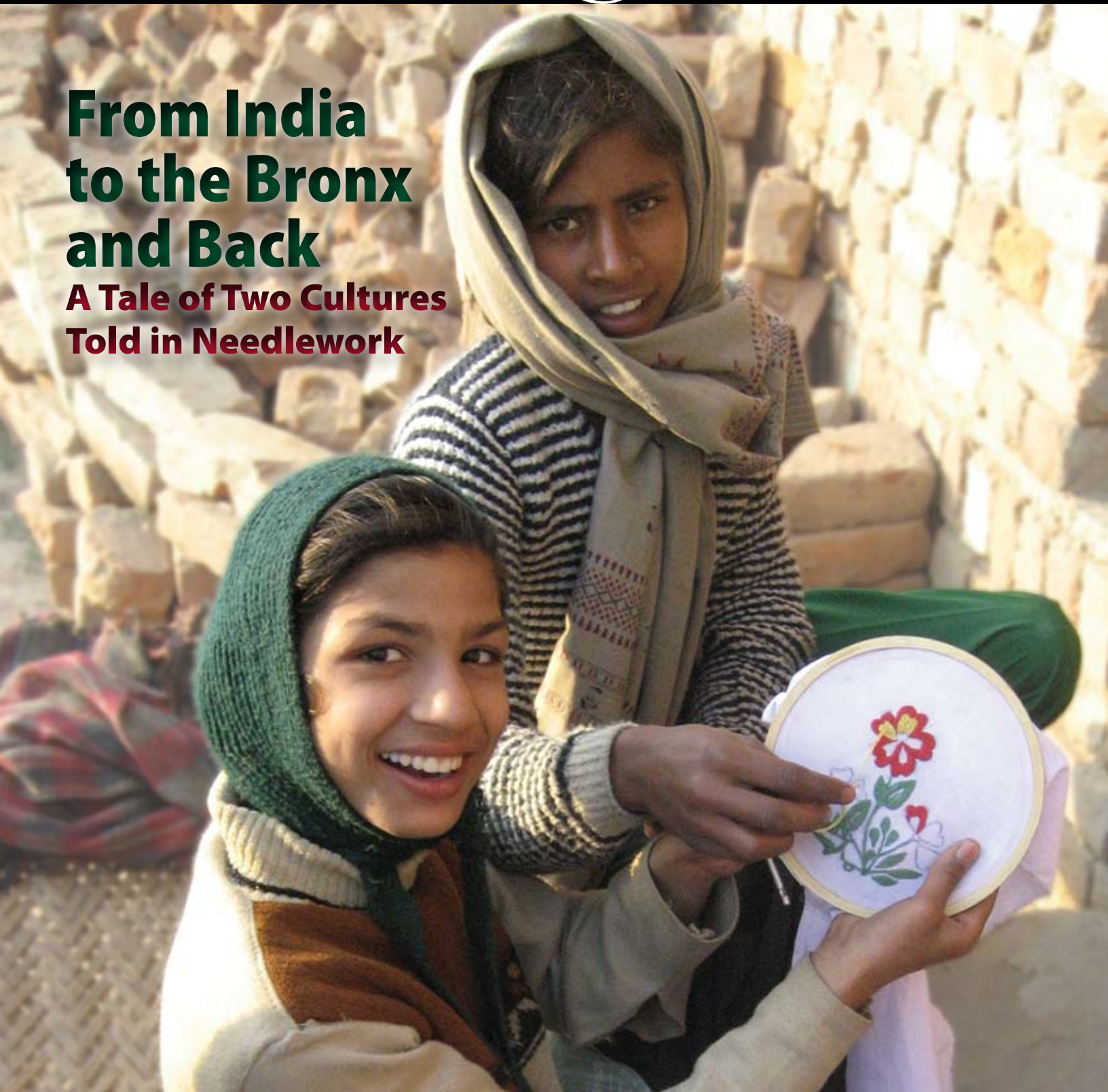




From India to the Bronx and Back

**A Tale of Two Cultures
Told in Needlework**





Artist's rendering of common area at The Summit.

Building The Summit at Queens College A Home Away from Home for Students

It had been the dream of Queens College presidents for decades: a residence hall to attract bright local students whose hearts are set on living away from home during their college years. Next August the dream comes true when the college opens The Summit, a 506-bed residence hall located in the heart of the campus on the old tennis courts between FitzGerald Gymnasium and the Rosenthal Library (new courts have been built elsewhere to replace the old ones).

What are the advantages to living on campus? “Research indicates that students living on campus have a higher retention rate and are 20 percent more likely to graduate from college than students who live off campus,” notes President James Muyskens. “And residential students also tend to have higher grade-point averages, are more satisfied with their college, and have more contact with faculty and other students.”

The college signed a contract last April with Capstone Development Corporation, a company that specializes in developing and managing student housing. Capstone has worked with more than 55 colleges and universities—including City College—and manages over 15,000 beds on 19 campuses. The project is being

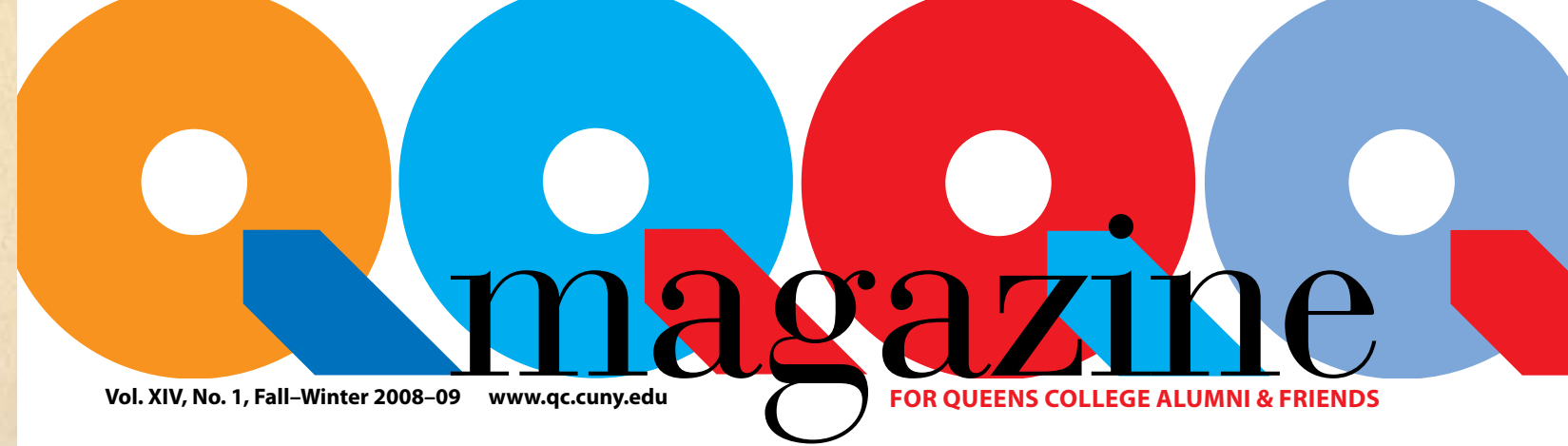
financed by \$72 million in tax-exempt bonds issued by the NYC Housing Development Corporation; no public funds are supporting the project.

In keeping with the college’s commitment to sustainability, the residence hall design is expected to meet LEED requirements for Silver certification. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system is overseen by the U.S. Green Building Council, which awards certification to structures that prevent waste and conserve energy.

QC alums have already left their mark on The Summit. Its top floor holds a spacious lounge offering a magnificent view of the Manhattan skyline. Intended as a place where students can study and relax, the space will be called the Carole A. and Norman Barham Study Lounge in honor of two alums (’66 and ’68) whose generous gift to the Queens College Foundation has made possible a scholarship fund to benefit future students.



To learn more about the Summit, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/the_summit.



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FOR QUEENS COLLEGE ALUMNI & FRIENDS

FEATURES

- 8 Telling Stories with Quilts
Bob Suter
- 10 Brain Man
Leslie Jay
- 12 Mind Games
Leslie Jay
- 13 Age-old Mystery
Leslie Jay
- 14 Making Progress
Anne Seltzer
- 17 Dramatic Developments
Jennie Mindlin
- 31 191 Years of Teaching
Leslie Jay

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 In the News
- 6 Athletics
- 18 Portraits
- 20 Calendar of Events
- 26 Alumni Notes
- 30 Annual Fund Donor Honor Roll

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Mailbag

The Death of a Queens College Student

We recently received the following letter from Stephen B. McFarland:

“My father passed away in 2005,” he notes. “A WWII veteran, platoon leader and subsequent Foreign Service Officer in the Department of State. As a life-long civil servant and in the days before faxes and emails, it was his habit to make carbon copies of even his personal correspondence.

“Several letters from his World War II experience have been passed down to me in this way. The ones I copy to you regard Norman Jay Siegel who attended QC and is listed in your Spring 2007 issue as an alumni lost in the war. Both the letter from Mrs. Siegel and my father’s reply are very poignant.”

After her son’s death, Mrs. Siegel wrote to the 318th Infantry Division asking that if anyone had more information about Norman’s time with the division to contact her. Lt. James McFarland wrote back on August 20, 1945. He said he did not know her son well as Norman had not been with the division long, so instead he described the battle her son died in.

