs in the Arctic, up on the North Slope of Alaska, for the Department of Energy," George Hendrey told the Focus the Nation audience. In a calm, deliberate voice, he then described perhaps the most frightening climate change scenario of all.

Explaining that large amounts of organic carbon are naturally present in peat bogs and plant matter in northern forest soils and tundra areas, he noted that as these areas grow warmer, a process of "respiration" takes place, and this naturally occurring carbon is thrown into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide.

"What many scientists are afraid of," he said, "is that we will come to a point at which the rate at which carbon begins to be

released from these northern soils due to warming self-accelerates and contributes to the warming. And if we reach that point, it won't matter whether or not we put plugs in our smokestacks, because the release of carbon from natural storage has the potential to run away, like a chain reaction."

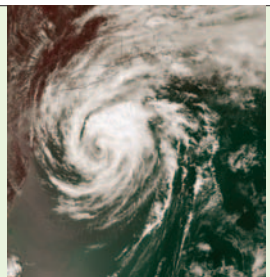
Hendrey then described the Gaia Hypothesis, a concept formulated in the 1960s by James Lovelock, a research scientist who proposed that planet Earth is essentially a living organism and all of the life functions on it are interdependent. By this theory, Hendrey explained, the Earth has homeostatic abilities: "That means the Earth is self-regulating, self-maintaining, kept in the proper condition to sustain life."

And a major disturbance to the Earth's efforts to maintain life in the broadest



Hendrey

sense could have serious consequences for human life. "It's likely that we'll be entering into a climate regime that humans have never been exposed to before." Hendrey then noted that Lovelock, "who has received many scientific accolades and awards," gave a lecture in November at the New York Academy of Sciences. "He said that after reviewing the latest global research and models it appears that we've gone past the threshold; we've now entered into the self-accelerating process. Not everybody agrees with Lovelock; I don't want to agree with Lovelock, but his views need to be taken with great seriousness."



areas. In Manhattan, the east side and west side will be moved to the central part, which is well above any water damage."

The owner of a home on the south shore of Long Island, Coch laughs as he describes his personal evacuation plan: "If it hits Long Island, we go to New York; if it hits New York, we go to Long Island."

#### THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY

The Focus the Nation effort will conclude with another symposium next January 31, at which time each participating group will hold a nonpartisan forum with elected officials and candidates for office to discuss global warming. Each campus will vote on its top five national priorities for action, producing a campus-endorsed policy agenda for the 2008 elections.

QC is joining other CUNY faculty and students in planning events leading up to the symposium, including the second annual CUNY science exhibition and lecture series on Governors Island. Its theme will be "stabilizing the climate in the 21st century" (contact [stephen.pekar@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:stephen.pekar@qc.cuny.edu) or [wsolecki@hunter.cuny.edu](mailto:wsolecki@hunter.cuny.edu) for information).

While thinking globally, the QC community has continued to act locally. During Earth Week (April 16-20), the school joined campuses across the country in offering films, lectures, and presentations by local organizations intended to further raise awareness of the global warming threat and means to alleviate it. The week began with the announcement by City Councilman James Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows) of the awarding of a \$168,000 grant for the construction of a "green roof" on a portion of the college's Science Building. Students under the supervision of Hendrey developed a feasibility study, which determined that by creating a vegetative surface of selected plants, cooling costs for the building could be cut dramatically while improving air quality.

#### BACK TO THE FUTURE

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

He is also submitting proposals for seismic and drilling projects in 2008 and beyond, projects to go even deeper to retrieve evidence from a time about 50 million years ago when Antarctica was green and covered with trees, a time scientists call Greenhouse World. If present warming trends continue unabated, Pekar's research may literally take him back to the future.

**WEB SITES** offering additional information about topics in these stories:

[www.andrill.org](http://www.andrill.org) (Antarctic Drilling)  
[www.focusthenation.org](http://www.focusthenation.org)  
 (Global Warming Solutions for America)  
[www.climatecrisis.net](http://www.climatecrisis.net) (An Inconvenient Truth)  
<http://nymag.com/news/features/24364/>  
 (New York Magazine—The Five Year Forecast)



## SIX THINGS YOU CAN DO

### 1. Your car

When buying a car, look for the one with the best fuel economy. Each gallon of gas you use releases 25 pounds of heat-trapping carbon dioxide. Better gas mileage reduces global warming and saves you thousands of dollars at the pump. Look for new technologies like hybrid engines.

### 2. Choose clean power

More than half the electricity in the U.S. comes from polluting, coal-fired power plants, the single largest source of heat-trapping gas. In some states you can switch to electricity companies that provide 50 to 100 percent renewable energy. (For more information, go to [Green-e.org](http://Green-e.org))

### 3. Buy Energy Star appliances

These items may cost a bit more, but the energy savings will repay the extra investment in a few years. If each U.S. household used the most efficient appliances available, each year we would save \$15 billion in energy costs and eliminate 175 million tons of heat-trapping gases.

### 4. Light bulbs

Replace incandescent bulbs with more efficient compact fluorescents, which come in all shapes and sizes. If every U.S. household replaced one regular light bulb with an energy-saving model, it would reduce global warming pollution by more than 90 billion pounds over the life of the bulbs—the same as taking 6.3 million cars off the road. You'll also save money on your electric bills and light bulbs.