The men got up at 4 am and waited while U.S. artillery shelled their objective, Fort Bambiderstroff, a strategic fort the Germans were holding. “It was time now. Everyone got slowly, reluctantly to his feet. No one said ‘This is it!’ No one who didn’t have to said anything. It was lighter now—we could see the open ground we had to cross before reaching the edge of the woods where the outer defenses of the main fort were located. More important—we could be seen coming across by the now alerted enemy. And it wasn’t long until he started to work us over. Wicked looking streaks of green tracer fire stabbed at us out of the

grey dawn, trying to pin us down and then plaster us with mortars and artillery. But everybody kept going. . . . Within 15 minutes we were in the woods and then came the dirty and dangerous job of clearing pill boxes with grenades and guts. . . .

“We cleared the first woods by noon and the first of the tanks broke through from behind and moved with us toward the main fortifications. The 76 and 90mm shells just bounced off the reinforced concrete and steel and we wondered how we’d ever take the place. But they must have given the Krauts a headache because they came pouring out shouting Kamerad. By 5 pm it was all over. . . . We had taken another objective. One officer and several enlisted men killed—one of them your son—a larger number wounded—most of us terribly tired but ready to go again when we had to. . . .

“Please accept the deep sympathy of the officers and men of Co. ‘E’ over your very great personal loss.”

Lt. McFarland kept a copy of the letter he sent to Mrs. Siegel, and at the bottom he wrote an anguished note to himself: “I couldn’t tell her what happened to her son. He was blown apart by a direct hit from a German bazooka shell.”

The originals of this correspondence will soon be found at a Web site set up by the college in memory of Queens College students who died during World War II (www.qc.cuny.edu/history/wwiiveterans/).

Send your letters to Q Magazine, Queens College, Kiely Hall 1307, Flushing, NY 11367 or qmag@qc.cuny.edu.



Norman Jay Siegel

Cover: Students at the Pardada Pardadi School working on a Peace Story Quilt. Photo by Rikki Asher. See story page 8.

Muyskens Praises College's Momentum at Assembly

Momentum was the theme of President James Muyskens' address to the audience at the annual Faculty and Staff Assembly on October 16 in LeFrak Concert Hall.

After praising the most recent faculty hires—"They have an extraordinary range of interests, from autism to Arabic literature to Andy Warhol, and that's just the A's"—Muyskens said, "It may sound as if I am daring the gods to strike me down by saying this, but I believe Queens College has great momentum. And I believe that this momentum will set us apart from other colleges in the years to come."

He then noted a number of recent accomplishments that gave the college its momentum, including hiring almost half of the current faculty in the last six years; reversing the trend of falling enrollment and increasing the student retention rate; approving a new undergraduate curriculum; and completing a \$100 million fund-raising campaign.

"And we did so much more, and we somehow did it just before the recent financial downturn," he said. "Was that just dumb luck? Well, on the subject of luck I stand with Thomas Jefferson, who said he found that the harder he worked, the more luck he seemed to have. We have all worked tremendously hard and have earned the right to a little luck."

Muyskens continued, "Our accomplishing so much before this crisis made me think of the Superman comics I used to read when I was growing up in Kansas. Once or twice a year there would be

a brief reference in the comic explaining how Superman came to earth, which would usually include a picture of baby Superman in a spaceship, escaping from Krypton just as that planet explodes. And that's how I feel. I am so grateful that we had this momentum before the crisis to put some distance between disaster and ourselves.

"But make no mistake about it: There is plenty of danger and adventure ahead of us, there will be kryptonite everywhere before we make a soft landing in a better economy.

"But just because times are hard it does not mean we must put our dreams on hold. Why should we? After all, surviving hard times is in this college's DNA. We opened our doors in the middle of the Great Depression and graduated our first students just months before Pearl Harbor. If anything, now is the time to dream harder and work harder. A college that has to wait for money to be great is a second-rate college, and we will never be a second-rate college."



Sound Investment

Steinway & Sons has always played an instrumental role in arts education at QC. "When the college opened in 1937, the administration decided to have a music department," says Aaron Copland School of Music Director Edward Smaldone '78. "So someone called Steinway and had a few pianos delivered." Now the college has launched a campaign to make Aaron Copland an all-Steinway school. A distinction shared by fewer than 100 schools in the world—including the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School—the designation means that at least 90 percent of the pianos on site are Steinways.

QC took its first step to attaining this status last February when Smaldone, chief college piano technician Andrew Satterman, and faculty members Morey Ritt, Donald Pirone, and David Schober traveled in high style to Steinway's Manhattan showroom. "Steinway sent one limousine to QC and sent a second to Connecticut to pick up Morey," recalls Smaldone. "We spent the morning in the showroom. They took us to lunch and then we went back to the showroom. We chose our pianos from over 40 that had been prepared just for our selection." With a budget of more than \$340,000, they were in the market for 11 pianos; purchasing at least 10 qualifies the buyer for a 25 percent discount off the list price.

Less than a week later, the team's selections—eight grands, three uprights—were delivered on campus, accompanied by Steinway support personnel. The newcomers joined a collection of 90 pianos, ranging from alumni gifts to a seven-foot grand once owned by composer Morton Gould.

'86 Alums Travel the Globe: From Antarctica to South Pacific

Stephen Pekar and Danny Burstein, two 1986 graduates of Queens College, have found different ways to see the world.

Last fall Pekar, a member of the college's earth & environmental sciences faculty, led a National Science Foundation-funded expedition to Antarctica. The team included three QC students and a science teacher from a Harlem middle school. Pekar installed a research weather station on one of Antarctica's active ice shelves as part of a science education initiative called the Con Edison/Queens College GLOBE-NY Metro program. Each day the station monitors and feeds data on air and ice temperature, relative humidity, and other research into the international GLOBE databank for use by students, teachers, and scientists.

No amount of makeup can disguise the talent of Danny Burstein, seen here with Kelli O'Hara and members of the cast of the widely praised Broadway revival of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*. Burstein was hailed by the *New York Times* for being "exuberant and infectious as the wily Luther Billis," a performance that earned him his second Tony nomination for supporting actor in a musical (his first was in 2006 for *The Drowsy Chaperone*). Danny is the son of Harvey Burstein, a long-time member of QC's philosophy department.



MFA Program Collaborates with Actors Company Theatre

Dramatic developments are under way at Queens College. Building on the success of its master of fine arts program in creative writing and literary translation, QC is joining forces with The Actors Company Theatre (TACT) of New York City to launch an innovative two-year playwriting program. This unique curriculum will allow emerging dramatists to have their scripts developed and performed by members of TACT, an acclaimed off-Broadway troupe and one of the few true repertory companies in the city.

Under the leadership of Obie-award-nominated playwright Richard Schotter (English), winner of the Berman Prize in Playwriting, this program offers students the rare interplay of practical theatre experience and intensive workshop training. "There's nothing more useful and exciting for a young playwright than to see and hear his or her work performed by professional actors in a real-world theatrical setting," notes Schotter. "And that's what our partnership with TACT will provide." Students will also have the chance to cross genres and study with members of QC's MFA faculty in poetry, fiction, and translation.



Schotter



A Couple of Hits

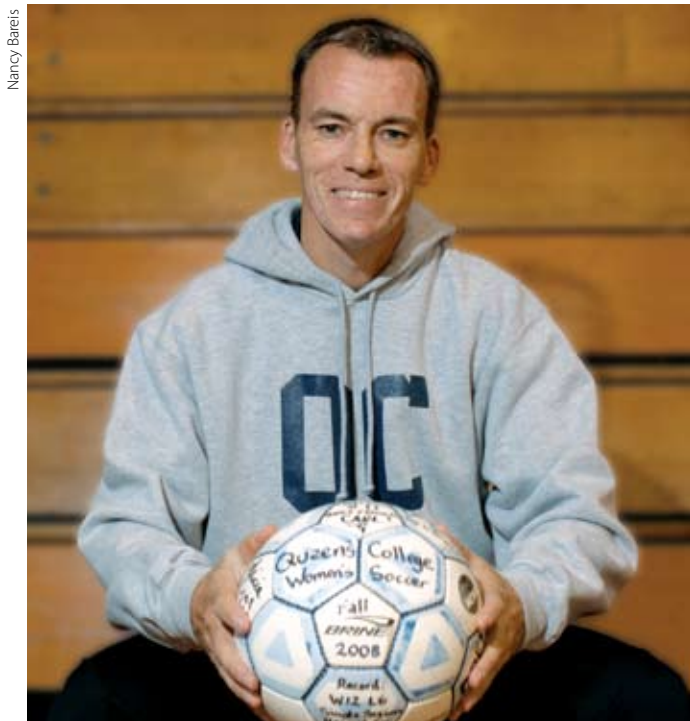
On August 5, with Citi Field—future headquarters of the New York Mets—looming behind them, VP for Institutional Advancement Sue Henderson and Louis Armstrong House Museum Director Michael Cogswell took positions on the infield of Shea Stadium to receive Spirit Awards. The Mets give the awards to institutions that maintain the vitality of spirit that characterizes the borough of Queens. Henderson had another reason to smile: she recently was elected to the board of trustees of the National Advisory Board for Scholarship America, the nation's largest nonprofit, private-sector scholarship and educational support organization.

Nancy Bareis

Nancy Bareis



QC music faculty and alums toured Steinway's Long Island City factory last November, where employees (left) and composer Marvin Hamlisch '68 (right) saw President James Muyskens work a press in the rim-bending room. He also made a pitch for QC's campaign to become an all-Steinway school.



Coach Carl Christian holds a new tradition: A soccer ball signed by all the members of the Lady Knights' team.

A September to Remember

By Neal Kaufer

Seven wins in seven games made it a September to remember for the 2008 Queens College Women's Soccer team.