### 5. Plant a tree

In addition to storing carbon, trees planted in and around urban areas and residences provide much-needed shade in the summer, reducing energy bills and fossil fuel use.

### 6. Make your voice heard

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

Source: Global Warming Web site of the Union of Concerned Scientists  
[www.ucsusa.org/global\\_warming/](http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/)

## STORMS AND THE CITY

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

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

Coch has devoted 15 years to reconstructing all of the hurricanes that have occurred north of Virginia. "They are much more catastrophic because they move two to three times faster than the ones in the south," he says.

Because a northern hurricane leaves the easterly wind belts around Georgia and becomes influenced by the westerly wind

belts, he explains, "It becomes bigger; it expands its wind field so that two to three times the area is affected. And the right angle formed by the New York-New Jersey coastline makes this the most dangerous place in the country for a hurricane," Coch warns. "Winds are blowing from east to west and piling all the waters of the continental shelf along the shore. In the south, this is no problem because it goes down to Florida and out. In the north, there's no place for the water to go up, so it generates the most dangerous storm surges in America."

While a storm surge here would be more severe, we would have an easier time escaping. "If you're in South Carolina and want to get away from a hurricane, you've got to go 50-miles drive. In New York it's a two-mile drive because the core of Long Island is these high glacial hills like Ridgewood, Forest Hills, and Kew Gardens. All we have to do is move people to the high central



By Leslie Jay

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

### Michael Twomey & Barbara Moore Twomey

When Michael Twomey '48 and Barbara Moore Twomey '48 matriculated, the college was new and small and most students were on limited budgets. "Nobody had any money," recalls Barbara, a Jamaica High School grad who chose Queens over Hunter at the recommendation of a neighbor. Michael, an alum of La Salle Academy in Manhattan, was a case in point: He juggled classes and multiple jobs. "I majored in economics because it was easy," he comments. "I didn't have time to study."

Although they had glimpsed each other



The Twomeys

on campus, the future spouses weren't on especially friendly terms. "His frat brothers would talk to me, but he didn't," says Barbara with a laugh. That situation changed after the two ran into each other at the library, a place that neither was in the habit of visiting. Soon they were cutting school to see the movie *Vacation from Marriage*. Their own marriage began on October 8, 1949, 364 days after Michael proposed and barely within a deadline imposed by his fiancée, a psychology major who had announced that "If we're not married within a year, we're not getting married."

At first, the pair moved frequently. He rose in the corporate ranks of what would become the American International Group;

she did graduate studies in psychology at the University of Tulsa—"people thought I must be brilliant because I'd gone to Queens College," Barbara notes—and worked as a volunteer in Houston's probation department. Once their daughter was born, the Twomeys settled in Westbury, Long Island. Now ensconced in a Manhattan apartment, they're enjoying a vigorous retirement as they look forward to their 58th anniversary. "We've been really lucky," says Michael. "We've had great lives."

### Chris Cannon & Pat Riccioli Cannon

Like the Twomeys, Chris Cannon '68 and Pat Riccioli Cannon '73 met serendipitously—in a Russian history course. One of them had no affinity for the subject matter. "I was locked out of the class I did want, and I needed the credits," reports Pat. A political science major who commuted from Ozone Park to a secretarial job in Manhattan and

returned to Queens to attend school at night, she was too busy to be choosy.

Chris, a poli sci major living in Jackson Heights, was interested in the topic—he took Russian for two years. He was also interested in Pat, the only female in the room, whose late arrivals gave him an opportunity. "She came in wearing a hat, and I thought, 'That's a gorgeous girl! I want to sit next to her,'" he says. "So I'd get to class early enough to make sure that the seat next to me was available." Striking up conversations in a variety of foreign accents, he struck his serious, bookish classmate as silly. She described him to her mom, who promptly advised, "Go out with him."

When the goofy guy invited Pat to go bowling, she said yes, even though she dis-

liked the sport, and surprised herself by having a good time. Eventually, the two became an item. They got married a year after Chris's graduation and set up their first household in Germany, where the groom, who had been drafted by the army, was stationed. By the fall of 1970 they were back in Queens. Both got jobs, and Pat finished her degree.

Today, the Cannons live in the New Jersey suburbs. He is a lawyer for a pharmaceutical company; she, after careers in politics, public relations, and education, is a freelance writer. They're the parents of three children in their twenties. "I owe it all to Queens College and that Russian history class," concludes Pat.



The Cannons

### Lori Berger & Richard Pollina

The story of Lori Berger '82 and Richard Pollina '82 is another example of the powerful attraction of opposites. Lori, an extroverted poli sci major from Whitestone, was immersed in student government activities. "I was the campus affairs coordinator responsible for clubs," she explains. "I barely went to class. I was involved in a lot of extracurriculars." One of those extracurriculars was the



college radio station, where she became a newscaster, and Richard, a quiet, reserved type with no discernible fashion sense, worked behind the scenes. He asked her on a date after she, as a joke, said,

"I'd love to go out with someone like you."