In an effort orchestrated by first-year head coach Carl Christian, the Lady Knights produced more victories in the ninth month of '08 than they had in the entire 2007 season.

Christian, a former standout for the men's soccer team in the late 1980s, took the reins from long-time Lady Knights' coach Roby Young. He had modest hopes for this season. "Our preseason expectations were conservative as we were returning many players from last year. But we lost at least five starters to graduation and eligibility and only really added two transfers and one scholarship freshman. Early signs from preseason were good with regards to attitude, commitment, and team spirit, so that was encouraging, though the loss of two scholarship athletes [Kristina Sarceno and Katie Mermelstein] to lengthy injuries before the first game was a big concern. Realistically, our goal was to try and get above .500, and get a winning season given our performance last year," says Christian.

The goalkeeping of freshman Crystal Butler helped turn those modest hopes into great expectations. Butler won all seven of her starts in September, in the process posting a minuscule 0.71 goals-against average and a superb .815 save percentage. What makes Butler's story more intriguing is that she was not recruited to play soccer.

"Crystal Butler is a freshman basketball player who joined our team earlier in the season to rescue us from a bit of a crisis," explains Christian. "Our starting keeper, Valentina Duque, was unavailable for two weeks, and we were scrambling for cover in goal, exploring any and all options. Thankfully Tom Flahive, our Women's Basketball coach, stepped in to help. He suggested asking Crystal, who he'd seen play soccer in HS while recruiting her, though only as a three-game, two-week deal initially. She fit into the team nicely right from the start and her performances in goal earned her seven straight victories, a team record, and two straight ECC Rookie of the Week honors. Needless to say we're very happy she'd agreed to stay on through the end of the season and possibly beyond."

Even with the exploits of Butler, September's success would not have been possible without the offense of sophomore Andrea Slavin, who led the Lady Knights with seven goals in the month. In what has become a fine, bounce-back year after missing the last 13 games of the 2007 season, Andrea produced back-to-back two-goal games against Felician College and Caldwell College. She also scored the game-winning goal against Georgian Court on the 20th and the golden goal in a 3-2 overtime victory against Bentley College on the 22nd.

Slavin's importance to the team cannot be overstated. As Coach Christian said, "Andrea is a key member of our squad and her individual ability and work ethic make us a better team. However it is her goal-scoring ability that is invaluable to our current team. Her teammates deserve a lot of the credit too, but she has a knack for finding the back of the net when we need it. She's the kind of player who also attracts a lot of attention from opposing defenders, and in doing so creates space for others. Definitely having her fit and healthy for as many games as possible is a factor in our team's success. And despite her good season, I believe that she is capable of even more in the future."

FALL ROUNDUP

Men's Soccer

Molloy College scored six times in the second half to eliminate the Knights from the East Coast Conference Soccer Playoffs, 6-1, Nov. 5. QC finished their season with an overall record of



Butler



Slavin

10-6-2 and a conference record of 5-2-1. Two Knights, Noorulah Mashriqi and Terrence Ahoua, were named all-East Coast Conference for the 2008 season. Mashriqi, who led the Knights in goals (8) and points (18) and won two ECC Player of the Week Awards, earned second-team honors. Defenseman Ahoua was selected to represent QC on the third team for the second straight season.

Men's Tennis

The team was ranked second in the East Region by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association in a poll released Oct. 31. The Knights were also ranked 41st in the nation in Division II. Two Knights placed in the top 15 in the region in singles and doubles. Fabio Minami and David Burstein were fifth and eighth in the singles rankings, respectively, and were fifth in doubles as well.

Men's Track

The Knights finished seventh at the East Coast Conference Cross Country Championships, held Oct. 25 at Sunken Meadow Park on Long Island. Lev Starikov was the men's top finisher. The team previously placed fifth at the College of Staten Island Invitational, held at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx on Oct. 12. At the Sept. 20 Queensborough Community College Invitational, the Knights finished ninth.

Men's Water Polo

Joshua Tatro scored the game winner as the Knights defeated Connecticut College, 16-15 in overtime, to take seventh place at the Northern Division Water Polo Championships, held Nov. 9 on the MIT campus. They finished the season with an overall record of 8-14 and a conference record of 2-5.

Women's Soccer

Molloy College defeated the Lady Knights, 1-0, on a golden goal in the second overtime of an East Coast Conference game Nov. 1. The team wrapped up their regular season with a 12-6 record overall and a 4-5 record versus ECC foes. Two Lady Knights, Andrea Slavin and Jenna Peveraro, were named all-East Coast Conference for the 2008 season. Slavin, who scored seven goals in a five-game stretch in September, was the Lady Knights leading scorer with 13 goals and 28 points in 16 games. Peveraro had two assists in 18 games and was a force on defense.

Women's Swimming

The Lady Knights began their 2008-09 schedule with a meet against the University of Bridgeport on Halloween in Connecticut. Bridgeport came away the victor, 123.5 to 93.5.

Women's Tennis

Coming off an impressive 8-3 fall season and an appearance in the 2008 East Coast Conference Team Championship Finals, the Lady Knights were ranked second in the East Region by the Intercollegiate Tennis Association. The team's six-year reign as conference champions ended Oct. 23 with a 5-2 loss to Concordia College in the ECC finals. Four players were ranked in the top 13 in the East in singles: Laura Mocodeanu (4th), Maria Mendes (5th), Alyssa Morra (12th), and Taylor Barber (13th). The pairings of Mendes/Morra and Kirby Reiss/Mocodeanu were fifth and sixth, respectively, in the doubles rankings.

Women's Track

Led by Indira Avila, the Women's Track Team finished seventh at the East Coast Conference Cross Country Championships Oct. 25 at Sunken Meadow Park on Long Island. Avila finished 11th to earn second team honors. She bested the field Oct. 12 at the College of Staten Island Invitational, held at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, where the Lady Knights finished fifth. She also finished first at the Sept. 20 Queensborough College Invitational at the park, leading the QC women to a sixth-place finish.

At the Oct. 5 Lehman College Lightning Invitational Cross Country Track Meet at Van Cortlandt Park, Stephanie Pare placed second, leading the team to a fourth-place finish among 12 competing teams.

Women's Volleyball

Eighth-seeded QC was eliminated from the NCAA Division II Volleyball East Regionals Nov. 20 by top-seeded New Haven, 25-16, 25-23, 25-15. Enobong Shammah, who was chosen 2008 Daktronics first team all-East Region, led the Lady Knights to a 25-10 overall record and their first NCAA bid in four years. (Their conference record was 11-5.) It was their highest total since they advanced to the NCAA Elite Eight in 2004 with 31 victories. In her second QC season, Shammah led the East Coast Conference in hitting percentage (.387) and kills-per-game average (4.37), earning first-team all-conference honors in the process. She also ranked seventh in all of Division II in hitting percentage and sixth in kills per set average. —Bob Suter



David Burstein

Telling Stories with Quilts

Bringing art and hope to young girls in India

By Bob Suter

Twenty-four years ago, Dr. Munj and Mrs. Geeta Athreya of New Delhi had been impressed by an essay a young art teacher had written describing herself as a Buddhist and vegetarian. It had been submitted as part of a competition sponsored by the Asia Society of New York, in which the winners would live with an Indian family and teach in a New Delhi school. The Athreyas invited the writer—Rikki Asher, now the director of art education at Queens College—to spend two weeks with them. It was the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

So in 2007 when Asher had an opportunity to return to India, “I called on my dear friend in New Delhi to ask if she knew a school that would be interested in art educational research,” she says. “Geeta recommended the Pardada Pardadi Girls Vocational School.” Pardada Pardadi was established in 2000 in Anupshahr, Uttar Pradesh, one of the poorest regions in northern India. Its founder, Virendera (Sam) Singh, a retired director of U.S. Dupont South Asia, created the school to address India’s severe gender bias by giving girls free education and vocational training.

As Asher notes in a recent issue of *School Arts*, “Girls learn the art of fine hand embroidery, linen appliqué work, and block printing in the form of tablecloths, bed covers, sheets, curtains, and cushion covers. Their products are sold in New Delhi shops and the proceeds go towards the welfare of women in Anupshahr.”

Asher went to Pardada Pardadi to do research on the impact of art and creative writing through bookmaking. “I do what is called constructivist education,” she explains, “which stresses that the teacher is there as a coach who enables students to actively construct knowledge rather than being passive receivers of information.”

Using this method, Asher described to her fifth- and seventh-grade students what she had seen on her way to school. She then had each student add something to the narrative based on what they had observed walking to school that day. Unaccustomed to a creative process inspired by their own experiences, this exercise, says Asher, proved liberating for the girls, who at first were reluctant to volunteer any information.

Asher next had the girls take their accounts of the things they had seen—brown monkeys, blue peacocks, yellow bananas, green sugar cane on a cart, and more—and translate them into memory drawings done in pencil, pastels, and paints. The drawings were collected into two sets of books. The girls kept one set and Asher exchanged the other with fifth and seventh graders in New York for similar books they had created.

In early 2008, Asher was invited back to Pardada Pardadi. This time she sought to tap into the girls’ remarkable sewing skills to create a Peace Story Quilt. Before leaving, she got together with art teacher Jane Pinchuck and a group of her eighth-grade students at the Bronx Academy for the Future to create their version of a Peace Story Quilt, which depicted Asher’s experiences teach-

Photos by Nancy Bareis



Above: The Peace Story Quilt created by students at the Bronx Academy for the Future, which now hangs in the Pardada Pardadi Girls Vocational School in Anupshahr. Facing page: Peace Story Quilt created by the teachers and students of Pardada Pardadi, which has found a home at the Bronx Academy.

ing in India. Asher presented this quilt to the Pardada Pardadi School, where it is now on display.

A group of eighth-grade girls and their teachers at Pardada Pardadi then produced a quilt that Asher carried back to New York for permanent display in the Bronx Academy. First, however, it was exhibited as part of Asher’s show at the college’s Godwin-Ternbach Museum, *Power to the Peaceful: A Multicultural Peace Quilt Exhibition* (December 15, 2008–January 15, 2009).

Asher hopes her experiences in book- and quilt-making will

serve as a model for creative arts lessons in Indian and American schools. She notes that the students learned something about each other’s cultures from the process, and for the Indian students in particular, it may have a profound transformative effect. “Although they live in economically poor communities, with many household responsibilities before and after school, they were open to one another, to the rich world of art and the imagination, and moved to a new level of consciousness—of self-worth and possibility.”

Off the phrenological chart: De Leon's work illuminates gray matter.

Brain Man

Pioneering neuroscientist Mony de Leon '69 uses computer imaging to study aging

By Leslie Jay

A fake newscaster is only as good as his sources. So in August 2007, when "The Daily Show" anchor Jon Stewart sought insight into the spate of memory lapses among prominent Republicans, he interviewed one of the nation's top brain experts: Mony de Leon '69. Dapper in a beige jacket and open-collared black shirt, the founder of the Center for Brain Health at New York University's medical school kept a straight face as he separated the right and left hemispheres of a detailed plastic model brain. "The hard part is putting it back together," he quipped.

De Leon sees a lot of people with brains that are, in effect, broken: He specializes in Alzheimer's disease. The term entered the medical lexicon a little over a century ago, after German psychiatrist Alois Alzheimer autopsied a middle-aged woman who had developed adult-onset dementia. In a paper he presented in 1906, Alzheimer attributed her deterioration to anomalies he saw in her brain. The same abnormalities were documented postmortem in countless cases. But doctors who suspected Alzheimer's in living people had to make educated guesses, based on patients' symptoms and behavior. By giving doctors their first diagnostic tool, de Leon revolutionized an entire branch of medicine.

He hadn't planned to enter the field—or QC. "My parents didn't have the money to send me to Cornell," comments the Forest Hills native. "I had wanted to be a marine biologist. So I found another subject I was interested in." After getting a bachelor's degree in psychology, he went back to his alma mater for a master's. Behavioral experiments with animals held little appeal. But an internship working with elderly residents of Nethanya, Israel, piqued de Leon's curiosity about the aging human brain.

"There were these shacks filled with old people who weren't functional," he recalls. "Nobody looked after them. I surveyed these communities and proposed consolidated services." De Leon, who had left the QC grad program, set up a support system to provide clients with vocational services and medical volunteers. Then his budget was eliminated. "I quit," he says, still peeved about the episode. "I decided to get a doctorate, return to Israel, and secure funding in Jerusalem."

Instead, his career took another serendipitous turn. As a grad student at Columbia University in 1976, he heard that New York University was using a new kind of x-ray—the CAT scan—to evaluate potential participants in clinical trials. The films were being used to determine whether an individual had tumors or had suffered a stroke. On a hunch that more information could

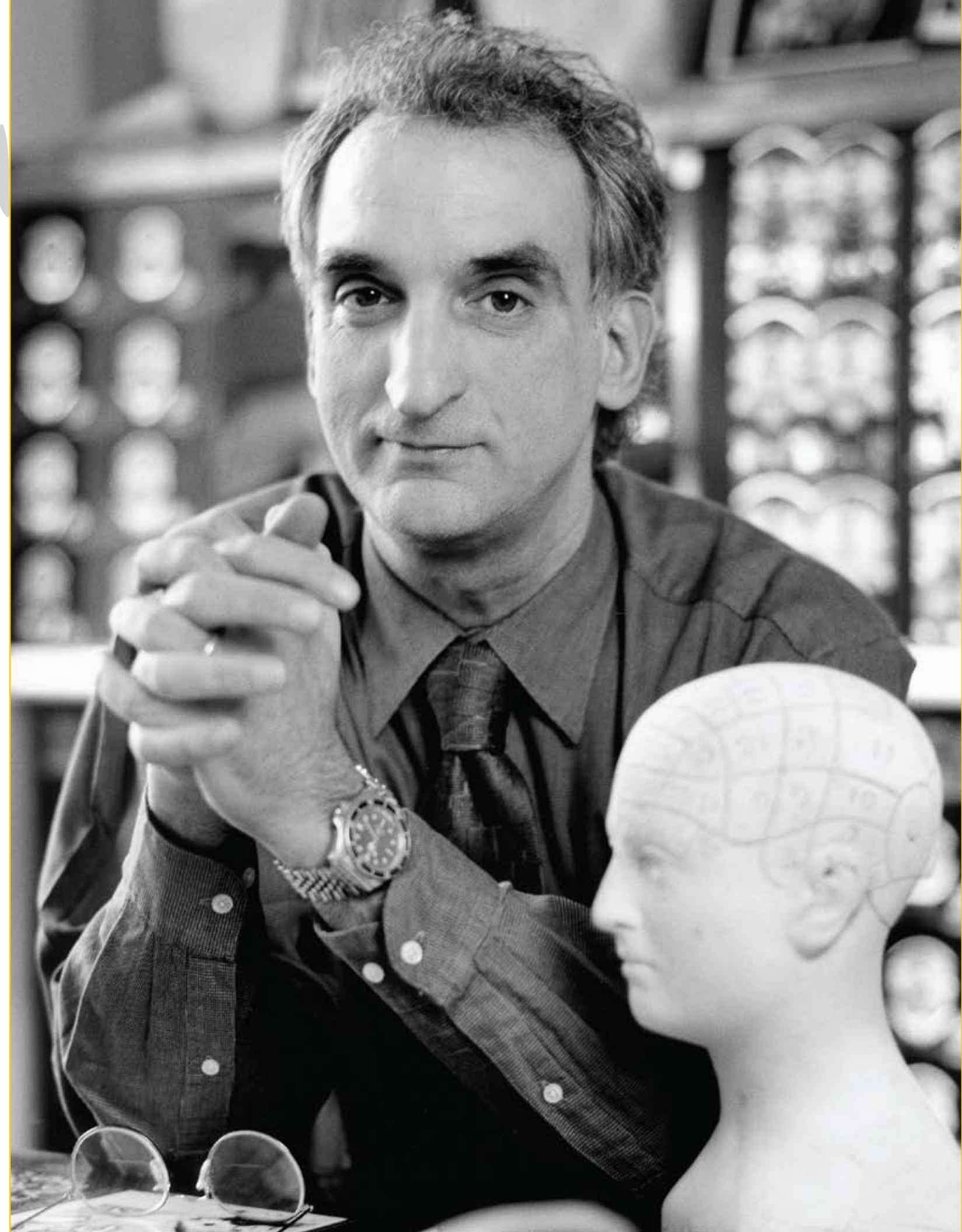
be gleaned, de Leon requested, and got, access to the scans, which showed cortical atrophy and ventricular enlargement in Alzheimer's patients. The *Lancet* published his groundbreaking paper on the subject in 1979. The next year, upon completion of his doctorate, de Leon won a psychiatry and radiology fellowship at NYU.

He has stayed there ever since, becoming a professor in the med school's psychiatry department and establishing the university's Neuroimaging Laboratory. Some might be depressed by de Leon's specialty. An upbeat sort, he's more disturbed by the decrease in government subsidies for science. "This war is taking away our money," he declares. "There is a direct relationship between spending money on a war and money for health care."

Nonetheless, he finds a way to stay in business. Each year, as a collaborative service to the research community, de Leon trains about 10 scientists from around the world in brain-imaging techniques and disease evaluation. In recognition of his contributions, he was voted "world's pioneer in the brain imaging of Alzheimer's disease" in 2006, at a conference in Tübingen, Germany, commemorating the centennial of Dr. Alzheimer's presentation.

The author of more than 200 papers, de Leon continues to use the latest technologies to develop early diagnostic and biological markers for Alzheimer's. "Our greatest accomplishments are in the area of early diagnostics," he says. "Now we are trying to launch the first prevention studies. The benefit of a drug has to outweigh its risk for the individual. This makes correct diagnosis extremely important, as some drugs do carry risks. Longitudinal studies [which follow participants over time and attempt to predict the future diagnosis] are the basis of the existing knowledge, and more are being designed."

One longitudinal Center for Brain Health study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, tracks adults over an 18-month period to determine whether semiannual neuroimaging can predict the onset of Alzheimer's and monitor its progression. This program is open to members of the general public who would like risk evaluation or want to learn about their brain and its function. "Everyone has a parent who is sick or knows someone who is," observes de Leon. "If people want this disease cured, it means getting their sneakers on and coming over here." Would-be study participants can email de Leon (mony.deleon@med.nyu.edu). (For the story of someone who did this, see page 12.)



Mind Games

Our fearless reporter volunteers to be a lab rat

What won't I do to get out of the office? I decide to take Mony de Leon up on his challenge and lend my body to science.

I have supreme confidence in my memory. So do my family and friends. When my husband wants to remember something, he tells me about it instead of jotting it down. Consequently, I'm more than a little mortified to find myself unable to name all 10 items on a grocery list moments after Marla Guzman, a research assistant at New York University's Center for Brain Health, reads them to me during a neuroimaging study funded by the National Institutes of Health. When Guzman repeats the list, I pick up two of the three missing items; I don't nail all of them until my next attempt. Perhaps lab rats fear failure, too.