That first evening was a disaster. The movie was boring and, to make matters worse, a policeman spied the broken headlight on Richard's car and gave him a ticket. Nonetheless, the two went out a second time, and a third. "He grew on me," admits Lori. "Like a fungus," adds Richard, a Rego Park native who might be expected to appreciate differences in temperament and behavior—he majored in anthropology. They got engaged at the end of their junior year and married in December 1983, astonishing many of their friends and acquaintances, who didn't think they'd make it to the altar.

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





# Lost in World War II, Remembered on Campus

By Bob Suter

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

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

## YOUTHFUL HEROES

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

"I see it as a loop," he says of the current students participating in the project, "tying the students here today with members of the pioneer classes."

Using as their starting point the figures 58 and 1235 (58 dead; 1235 wounded), emblazoned beneath a black star on an

Army-issued flag long kept in storage in the QC library, six students who were active in either the History Club or History Honor Society participated in the effort initiated last spring under the direction of Joel Allen (History). It began, he says, with one student scouring yearbooks from the 1940s for information on any students who had served. The group then established a preliminary roster of those who had died from lists published in the contemporary campus newspaper the *Crown* and in the *Long Island Press*.

"Eventually we compiled them all into a list of 61," says Allen. "This included 60 students and one staff member, a janitor."

Then, following the guidelines of the Freedom of Information Act, the students made 61 separate requests to the National Archives.

"We got responses. In some cases they were very detailed histories and in some cases not," says Allen. "We found out that two students actually didn't die in the war. In one case, the student was missing in action and the *Long Island Press* reported him deceased. We were able to correct that. He actually died in 1999.

"With the remaining 59," says Allen, "the students did research like a WWII history buff would do: 'What was going on at Bougainville Island where so-and-so died in January 1943?' They constructed this whole narrative of World War II based on where Queens College kids were—and they were all over the place."

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

During the summer months the group switched its focus from the dead to the bigger challenge of creating a list of all members of the QC community who had served in the war. "That was a big task," observes Allen, "because we didn't have anything

like the *Long Island Press* or the *Crown*; no one had come up with this list before. We came up with 1,200 names, but a lot of them were repeats—someone would be listed as Robert and then again as Bob. Where we had distinct individuals, we put them on the final list, which is 977 names. That's surely not complete, but that's all we have at this moment. It was interesting to see that there was a sizable number of women on the list, as well as a large number of faculty."

## FINAL ROLL CALL

The names of the 59 dead, cast in a bronze plaque atop a black granite pedestal situated at the base of the campus flagpole, were unveiled at the November 10 ceremony—the day before Veterans Day.

Looking crisp in his uniform from his service days, Franco attended the dedication ceremony under a clear autumn sky, accompanied by members of his family spanning three generations. Visibly moved at finally witnessing an event he had so long wished to bring about, Franco offered some heartfelt words to the assembled dignitaries and invited guests, who included Rosemary McCarthy, the sister of one of the first QC students to die in the war, Robert Francis Minnick, Jr.

Also participating in the ceremony—which included addresses from elected officials, a representative from the military, and a military honor guard—was another QC alum whose life was dramatically affected by the war. Samuel Menashe '47 was just 19 when his unit was thrown into the devastating Battle of the Bulge. He was one of the few members of his company to survive. Now, a distinguished poet, he read a few of his works specially chosen for the occasion. He included a poem called "The Offering," which concludes with the words:

The dead entail  
Whatever we offer.



## THE FALLEN

HARRY ACHISON  
CHASE ANDREWS  
JOHN M. APPLEBY  
JOHN ISAAC BEATTY  
JOHN BRADLEY  
HARRY BRENG  
GORDON J. BROOKS  
JOHN CHARLES BURT  
JOSEPH GERARD COLGAN  
WALTER STANLEY CROW  
FRANCIS JOSEPH DALY  
FRANK JAMES DONNELLY  
ARTHUR JOHN DUGAN  
CHARLES DELAGE FIECHTER  
WILLIAM FISHER  
ARTHUR JOSEPH FOLEY  
CHRISTIAN JOHN GABRIEL  
MEYER BERNARD GELMAN  
GEORGE WILLIAM GENNER  
DAVID WILLIAM GOTTlieb  
IRVING GREENBERG  
CHARLES GREENE  
JEROME LIONEL HAFT  
JOHN DAVID HAMMARSTROM  
DAVID PETER HENRY, JR.  
WESLEY MAXWELL HERBORN  
GARSON HENRI HERTZEL, JR.  
IRVING KATZ  
AUSTIN LAWRENCE KENNEDY  
JEROME LAWRENCE KLEIN  
ARNO FRANK KUHN  
EDWARD CLARENCE LAURITA  
LEO WILLIAM LEVINE  
MORRIS LEVY  
ARTHUR THOMAS LIBLIT  
PETER JOSEPH MCGIRR  
JOSEPH MELANSON  
ROBERT FRANCIS MINNICK, JR.  
JAMES SYLVESTER MONTAGUE  
JOHN FRANCIS MORRELL  
JOHN LOUIS MUZZI  
H. EDWARD NERSON  
WILLIAM JOSEPH O'KEEFE  
HENRY CARL PAULSEN  
JOHN ANTHONY REGAN  
PETER PHILIP RENZO  
RICHARD HAMER RICHARDS  
WARREN ROBINSON  
REYNOLD JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ  
SEYMOUR POSNER ROSENBLUM  
CHARLES RUBIN  
CHARLES GEORGE SCHAEFER  
GUNTHER JOACHIM SCHAUMBURG  
GABRIEL SCHLITT  
NORMAN JAY SIEGEL  
HARRY GEORGE STARK  
SAUL STEIN  
MARTIN JOSEPH WALDEN  
WILLIAM EVERETT YOUNG, JR.

At the World War II Veterans Memorial Plaza, Arnold Franco joins Will Spisak, one of the students who researched QC's war dead.

**1951: Charlie Eisenhower** is enjoying an active retirement in Rockville, MD, where he helps to provide shelters for the homeless. He spent the better part of his career at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., conducting research on nuclear radiation shielding problems and, later, on the calibration of neutron instruments. His most notable assignment? Serving in 1980 on the President's Commission on Three Mile Island . . . **1956: Suzanne Benton** has been included in the book *Feminists Who Changed America 1963–1975* (University of Illinois Press), which profiles key individuals who

ignited the second wave of the women's movement. Suzanne was one of the first nine members of the Connecticut National Organization of Women (NOW) in 1968, and was later president of the Western CT branch



Benton

of NOW. From 1974–76 she was national coordinator of NOW's Women in the Arts task force, and worked on Women's International Year art events through the United Nations. An artist and sculptor who has traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, and Africa, Suzanne uses her work to bridge the world's cultures . . . **1957: Ted Grudzinski**, founder of the Queens College Vocal Ensemble, was honored at concerts the group presented on Nov. 29 and Dec. 7, 2006, in celebration of its 50th anniversary. The program included *Requiescat*, a piece Ted wrote in 1956 and recently revised. He retired in 1993 after teaching choral music at the high school and college levels . . . **1960: Stevanne Auerbach** was named 2007 Entrepreneur of the Year by the professional organization Women in Toys and *Playthings* magazine, which honored her at their third annual Wonder Women of Toys Dinner in Manhattan on February 11. Stevanne, the child play and toy expert known as Dr. Toy, is the director of the Institute for Childhood Resources and the author of *Smart Play/Smart Toys: How to Raise a Child with a High P.Q. (Play Quotient)*, which has been published in nine countries. Her Web site, Dr. Toy's Guide ([www.drtoy.com](http://www.drtoy.com)), has served as a valued resource for parents, teachers, buyers, consumers, and the toy industry since 1995 . . .

**1961: Peggy Sapphire** tells us that "A Possible Explanation, my first poetry collection, has been published by Partisan Press, a small, not-for-profit press committed to progressive prose and poetry. The book is available from Partisan Press ([www.partisanpress.org](http://www.partisanpress.org)) and/or Blue Stone Books, P.O. Box 8, Craftsbury, VT 05826" . . .

**1962: Vincent Dunn** spent 42 years with the Fire Department of New York, becoming a deputy chief before retiring from the force. Now, as a contributing editor to *Firehouse* magazine and the author of best-selling books and instructional videos, he shares his firefighting knowledge with others . . . **1963: Primal Cuts**, a show of sculpture by **Joan (Greene) Fine**, was presented by the Tria Gallery in Manhattan from Feb. 22 through March 23. Joan's work can be viewed at [www.joanfine.net](http://www.joanfine.net) . . . **1964: Allen Hausman** notes that "I now share my life with the woman I met at Queens College in 1961 in science class. We dated for several years and then got married to others. After more than three decades apart, **Sandra Eizenman, nee Feingold '65** and I reunited and merged our families, which now include her daughters, my sons, their spouses, and our nine grandchildren. We are living happily ever after in Fairfax County, Virginia. Sandra retired from teaching elementary school in Briarcliff Manor, NY, in 2000. Although I will soon mark my 35th anniversary of practicing law with the



Sandra (Feingold) Eizenman and Allen Hausman

United States Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., Sandy and I arrange our time so that we can travel and cruise several times a year" . . . **Neil Marmor** writes that he remains grateful for "a true liberal arts education in a meritocracy where admission was a function of grades only. My career has included engineering, financial services, running my own small company, and serving as the business manager of a performing arts presenting organization. I've been enjoying life in San Diego for the past six years. I can jog in shorts and sail year-round. I keep an ice scraper in my trunk as a reminder of Big Apple winters. What's to complain about? It's been a great trip and it isn't over yet. Go Queens College!" . . . **1965: Barry Cohen** has been devoting himself to the fight against myotonic muscular dystrophy, co-writing *Disabled & Challenged: Reach for Your Dreams* with his son



Barry Cohen (r) and son Terry

Terry, who has the condition. An industrial and organizational psychologist who holds graduate degrees from Columbia University and the University of Tennessee, Barry taught at the University of West Florida before launching his own firm. His wife, **Jewel Cohen '66**, completed a master's in guidance and counseling from the University of Tennessee and subsequently became a registered nurse. In addition to their son, the Cohens have one daughter, Wendy, and two grandchildren. "Life is certainly a journey, and sometimes the road less traveled is the most significant one for all of us. I know that has been the case for me," comments Barry, who has



## Dead End Boys Seek Alumni

The Dead End Boys was a fraternity at QC from approximately 1938 to 1970. Many have been active in alumni activities, including the Alumni Plaza (see page 15), and are now trying to re-establish contacts with all their brothers. If you are a missing DEB, reconnect via email at [debs.qc@comcast.net](mailto:debs.qc@comcast.net), or contact Dom Benvenuto by phone (516-570-4050) or by mail at 1983 Marcus Avenue, Suite 106, Lake Success, NY 11042.