The goal of this study is to find out if brain scans can help clinicians anticipate the onset of Alzheimer's disease and follow its development. Because forgetfulness is an early symptom of Alzheimer's, participants in this project—open to generally healthy adults age 21 to 90—undergo a battery of memory tests three times, six months apart. They also get a basic physical, a brain MRI, and an LP, which is medical slang for lumbar puncture, a nicer way of saying "spinal tap." ("We use really thin needles," swears Guzman.) What won't I do to get out of the office? I decide to take Mony de Leon up on his challenge (see story p. 10) and lend my body to science.

Designed to measure different domains of cognitive function, many of the tests seem easy: Listen to a brief story and repeat it verbatim; listen to 10 pairs of unrelated words and repeat them; tackle a different task and then try to recite the story all over again. Alas, I get the gist of the story but can't recite more than a line or two, and my performance deteriorates after the interruption. I retain barely half of the word pairs by finding connections between them: "Zebra" and "cockroach" are both living things!

After looking at a series of odd polygonal shapes with numerals on them, I can't supply the numbers absent from otherwise identical images. Never did like geometry. But at this point, I have to wonder: Am I, at age 51, beginning to lose it? Every so often, I misplace my house keys. Worse yet, when I'm watching "Law & Order" reruns, I sometimes struggle to come up with the names of famous guest

stars—a problem only because I used to be an entertainment writer. I know of no Alzheimer's cases in my family, apart from Sy, who was my mother's second cousin. Still ...

I fare much better on exercises that allow me to apply pencil to paper: staring at a line figure and subsequently drawing it from memory; writing a sentence; and scrawling across a page to link numbers and then alternating numbers and letters in an abstract version of "Connect the Dots." "That was fast," says Guzman, whom I now consider my best friend even as I suspect her of lying about the needles for the LP. I breeze through a computer test that requires me to take virtual colored beads off one or more poles and arrange them in a specific pattern in the fewest possible moves. I make mathematic calculations in my head; I correctly define a bunch of words. My skills would win me a place in the city's most exclusive nursery schools.

"A young one," say the doctors conducting this study—psychiatrist Pauline McHugh and anesthesiologist Michael Haile (who is training in cognitive assessment at the Center for Brain Health)—when we meet. They check my vital signs and talk to me for 90 minutes, uncovering nothing worrisome. The nagging sense that on occasion my brain has downshifted? "That's normal for your age," says Haile, at the end of the interview. "You're high-functioning, so you notice little things more."

The brain MRI is uneventful; ditto the dreaded lumbar puncture, which feels like an old-fashioned tuberculin test, except that after an LP the patient has to sit up straight in a chair or couch for about four hours to avert a headache, a rare complication. The radiologist's assistant calls a car for me and sends me home, where I station myself on the living room couch with a phone, some magazines, and the remote control for the television. Can't wait to do this again.—Leslie Jay



Psyched about Teaching and Research

Healthy changes are taking place at QC's Department of Psychology. Over half of the current faculty have been hired since 1999. The department now offers undergraduate majors in psychology and neuroscience, a post-baccalaureate program in applied behavior analysis, a general master's degree in psychology, and a clinical and behavior analysis master's program. New MA programs in behavioral neuroscience and applied behavior analysis have been proposed. Two CUNY doctoral subprograms—in learning processes and neuropsychology—are based on the Queens College campus.

"We maintain the tradition of providing undergraduate and graduate students with a fundamental understanding of the science of psychology," says acting department chair Ray Johnson, Jr. "We offer hands-on research training by internationally recognized faculty who teach both the psychology and neuroscience of real-world problems such as Alzheimer's disease, autism, schizophrenia, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorders, mental retardation, mood disorders, neurocognitive disorders, and drug addiction."

The roster includes Distinguished Professor Jeffrey Halperin, an AD/HD authority who was featured in ads on New York City buses and subways as well as on the CUNY TV station; developmental disability expert Peter Sturmey, who just published three books on the clinical applications of applied behavior analysis; and neuroscientist Susan Croll, recipient of a Queens College Presidential Excellence in Teaching Award in 2007. This year's new hires are Anil Chacko and Emily Jones, who specialize, respectively, in disruptive behavior disorders in children, and autism and Down syndrome.

Nancy Foldi



Foldi (left) encourages QC students—such as Georgina Damjanac '09, a double major in psychology and neuroscience—to participate in research projects.

psychological function of aging for 25 years and taught at QC for nine.

"The brain does not stop developing at age 20 or 21. It continues to develop, and as the brain ages in healthy people, it does things differently. We don't completely understand why," says Foldi, who points out that much of the existing neurological data was collected from people with impairments or brain disorders. To address that gap, she is leading a QC study of well elderly, giving simple computerized tasks to 200 men and women, age 18 to 90, some of them recruited from local senior centers.

The daughter of an opera singer who moved his career and family to Switzerland, Foldi speaks French, German, and Swiss-German, but not

any Asian languages, unfortunately. "The attention tasks can be used in diverse populations, but many of the other cognitive tests are normed in English," she observes. "It would help to know some Chinese dialects."

At Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, where she is Director of Neuropsychology in the geriatrics division of the department of medicine, she sees elderly people who are less healthy. "In the early stages, patients with Alzheimer's disease become very easily overwhelmed," explains Foldi. "Handling activities that they had managed before becomes harder."

Neuroscientists are debating which deteriorates first: memory, or the attentional mechanism in the brain that helps to select and emphasize what should be remembered. To help resolve this question, another one of Foldi's studies, based at Winthrop and funded entirely by the Alzheimer's Association, is investigating how medications used to treat Alzheimer's affect a person's ability to concentrate.

An essential part of her research is to involve students. When they work with Foldi, they get the chance to interact with people of all ages; it's an eye-opener for younger students to meet adults in their 90s. "I get the biggest kick out of seeing students when they take histories and hear people say, 'Yes, I was in the siege of Odessa,' or 'I worked on the Hubble,' or 'I had 14 children,'" she says. "It's absolutely imperative to train neuropsychologists to work with the elderly, including the well elderly. We're all going to be older, so we'd better know what we're doing."

Age-old Mystery

QC Professor Nancy Foldi studies how the elderly brain functions, or doesn't

By Leslie Jay

If asked to choose between heart and mind, Nancy Foldi (Psychology) would put all her money on the latter—as a research area. "No offense to cardiologists, but the brain is the most amazing organ in the body," she says. At QC—a center for neuroscience—plenty of colleagues would agree with her.

"The QC-CUNY doctoral subprogram in neuropsychology is exactly the kind of program I was looking for [as a student]," comments Foldi. In effect, she created her own curriculum. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in linguistics before switching to psychology, completing an MA and PhD from Clark University in Massachusetts, and pre- and postdoctoral fellowships in the psychiatry department at Harvard Medical School. When her post-doc ended in 1983, Foldi went to Mount Sinai School of Medicine as the first Director of Neuropsychology in the newly opened Department of Geriatrics and Adult Development. She has specialized in the neuro-



**Former campus activists look back
at their roles in the civil rights movement
that culminated in the election
of Barack Obama**

MAKING PROGRESS

By Anne Seltzer

Protesting racially discriminatory employment practices at the 1964 New York World’s Fair got first-time arrestee Dena Weisman Fisher ’65 a three-day stay in the Women’s House of Detention and a free pass on a math test. “I had missed an important exam while I was in prison, and the professor told me that wasn’t a valid excuse, so I would fail the course,” she recalls. But department head Banesh Hoffmann intervened, telling the professor to award Fisher, a top student, an *A* for the class without any makeup session whatsoever.

The American civil rights struggle erupted on many fronts and involved many members of the QC community, symbolized tragically by undergraduate Andrew Goodman, who was murdered in June 1964 with James Chaney and Michael Schwerner; all three were part of a voter registration drive in Mississippi. In 1989 QC honored these men by hosting a reunion for former volunteers. Now, as the 45th anniversary of Freedom Summer approaches, the college is taking another look at the contributions of students, faculty, and staffers.

In a course led by David Gerwin (Secondary Education), graduate students involved in the methodology of oral history are interviewing

members of the 1960s generation. Bob Wintermute (History) is seeking funding for a February 2009 colloquium that would pair QC activists with scholars of the period, “to bridge the gaps



QC activists took a group photo during their reunion at Homecoming last September. From left, top row: Deborah Yaffe, Wally Rosenthal, Stan Shaw, Jean Stein Konzal, Art Gatti, Elliot Linzer, Mike Wenger, and former QC Professor Sidney B. Simon. Bottom Row: Dena Weisman Fisher, Erik Rosenthal, Walter Jarski, Mark Levy, Nancy Cooper Samstein, Lucy Komisar. At left: Poster requesting information about the missing Andrew Goodman and his colleagues.

about what we know,” he says. At the upcoming Virginia Frese Palmer Conference, an annual Women’s History Month event, distinguished alumnae will discuss “Women, Queens College, and the Civil Rights Movement” (March 16). And at this spring’s Commencement—when legendary civil rights leader Rep. John Lewis will receive an honorary doctorate—a ceremony will salute 1960s alums who fought for social change.