Shown above is a group of DEBs in 1953. Front row, from left: Vince Algeri, Jerry Haller, Jack Herschlag, Mel Schlechter, Dom Benvenuto, Ray Porfilio, John Panagiotis, Fred Shapiro. Back row, from left: Dave Blaustein, Dan Couri, Bernie Brodsky, Vinnie Colavitti, Sid Rothman, Lou Castelloti, Tony Del Pizzo, Rudy Haluza, Mike Bickerman, Bob Stern, Mike Hertz.

spent much of the last year participating in Muscular Dystrophy Association conferences and fundraisers . . . **Nanette Rainone** has been appointed interim director of Flushing Town Hall. Previously a consultant, she has also worked in radio and in politics; in 1979 she created the Fund for the Borough of Brooklyn to promote cultural and educational programs . . . **Marsha Temlock** reports that her book, *Your Child's Divorce: What to Expect—What You Can Do*, was published by Impact Publishers. Parents Without Partners has endorsed the title as a unique resource for parents whose children are or have been divorced. For information, visit [www.yourchildsdivorce.com](http://www.yourchildsdivorce.com) . . . **1966: Edward Ray**, president of Oregon State University, received the Distinguished Service Award from Ohio State University, where he had worked for 33 years as a professor and administrator, ultimately becoming executive vice president and provost. Edward assumed the presidency of Oregon State in 2003 . . . **1967: A state panel named Howard Weltzman** to the short list of qualified replacements for New York Comptroller Alan Hevesi, who resigned the post. Because the State Assembly appointed one of its own members to the job, Howard has remained comptroller of Nassau County . . . **1968: Michael Gillman** (MA '72) notes that "I was at Queens College from June 1963 until September 1972 and it still seems like yesterday and will always be the best time of my life. I was the guy who had a hand-

painted six-foot-long sign on his '66 Dodge that read "I Love Queens College." You can get in touch with Mike to talk about the old times at [wildman456@hotmail.com](mailto:wildman456@hotmail.com) . . . **1969: Joanne Doades**, the director of curriculum development for the Union for Reform Judaism's Department of Lifelong Jewish Learning, is the author of *Parenting Jewish Teens: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Jewish Lights Publishing). Joanne is a featured speaker at conferences, workshops, and training programs on Jewish parenting and Jewish identity development topics . . . **1970: Elliot Z. Levine** returned to the campus briefly in March, when the Western Wind vocal ensemble appeared at Colden Auditorium. A classical singer and composer based in New York City, Elliot is an original member of the internationally acclaimed sextet, which devotes itself to a cappella music. With a repertoire that ranges from Renaissance motets to 1950s rock and roll, the Western Wind performs at venues across the country and coordinates an arts-in-education program in the local public school system. The group has produced 19 recordings, 11 of which have been released on its own label, Western Wind Records . . . **1971: Sue Fox** (MLS) has applied her research skills to numismatics, teaming up with her husband to write a series of books about American coins. Their latest effort, *The United States Gold Coins of Augustus Saint Gaudens*, comes out this year. In a career high point in October 2001, the couple reunited the three Bicentennial coin artists with

## Kaitsen Woo: "A Fish In Water"



A year after he had graduated from Queens College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics, Kaitsen Woo '87 landed at a personal crossroads. He

was working as a budget analyst for New York City—and the position made him miserable. "It was an important job, but it was the worst job I ever had," he recalls. "I wasn't cut out to be a public servant."

Then, using the money he had saved by living at home with his parents, he enrolled in architecture school at SUNY Buffalo. "I felt like a fish in water," he says, the sense of relief audible in his voice. "Everything I touched became easy." Apparently, other people liked the results. Woo's eponymous architecture firm, based in Manhattan's trendy SoHo neighborhood, boasts a growing list of honors and wins enough projects to keep its Taiwan-born founder busy at all times—he has even been known to work during the Chinese New Year.

Not that he's complaining. Indeed, he credits Queens, and the Peer Advisors program in particular, with giving him the skills he needed to perform his own makeover. As an undergraduate, he had drifted from major to major, unsure of what he wanted to be. "The pressure wasn't about choosing a career, but choosing an identity," explains Woo. Meanwhile, his siblings did what their immigrant family expected of them: They

followed professional tracks. (His older brother would become a doctor, his younger sister, a lawyer.)

But Woo gained a different perspective from his fellow students. "There were always about 40 to 50 advisors working together in the center," he says. "It helped open me up to the personal side of things. While focusing on other people's problems, I had a chance to focus on my own. I was the largest beneficiary of the program." As a result, he became comfortable taking risks, such as passing up an architecture job to take an unpaid internship that would offer better experience, and later, leaving a secure position to launch his own firm.

"From the Peer Advisors, I learned it was OK to give new things a shot," he adds. "If it doesn't work out, you do something else."

Today, much of what Woo is doing involves historic preservation, such as the exterior restoration and interior rehabilitation of St. James Parish Hall in Elmhurst, a project that earned his firm the Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award from the New York Landmarks Conservancy in 2005. His firm handles contemporary assignments, too; it recently executed the design for the memorial in honor of the people killed by the crash of American Airlines Flight 587 in the Rockaways. "I lived in Queens," he says. "It has a lot to offer and we do important projects there."

He feels equally strongly about the Peer Advisors, which is why he became a founding member of its alumni committee. "The contacts I made there have stayed with me," he says. "I feel indebted to the program, and would like to see it continue."

Leslie Jay





Sue Fox (r) with husband Les, former President Gerald Ford, and daughter Jamie.

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

**1972: Norma Kershaw** gave a lecture about ancient Mediterranean mosaics in January at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa, CA. Norma started her archaeological career at age 45 by volunteering at a dig near Jerusalem. . . . **Leslie Leach**, administrative judge of the eleventh judicial district, Supreme Court, Queens County, was named a deputy attorney general by Attorney General Andrew Cuomo. The top judge in the borough since May 2004, Leslie also teaches business law at York College. He has served both criminal and civil terms in the



Leach

Supreme Court and spent five years presiding over the Queens Treatment Court, a problem-solving drug court that has won national attention for its efforts to reduce recidivism. Leslie speaks often on treatment court panels and on community panels related to youths and criminal justice. He holds a master of science degree from the University of Massachusetts and a juris doctor from Columbia Law School. . . . **Andrea G. Zettin** recently received the Outstanding Professor Award from California State University, Los Angeles. Cofounder of the C. Lamar Mayer Learning Center at the school, where she is a professor of education in the Division of Special Education and Counseling at the Charter College of Education, Andrea represents the university in efforts to support the improvement of urban education throughout the greater Los Angeles community. A member of the Cal State LA faculty since 1989, she has written more than 100 book chapters, journal articles, and other professional publica-



Zettin

tions, and presents regularly at national, state, and local conferences. Her current research addresses special education needs of children in foster care. . . . **1974: Dario Cortés** is president and director of the American School Foundation, a K-12 American school in Mexico City. Before this, he held senior administrative positions at the University of Wisconsin, Johns Hopkins, the University of Maryland, North Carolina State, Fairleigh Dickinson, and the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a postdoctoral degree in education. Dario holds a second one from Harvard, as well as a master's from the University of Virginia and a doctorate in foreign languages and Latin American studies from the University of Illinois. A certified K-12 teacher, Dario worked early in his career as a substitute at a yeshiva, where students called him "Rabbi Cortés". . . . **1976: Gail Satler** is the author of *Two Tales of a City: Rebuilding Chicago's Architectural and Social Landscape, 1986-2005* (Northern Illinois University Press). A professor of sociology at Hofstra University, Gail received her MA in sociology from QC and went on to receive her PhD in the same subject from the CUNY Grad Center. In *Two Tales of a City*, she explores how architecture shapes the social environment. . . . **1977: Denise Becker** has joined Prudential Carolinas Realty as a sales associate at

## Ximena Rua-Merkin: Keeping Her Eye on the Olympics



Sixteen years after she earned her bachelor's degree at Queens College, Ximena Rua-Merkin '91 is aiming at a different target: representing her native country, Bolivia, at the Olympic Games in 2008.

"I came here as a foreign student to learn English," says Rua-Merkin. "Then I was given the option to take college courses, and I decided to continue my studies." Her transition to an American university involved more than just adapting to another language. "I had gone to a high school that was very structured," she adds. "Here, I was presented with so many options. That's what took me to the Peer Advice-ment Office. It was one of the best things I

could have done; it exposed me to all aspects of campus life." She also joined Queens's first class of Big Buddies, which paired college students with children who were homeless or otherwise at risk. (She's happy to report that her mentoree, Carlos, is now a police officer with three children of his own.)

Upon graduating with a degree in communications, Rua-Merkin went into television production. Then, because that industry left New York City for cheaper locations, she segued into the nonprofit sector, holding a series of senior positions at Covenant House and the American Red Cross. In 2006 she started a new job at the Community Resource Exchange, a Manhattan-based not-for-profit consulting group that helps other nonprofits with fundraising, public relations, and board development.

While she advanced in her career, Rua-Merkin nurtured another dream: She wanted somehow to participate in the Olympics. "Sports have always been important in my life," she says. "In high school, I competed in track and field. When I worked in television, I hoped to cover the Olympics, but that didn't work out. Then I hoped to be part of the Red Cross team that provided

service at the games, but that didn't work out, either." So she opted for plan C—to become a member of the Bolivian team.

The big question was, how? "I had to find a sport that I could train in and compete in," she explains. As a novice, Rua-Merkin felt her chances were best in disciplines that didn't already have a big following in her home country, such as shooting and archery. She chose the latter, because she's averse to guns. Fortunately, she found two archery ranges, and skilled coaches, right here in Queens.