Nancy Bareis

Their efforts merit attention. QC undergraduates joined campus chapters of the Congress of Racial Equality and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, tutored children through the South Jamaica Student Help Project, and demonstrated at the World’s Fair and at local Woolworths. (In 1960, after the chain’s Greensboro, North Carolina branch refused to serve African Americans at the whites-only lunch counter, protestors targeted the company.) Some alumni ventured across the Mason-Dixon line. With Rachel Weddington (Education), they led classes for black students in Prince Edward County, Virginia, which had shut public schools in 1963 to stave off integration; they volunteered in voter registration drives in Mississippi in 1964; and they returned to the state the next summer with Sidney Simon (Education) to rebuild churches burned down by white supremacists.

Visiting campus last September for a Homecoming event organized by Freedom Summer veteran Mark Levy ’64, about 15 alums recalled a time that altered political and personal destinies.

“It was life-changing,” said Michael Wenger ’65, who taught in Jamaica and Prince Edward County and became a public school teacher in West Virginia; his work as a community organizer led to positions in local and state government. In 1997–98, he was deputy director for outreach and program development for President Bill Clinton’s Initiative on Race. Currently Wenger is an adjunct professor of sociology at George Washington University.

Investigative journalist Lucy Komisar ’64, a recipient of Guggenheim and MacArthur Foundation fellowships, found her calling in 1962–63 while editing the *Mississippi Free Press*, a civil rights weekly. Her resume includes a term as vice president of the National Organization for Women (1970–71) and writing about democracy movements in the developing world. “I rode in a van in El Salvador with the nuns who were later murdered,” Komisar said. Today she tracks offshore bank and corporate secrecy; her freelance articles are copied on her blog, The Komisar Scoop.

Fisher—formerly assistant commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Health, now the executive director of Seeds of Peace, which brings Israeli and Palestinian youth together for conflict resolution—identified herself as a red diaper baby whose family endorsed civil disobedience. “If I hadn’t been arrested by the time I was 18, I couldn’t have gone home,” she declared. In the 1980s, Fisher defied the U.S. embargo to travel to Nicaragua with solidarity organizations delivering humanitarian supplies and computers.

Nonetheless, top honors in the law-breaking category went to freelance book indexer Elliot Linzer ’67, who has been jailed five times to date. Working under Bayard Rustin, he helped organize the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Linzer subsequently became the first draft resister in New York to be declared 1-A Delinquent. “I sued the Selective Service and won,” he announced, to the applause of fellow activists.

Levy, who recently retired as executive director of medical residents’ union CIR/SEIU, collects stories like these from his QC contemporaries. His goal: To preserve their oral histories and archive their materials on campus. “When I retired, I came across big boxes of old photographs and files, many now yellowing and cracking,” he says. “History is useful to pass along.”



Newlyweds Betty Bollinger Levy ’63 (far left) and Mark Levy ’64 (standing at right), co-coordinators of the Meridian Mississippi Freedom School, joined students in July 1964 on the steps of the Baptist seminary that provided space for their work.

**“Many alumni can tell
inspiring stories about what
they did when they were
young and how they have
led lives committed to social
justice and public service.”**

–Mark Levy ’64, Freedom Summer veteran who is spearheading a project to create an on-campus archive documenting the work Queens College volunteers did in the 1960s.





Dramatic developments

By Jennie Mindlin

Travel expands the mind, particularly when the itinerary is built around a college-level class. So in 2007 Susan Einhorn (Drama) and Clare Carroll (Irish Studies) began creating an interdisciplinary course to be offered through Study Abroad. “Susan and I wanted to bring students to study in Ireland and soak up the culture,” says Carroll. “But we also wanted them to perform the play on campus. There’s so much wonderful Irish drama, and Queens College had never done an Irish play.” A year after its inception, their project, Teaching Theatre in Cultural Context, would win them a President’s Grant for Innovative Teaching.

For their primary texts, Einhorn and Carroll chose two dramas that figure prominently in Irish literary history: *The Playboy of the Western World*, by turn-of-the-20th-century author J.M. Synge, and *Translations*, by present-day playwright Brian Friel, who has cited Synge as an influence. To supplement classroom activities, the professors planned field trips, such as an excursion to the Aran Island cottage Synge lived in while he studied the Irish language. They also got tickets to professional theatrical productions and set up events that allowed students to mingle with their counterparts at the National University of Ireland Galway, where Irish Drama in Context was taught in June 2008 with the collaboration of NUIG Professor Nessa Cronin.

For a month, the class’s 16 CUNY undergraduates, all but three from QC, were immersed in their subject matter at every turn. “It’s the difference between conducting research and going out the door,” explains Einhorn. “You don’t control the way the material hits you; it’s much more visceral.” Perhaps for that reason, participants were exceptionally motivated. “Students were so engaged,” continues Einhorn. “They absorbed everything.”

“Everyone was really into it,” agrees Media Studies major Jamie McCullagh ’09, an Irish Studies minor who, as her name suggests, has Hibernian roots on her father’s side. “I took the course as an opportunity to read the literature of the west.” (The “Western World” in Synge’s title refers to the rugged territory on and near Ireland’s west coast.) One of only four non-actors in the group, McCullagh didn’t have to attend all the drama sessions. In her free time, she explored Galway, visiting a used bookstore, sampling frozen Bulmers hard cider, and—once—helping a squeamish local fisherman bait his hook with maggots. “I did it partly to show I was a good tourist,” she adds.

Locked into six days a week of classes and rehearsals, the drama students squeezed in their own encounters with contemporary Ireland. First-time trans-Atlantic traveler Matthew Wood ’09 was delighted by his housing—in a building alongside a picturesque canal—and its proximity to Monroe’s Pub. “Every weekend, Monroe’s had Celtic dancing,” he says. “We met up

there with NUIG theater students, who taught us the basics.”

Back on the QC campus last fall, Wood and many of his Study Abroad classmates drew on their experiences as they began rehearsing *Playboy*, a dark comedy. The plot follows the fortunes of fugitive Christy Mahon, who captivates an entire village with his claim that he killed his father. Although it seems fairly tame by contemporary standards, the three-act play caused riots with its 1907 debut at Dublin’s Abbey Theatre.

To make sure that the work would enjoy a better reception in Flushing, Einhorn relied on people with Irish expertise. Professional dialect coach Stephen Gabis, a Broadway veteran, helped cast members refine their accents. Then, during the first two weeks of October, the performers got pointers from Belfast-born movie star Stephen Rea, who visited QC as an artist-in-residence. Perhaps best known to American audiences for his Oscar-nominated role in *The Crying Game*, Rea has an extensive stage resume, including an acclaimed turn early in his career as Christy in a production of *Playboy* mounted by Britain’s National Theatre.

“It’s the greatest Irish play we have in the English language,” says the actor. A longtime supporter of Irish Studies—to perpetuate the Irish language, he has sent both his sons, now teenagers, to a school where all subjects are taught in it—Rea sat in on literature and history classes and participated in two question-and-answer sessions. The first, for students, was moderated by Carroll; Kevin Whelan, professor of history at Notre Dame University in Dublin, presided over the second, held at the conclusion of *Playboy*’s opening night on October 16.

“I’m very susceptible to being asked to do things,” remarks Rea. “If people are interested in Irish theater and I can contribute to their understanding, why not?”

“Rea was so down-to-earth,” comments Wood, who portrayed Shawn Keogh, Christy’s romantic rival, and rethought his characterization after getting notes from the visiting coach. “The next day, I came to rehearsal and I was a new Shawn.” The experience of studying drama in Ireland and then presenting a play here, says Wood, “helped my confidence as a person and an actor.”

Faculty members are equally thrilled with the results. Carroll and Irish history lecturer Patrick McGough are planning a return trip to Ireland, this time focusing on music. Drama, Theatre & Dance Department Chair Charles Repole envisions holding interdisciplinary courses elsewhere in the world. “This program and this class worked,” concludes Repole, who heard raves from the participants. “It’s a template to look at, say, Athens. Maybe we could do a play at the Acropolis.” Actually, Einhorn is putting together a theatrical venture for a different Grecian site: Colonus.

Right: Advice from celebrated Irish actor Stephen Rea (right) makes the role of Christy clearer to Max Roll ’10, the lead in QC’s recent production of *Playboy of the Western World*. Above: Elyse Price ’09, and Pam Jusino ’09, portraying village residents, vie for Roll’s attention.



Nancy Bareis

FIVE DECADES OF Outwitting Viruses

Albert Kapikian '52 leads the laboratory battle against lethal intestinal disease

“We have stayed ahead of many illnesses—like smallpox, polio, and measles—because of the development of vaccines. Vaccines have been a tremendous boon,” observes Albert Z. Kapikian '52. At age 78 he leads the effort at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to keep at bay the highly contagious stomach and intestinal diseases caused by viruses.

The numbers are daunting. Each year over 500,000 children under the age of 5, mostly in developing countries, die because of severe diarrhea caused by rotaviruses; in the U.S., 55,000-70,000 children in this same age group are hospitalized for rotavirus infection.



In his 51-year career, Kapikian and his colleagues have made enormous strides in researching viral diseases and creating vaccines that one day may greatly diminish those numbers, just as a vaccine made the iron lung a rarity. Over 50 years ago, Albert B. Sabin developed a live vaccine that children could swallow on a sugar cube to prevent polio. The fact that the Sabin Gold Medal was awarded to Kapikian in 2005 testifies to his renown as “the father of human gastroenteritis virus research.”

Joining NIH in 1957, Kapikian entered what he refers to as “the golden age of virology.” A decade later, he became head of the epidemiology section of the Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, a part of the NIH. He still holds that post.