After taking 2005 off to practice and attend tournaments, Rua-Merkin is setting her sights on entering international events that will qualify her for Olympic competition at 70 meters, the only female category. She's making progress: Last summer, she and two other women picked up silver medals in open team competition at the National Outdoor Championship in Colorado Springs. Rua-Merkin also has to establish a Bolivian archery association, so she can represent her country officially. Her status as a literal and figurative long shot doesn't concern her. "Once I tried archery, it seemed like I was made for it," she says.

Leslie Jay

## Celebrate Queens College Day at Madison Square Garden



We have just made arrangements with the Women's National Basketball Association to celebrate Queens College Day on Sunday, July 29, in

Madison Square Garden, when the New York Liberty will play the Connecticut Sun at 4 pm. Come and meet the players and talk with QC basketball legend Donna Orender '78, President of the WNBA, after the game. Tickets are \$10 and \$19.50. To order, contact: Alexis Grassadonio WNBA Team Business and Development Phone: 212-407-8742 Email: agrassadonio@wnba.com



Becker

the company's Ballantyne-area office in Charlotte, NC. Previously, she served as the VP of American Datagraph, Inc., where she worked for more than 25 years. Denise can be reached at denise.becker@prucarolina.com. . . . **1978: Bruce Eder** created the script for the music documentary *The Moody Blues*, part of the Classic Artists Series from Britain's Impact Films. The movie covers the history of the celebrated English rock band best known for the song "Nights in White Satin." A journalist who has written for the *Village Voice*, *Newsday*, and other publications, Bruce has a second career in the film industry. As a writer/producer/narrator, he has recorded more than two dozen audio commentary tracks for movies issued by the Criterion Collection and other video companies. Additionally, he has overseen numerous CD releases devoted to classic film music, historical classical recordings, and vintage rock, country, and blues for Sony Music Special Products and Polygram Records. . . . **1979: Brian Gruber** is the founder and CEO of FORA.tv, the first company to deliver interactive media, driven by video content, that focuses on the world's great thinkers, leaders, and writers. The goal of FORA.tv is to create an Internet-based community that will engage in discussions

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and debates on the world's most interesting political, social, and cultural issues. Among those currently providing content for FORA.tv are C-SPAN, the Cato Institute, the Hoover Institution, the World Affairs Council, Americans for an Informed Democracy, and a number of leading independent bookstores across the nation. Brian lives in San Francisco and holds a master's degree in broadcast management from Pepperdine University . . . **1980: Dan Schechter** was elected vice president of GEICO, where he oversees staff development. Until February, Dan was the insurance company's assistant vice president of staff development . . . **1981: Fran Capo**, a comedian, adventurer, author, and motivational speaker known as the World's Fastest-Talking Female, has joined the cast of a new reality show centered around the life of fitness celebrity John Basedow. Recorded in 7-minute episodes for webcasting, *John Basedow TV: Television Fit to Watch* features Fran as an adventurous friend who fast-talks the star into odd situations. She also breaks into different voices on the show, animating objects and animals as she sees fit—not a big stretch for someone who does character voice-overs for a living. "So far," she reports, "I've fast-talked John into hanging with penguins and exercising with seals; now I'm working on getting him to eat fire." Fran reports she also made her dramatic debut recently in a play about domestic violence called *Wrote to Heal* . . . **1985: Linda Ardito** is provost of Dowling College, where her previous positions included associate provost of the School of Arts & Sciences, chair of the department of music, executive chair of faculty,

and academic chair of the arts and humanities division. A member of the board of directors of the League of Composers International Society for Contemporary Music and the American Italian Historical Association, Linda has received annual composers' awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers. Her articles on contemporary composers appear in the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*. Linda, who is writing a book titled *Music and Early Greek Myths*, holds a PhD from the CUNY Graduate Center . . . **Paul McGovern** led the New Vocal Collective, a 17-voice ensemble, in a Christmas concert at the Salyard Center for the Arts in Conway, NH. Paul is the chorus master of the Portland Opera Repertory Theatre and music director of the Granite State Choral Society . . . **1987: Joseph Goldberg** writes that he keeps busy as the chancellor commander of the Knickerbocker Lodge of the Knights of Pythias and as an emergency room volunteer at New York Queens Hospital. A World War II Coast Guard veteran, Joseph retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1981 after working as an international claims examiner for 40 years, winning numerous awards for distinguished service . . . **1988: Nadeen Edwards** has just released her first solo CD, a Gospel fusion collection *Just in Time*. Based in Stroudsburg, PA, Nadeen teaches junior high math and, with her husband, does weekend duty as musical director of Pocono Community Church . . . **1989:** When tenor saxophone player **Walt Weiskopf** appeared last fall at the Baltimore Museum of Art, his repertoire matched the environment. He and his band opened with

*Sight to Sound*, a Weiskopf composition that includes movements named for Joan Miró, Pablo Picasso, Vincent Van Gogh, and other artists. Walt studied music at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, and then earned a master's degree in clarinet performance at Queens. As a saxophonist, he's been compared to John Coltrane. He's also making a name for himself as a composer. "I'm doing what I was born to do," says Walt. "I'm lucky to be able to do it" . . . **1990: Alicia A. Weissmeier** studied law at Pace University after graduation. Now she's the man-