By examining infectious samples with an electron microscope in 1972, Kapikian discovered the first virus to be linked to acute epidemic gastroenteritis, the Norwalk virus, which has become the first member of the norovirus group of viruses. Noroviruses yearly cause up to 200,000 deaths in developing countries in children under 5 years of age. They are also the leading cause of both total gastroenteritis and foodborne gastroenteritis in the U.S. (about 23 million cases yearly).

In 1973 Kapikian and two colleagues identified the virus that causes hepatitis A. They also pinpointed a previously unrecognized disease, non A–non B post-transfusion hepatitis, now known as hepatitis C. Kapikian was the first U.S. researcher to detect and visualize the human rotavirus, and along with other researchers found it to be the most important culprit in severe diarrheal disease in the young.

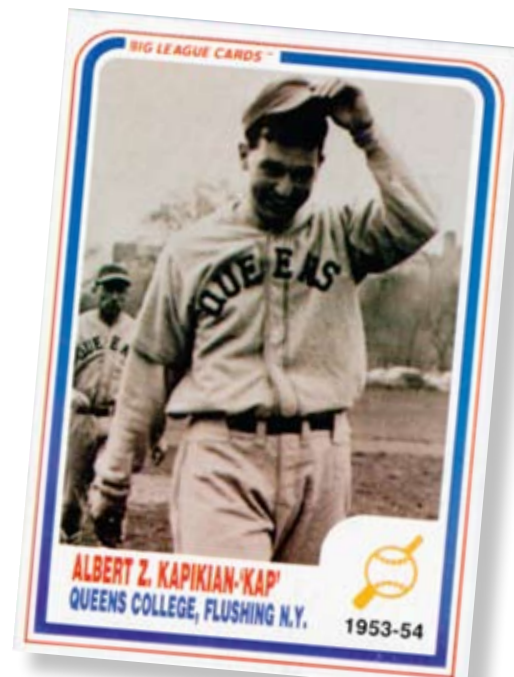
Kapikian spent 25 years guiding the effort to develop the first licensed oral rotavirus vaccine (RotaShield™) for diarrhea. It was licensed by the FDA in the U.S. in 1998. Later that year, he

and three others received the Pasteur Award from the Children’s Vaccine Initiative. But when a small number of adverse results were found, the vaccine was withdrawn—a risk/benefit decision many still question. Kapikian’s work since then has led to NIH licensing a candidate second-generation rotavirus vaccine to companies in developing countries.

Though he studies sub-microscopic infectious agents, Kapikian maintains a widescreen outlook on life. “One of the greatest gifts that has been given to me,” the former pre-med major and history minor says, “is the broad liberal arts background we received at Queens College.” As a result, he loves French literature, classical music, history, and the arts.

College did require some tough choices for this student of Armenian descent who grew up playing stoopball on the streets of Queens. Because QC orchestra rehearsals conflicted with baseball practice, he opted for pitching instead of the violin. Baseball “was pretty egalitarian,” he recalls. “A school like Queens without any scholarship players could play and beat any school on a given day. I admired our coach Robert Tierney and stayed in contact with him until his recent death.”

Kapikian earned his MD at Cornell University in New York City in 1956. His wife, Catherine, creates religious tapestries, and they have three sons. “I feel blessed that I can work full-time,” says Kapikian, who shows no signs of slowing down. He is especially eager to “get our rotavirus vaccine to developing countries. The beauty of it is that it will be manufactured at low cost” in countries such as India, China, and Brazil for their own populations and for other countries in Asia and Africa, and therefore have sustainability.—*Donna Shoemaker*



LEGAL Eagle

Joyce Tischler '74 flies in the face of convention to create precedents for animal rights

It was not unusual in the Middle Ages for courts to hear cases against insects and animals, sentencing the guilty to banishment, excommunication, and even death. Modern animal lovers can attribute today’s more tolerant legal view of animals to lawyer Joyce Tischler '74, co-founder of the Animal Legal Defense Fund (ALDF). “Animals are sentient beings,” insists Tischler, who has the luxury of being able to claim that all her clients are innocent.

Her inclinations manifested themselves early. “As soon as I could walk around the block, I was finding injured birds and bringing home cats I thought were homeless,” says the Queens native, who grew up in Flushing and Fresh Meadows alongside two older siblings and a sheltie named Princess. “When I was six and my turtle died, I held a formal funeral.” Animal welfare wouldn’t be her only concern. At 15 she volunteered for the presidential campaign of Senator Eugene McCarthy.

Planning to become an attorney, the young activist came to QC a few years later, majoring in political science. She enjoyed communications courses with Prof. Russel Windes, too. “I took every class of his I could,” she notes. Tischler put almost as much energy into looking after the college’s resident feline colony. “Fairly early on in my freshman year, I noticed the cats in tiny wooden houses outside the library,” she recalls. “I met other

people who were feeding them and taking care of them. Some of the cats were feral; we didn’t know the word for it at the time.”

Bolstered by cats who had been dumped, the population kept growing, and so did the ailurophiles’ expenses. Spaying and neutering animals was particularly costly. “We were several thousand dollars in debt to local veterinarians,” says Tischler. A sympathetic art professor designed a Campus Cats T-shirt; by selling it, the rescuers—who found homes for almost all of their wards—raised enough money to pay their medical bills.

With her personal debt load at a manageable level, Tischler could afford to leave town upon graduating: She enrolled in the University of San Diego School of Law, where she thrived, making law review. She published an article on animal rights, the only topic that interested her.

Hired by a San Francisco firm that did real estate and development work, she moved to the Bay area, where in her spare time she linked up with attorneys who shared her concern for animal rights. In early 1981 one of her colleagues got an SOS from the Animal Protection Institute (API): The U.S. Navy was killing hundreds of wild burros who roamed near the military airfield in China Lake in the Mojave Desert. Staying up all night to draft documents before the next round of shooting, Tischler filed suit—and got a temporary restraining order. “I spent the next eight months negotiating with the Navy, and we removed a bunch of burros,” she reports. “No more were shot.”

API executives offered the victorious lawyer a job; instead of accepting, she asked for a grant. “They graciously gave us \$6000, and I became the first full-time employee of the Animal Legal Defense Fund,” says Tischler. “The first 10 years were very difficult,” she continues. “I lived on credit cards.”

Today, the ALDF has a \$4 million budget, more than 110,000 members, and a dog-friendly headquarters in Cotati, California, north of San Francisco. Through its lawsuits, the organization has rescued dogs from hoarders and chimpanzees from trainers who beat them; it has been involved in custody battles, landlord-tenant disputes, and a ground-breaking, albeit unsuccessful, 1988 effort to block the U.S. Patent Office from awarding patents for genetically altered animals.

“Over the years we have learned our trade and developed the law as it relates to animals,” Tischler observes. “We’re constantly looking for new legal theories. We focus our civil litigation on cases in which recovery goes directly to animals. We also assist prosecutors who are handling cruelty cases, find expert witnesses, file *amicus curiae* briefs, and conduct legal research.”

Practicing what she preaches, Tischler is a strict vegan. “I don’t eat my clients,” she declares. “If more lawyers acted this way, we’d have a better reputation.” Widowed in 2003—when her husband, a stained-glass artist, died of lung cancer—she lives with her teenage daughter and many rescued animal companions.

Known to her admirers as the “mother of Animal Law,” Tischler wields influence far beyond her immediate family. “When I was in law school, there were no animal law classes,” she says. “Today, animal law is taught in 100 law schools. Law students tell me they’re going to law school in order to practice animal law. Some of the largest firms in the United States are offering their services to us to do pro bono work, which stretches our resources. I’m very optimistic about the future of animal law; it’s mainstream now.”—*Leslie Jay*



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1SUN

CLASSIC HITS FOR KIDS: PERCUSSION

LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm. \$12. Ages 6–12.
Co-presented with the Lawrence Eisman
Center for Preparatory Studies in Music at
QC.

14SAT

HOT 8 BRASS BAND

LeFrak Concert Hall, 8 pm.
\$22/\$20 seniors, students,
QC alumni, QCID.

24TUE

QC EVENING READINGS

*A Roundtable on How Fiction
Works*

With Peter Carey, E.L. Doctorow &
James Wood. Moderated by
Leonard Lopate.

Music Building, 7 pm. \$20 at door.
Information: call 718-997-4646 or
visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings.



Hot 8 Brass Band



MARCH

1SUN

CONCERTANTE

Works by Strauss, Bridge, and Mendelssohn.

LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm. \$36/\$34 seniors,
students, QC alumni, QCID.

7SAT

INCREDIBLE ACROBATS OF CHINA

Colden Auditorium, 3 pm. \$14. All ages.

8SUN

CLASSIC HITS FOR KIDS: CONCERTI

LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm. \$12. Ages 6–12.

10TUE

QC EVENING READINGS CYNTHIA OZICK

Ms. Ozick will read from her work and
be interviewed by Leonard Lopate.

Music Building, 7 pm. \$15 at door.
Information: call 718-997-4646 or visit
www.qc.cuny.edu/readings.

14SAT

JON REGEN TRIO

LeFrak Concert Hall, 8 pm. \$22/\$20 seniors,
students, QC alumni, QCID.

20–22

FRI–SUN



alumni, QCID.

ANYTHING GOES

Directed by Charles
Repole. Music and
lyrics by Cole Porter.