Alicia Weissmeier and husband Jason Marek

aging partner of Lapatin Lewis Kaplan & Weissmeier, PLLC, in midtown Manhattan. She says that her personal life is thriving, too. "On August 28, 2005, I married Jason A. Marek at the Garden City Hotel in Garden City, NY. We make our home in New Hyde Park" . . . **1991: David Levine** is vice president of worldwide programming strategy and windowing for Disney Channel and Jetix. He oversees all aspects of the world-

wide programming strategy group, including facilitating communication between Disney and Jetix Channels to coordinate and roll out programming strategies on a global basis. A Disney executive since 2004, David previously worked at Ragdoll USA Inc., the Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Company, and Marvel Enterprises. A member of the New York State Bar, he is a graduate of the National Law Center at George Washington University. David resides in Los Angeles . . . **1992: Ted Alexandro** is collaborating with fellow stand-up comic and QC alum **Hollis James '92** on the pilot for his own 30-minute show on Comedy Central . . . **1996: Sarah Lasry** has published a cookbook, *The Dairy Gourmet: Secret Recipes from Taste buds Café*. A self-taught kosher chef who cared her own engagement party last fall, Sarah operates a restaurant in Howell, NJ. She gravitated toward cooking upon growing disenchanted with jobs in marketing, teaching, and head-hunting . . . **1997: Dean Radinovsky** had a one-month show at Metropolitan College of New York's Next Gallery in Soho. In *The Artist's Process: Materials as Inspiration*, the Woodside resident exhibited small-scale sculpture, prints, and paintings inspired by his more ambitious projects . . . **2001: Alexis Cuadrado** led his trio and quartet

in sets of original compositions as part of the Brooklyn Jazz Underground's mid-January inaugural festival at Smalls in Greenwich Village. The Barcelona-born bassist is a founding member of the Brooklyn Jazz Underground, a collective of bandleaders who are dedicated to improvisational music . . . **Yu-Hsien Wu** was the soloist in Tyzen-Hsiao's *Cello Concerto in G* at the Sheboygan Symphony's March 24 concert. A member of the faculty at Ripon College, she earned a doctorate in cello performance last year from the University of Wisconsin at Madison . . . **2006: Anet Abnous** had a solo exhibition at St. Vartan's Cathedral in Manhattan. Anet showed paintings that drew on her Armenian heritage and her experience as a member of a religious minority in Iran, where she grew up.

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## WE REMEMBER

Robert E. O'Connor '41  
Helen Usefon Torres '41  
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Edith Turecan Kettel '47

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Ivy Bennett Prucha '49  
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Eric Torres '50  
Sergio Valle '50  
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Sally Moskowitz Beres '51  
William Heine '53  
Jack Zuckerman '53

Mary A. Filsinger Costello '55  
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Seraph Petrusa Knapp '58  
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Robert O'Leary '71  
James Miller '72  
Robert Edward Angland '74  
Helen J. McDonough '76  
Dorothy Jean Buxton Ruebeck '76  
Michael H. Smith '80  
Erich Miller '92  
Bradley J. Baymack '97

## William H. Booth, 1922–2006

*William H. Booth, chairman of New York City's Commission on Human Rights in the 1960s and later a Criminal Court and New York Supreme Court justice, died Dec. 12 at his home in Florida. He was a member of the Queens College entering class of 1939, scheduled to graduate in 1943, but World War II intervened. He returned to Queens, graduating in 1946. His classmate Jim Doyle shares his memories of this remarkable man.*



1943, for the Army's reception process.

Getting your hair shorn, pulling garbage detail or other kitchen duty, cleaning latrines were all bad enough, but for all of us one of the worst parts of that traumatic time was the shock of seeing our admired friend Bill Booth shunted off with "colored troops," as they were then called, to a segregated part of the camp.

Discrimination was nothing new to Bill, I assume; he must have experienced it in a thousand ways and places growing up, although not at Queens College. For the rest of us, though, it was a real shock; we had not seen such raw segregation before.

Bill served as a Master Sergeant in the Army Air Corps in Italy, and after the war returned to Queens, graduating in 1946. He got his law degree and a master's in

It didn't work out that way. Some months before graduation we got orders to report to Camp Upton on Long Island to begin our Army careers. Bill and the rest of us reported to Upton on March 3,

law from New York University. Active in the NAACP from the age of 16, he later became its New York State chair, then New York City Human Rights Commissioner, later a Criminal Court judge and acting NY Supreme Court justice.

The last time I saw Bill I was in his courtroom. My office on Park Avenue had been robbed over a weekend, but our alert elevator operator called the police and they caught the thief. Many weeks later he appeared before Judge Booth and I was there as the complainant. It was a quick affair; the perpetrator agreed to go into a drug rehabilitation program.

Bill and I made some friendly talk about Queens College and our memories, and then parted. It was good, though, to see Bill again and be in his courtroom, and to witness him dispensing the justice he had been pursuing all his life.

Jim Doyle is a columnist for Catholic New York newspaper and has published two books collecting his columns: *Two Voices (with his son Brian)*, and *Tales from a Real Life. He was executive director of the Catholic Press Association, 1958–88, and is now retired. He and his wife, Ethel, live in Lake Mary, Florida.*





## Gregory Rabassa Honored at the White House

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



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