Goldstein Theatre,
Fri., 8 pm & Sun., 3 pm.
\$15/\$13, seniors, stu-
dents, QC alumni, QCID;
Sat., 8 pm. \$18/\$16,
seniors, students,

22SUN

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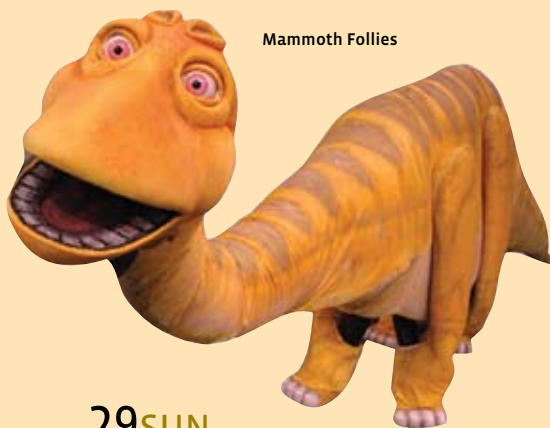
Works by Bach, Bach/Stokowski, Mozart,
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students, QC alumni, QCID.

26–29THU–SUN

ANYTHING GOES

Goldstein Theatre, Thurs., 7 pm, Fri., 8 pm &
Sun., 3 pm. \$15/\$13, seniors, students, QC
alumni, QCID; Sat., 8 pm. \$18/\$16, seniors,
students, alumni, QCID.



Mammoth Follies

29SUN

MAMMOTH FOLLIES HUDSON VAGABOND PUPPETS

Colden Auditorium, 2 pm. \$12. Ages 3 and up.

31TUE

QC EVENING READINGS PHILLIP LOPATE

Mr. Lopate will read from his work and be
interviewed by his brother, Leonard Lopate.

Music Building, 7 pm. \$15 at door. Information:
call 718-997-4646 or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings.

APRIL

4SAT

CLASSIC HITS FOR KIDS: OPERA

LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm. \$12. Ages 6–12.



Jane Monheit

11SAT

JANE MONHEIT

LeFrak Concert Hall, 8
pm. \$26/\$24 seniors, stu-
dents, QC alumni, QCID.

19SUN

CIRQUE USA ODYSSEY

Colden Auditorium, 3 pm. \$14. Ages 5 and up.



Cirque USA Odyssey

25SAT

AN EVENING WITH DIONNE WARWICK

Colden Auditorium,
8 pm. \$44 orch./\$40
mezz. \$2 discount for
seniors, students,
alumni, QCID, QTIP.
Co-presenter, Queens
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26SUN

ANNE AKIKO MEYERS, VIOLIN

Works by Miyagi, Taki, Schubert, Piazzolla,
Vaughan Williams.

LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm. \$36/\$34 seniors,
students, QC alumni, QCID.

28TUE

QC EVENING READINGS

*A 50th Anniversary Celebration of the
Work of Philip Roth*

With Philip Roth, Norman Manea, Greil
Marcus, Joyce Carol Oates & Norman Rush

Music Building, 7 pm. \$20 at door. Information:
call 718-997-4646 or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings.

APRIL 30–MAY 3 AND MAY 6–9

WED–SUN

IN THE BLOOD

A play by Suzan-Lori Parks

A modernization of Hawthorne's *The
Scarlet Letter*.

King Hall, Little Theatre, Wed.–Thurs., 7 pm,
Fri.–Sat., 8 pm & Sun., 3 pm. \$14/\$12 seniors,
students, alumni, QCID. Tickets available at
door one hour before each performance.

MAY

17SUN

AWADAGIN PRATT, PIANO & ZUILL BAILEY, CELLO

Works by Bach, Shostakovich, Mendelssohn,
and Brahms.

LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm. \$36/\$34
seniors, students, QC alumni, QCID.

Kupferberg Center Performances is supported
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After years of struggle, Sunnegårdh hasn't let stardom go to her head; here, she sings the title role in Richard Strauss's *Salome*.

NO LONGER ANYONE'S Substitute

Erika Sunnegårdh '99 reaches the top stages in her operatic career

More often than not, the heroines of grand operas endure all sorts of miseries before succumbing to tuneless bouts of disease or violence. Fortunately, the career of Erika Sunnegårdh '99 has followed a different trajectory. In April 2006 the Swedish-born soprano filled in as Leonore in the Metropolitan Opera's production of *Fidelio*. Since then, she's been a hot property in concert halls all over the world.

Her overnight success was years in the making, but in hind-

sight it seems inevitable. If there's a gene for singing, Sunnegårdh probably inherited it. She grew up in Stockholm, where her father was a vocal professor at the Royal Academy of Music and the chorus master of the Royal Opera of Stockholm; her mother, a soprano who had retired from the stage, taught voice at home after her husband died. "I sometimes run into people who remember that I sat under the piano when she was teaching," Sunnegårdh says.

After a flirtation with dance, the teenaged Erika realized that she had greater aptitude for music and concluded, "don't swim upstream if you can ride the waves." To immerse herself, the choir school alum went outside Sweden, enrolling in the Manhattan School of Music. "There was anonymity," Sunnegårdh explains. "I needed to be able to fail without everyone knowing about it." She also attended the Israel Vocal Arts Institute, Tanglewood Music Center, the Britten-Pears School for Advanced Musical Studies, and the International Institute of Vocal Arts.

For graduate work, she craved a supportive environment, and found it at QC's Aaron Copland School of Music. Unlike, say, a pianist or a violinist, a classical singer has to refine her instrument while learning how to use it. The process can be slow and frustrating. "I had hit the wall," Sunnegårdh admits. "When I came here, it was nurturing."

After completing her master's degree, she continued to take voice lessons, including some sessions with her mom. Skipping the lighter soubrette roles that many sopranos use as launch vehicles—"I couldn't wrap my voice around them"—she sang at recitals, church services, and funerals. She paid her rent by waitressing. The future superstar was in her late 30s when she auditioned for Sweden's Malmo Opera, which promptly signed her for the title role in the company's fall 2004 production of *Turandot*. "They were hard up," says Sunnegårdh, displaying an un-diva-ish penchant for self-deprecation.

Fascinated by her back story, Scandinavian critics hailed her debut in the demanding part. "[Her voice is] so rich in colors that one can actually sense a human being behind the icy Princess Turandot's superficial masque," reported the *Hallandsposten*, a Swedish daily. In 2005 the newcomer was in demand across Europe, hired for *Idomeneo* on Danish Radio, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra, and a concert version of *Lohengrin* in Spain with the celebrated conductor Semyon Bychkov.

The next year her profile rose even higher when she stepped in for an ailing Karita Mattila at the Met. Singing there "was an incredible blessing," observes Sunnegårdh. "It sparks curiosity. Then it's up to me to sing well. If I hadn't been ready, I would have been 'up like the sun, down like a pancake,' as we say in Swedish." Thrilled with her performance, the Met called her back for *The Magic Flute* and *Turandot*. The *New York Times* ran a rave review of the latter under the headline "A Substitute No More, a Soprano Gets Her Own Spotlight."

With opera schedules set far in advance, that soprano has bookings through 2011. Nonetheless, Sunnegårdh makes room in her calendar for concerts in smaller houses, such as QC's LeFrak Concert Hall, where her visits have the feeling of family reunions. "You don't get to be part of bigger machinery than the Met," she comments. "Some of the most rewarding experiences have little to do with that."—*Leslie Jay*



MODEL Student

Dewan Tarek '10 addresses a world of problems

When the professor for Research in United Nations took a sabbatical, Dewan Tarek convinced the chair of the political science department to let the college's Model UN Club manage the course, guided by a faculty advisor. Tarek, the head of the club and an accounting/finance major with a minor in political science, would be the teaching assistant.

A two-month effort to "recruit two dozen brand-new delegates and train them" paid off, Tarek notes. When QC's fledgling team of student ambassadors deployed their skills at the first annual CUNY Model United Nations Conference in March 2008, two members won awards for representing India and St. Lucia.

At a National Model UN Conference later that month, QC's 27-person team brought home the Outstanding Delegation award for representing Venezuela, plus another prize. Exceeding the portfolios of most teams, 12 students also represented Barbados on six committees. Then, at the National Model UN conference held right before the election in Washington, D.C., the team picked up two additional awards for representing Italy.

As head delegate for a college Model UN delegation, Tarek notes, "You're responsible for knowing every single thing about every different committee. If one of the delegates comes up with a question, I'm expected to know the answer."

Tarek understands why a world forum for peacekeeping is essential. His father served in the Bangladesh army for 16 years and in a United Nations battalion as part of the South Asia bloc's

reconstruction efforts following the genocide in Cambodia.

Tarek has guided the Model UN Club in efforts both compassionate and environmentally aware, including setting up collection boxes in affluent areas for unwanted cell phones and Blackberries. Now, instead of polluting landfills, these devices will be refurbished for use in the developing world.

Last June members of the club were in Flushing on the day a massive earthquake struck southwest China. They noticed how the Chinese community set up sidewalk tables to raise funds and sign up volunteers to fly in for the relief effort. In talking with the Tzu Chi Foundation, a nonprofit welfare organization coordinating the effort, says Tarek, "We had this idea." The idea became a fund-raiser in the college's LeFrak Concert Hall. Joined by other campus groups, members of the club organized the benefit, which included martial arts demonstrations, the donation of artworks for a silent auction, and Chinese music and cuisine. The evening raised \$7,000 for Tzu Chi's relief efforts.

Tarek—who left Bangladesh with his parents and brother in 1996—and other QC student leaders from immigrant backgrounds have been reaching out to the local community in other ways. Cristina Jiménez '07 (Ecuador), Jonathan Gilad '08 (Israel), and Tarek devoted two years to establishing the Dream Mentorship Program, which was recently awarded \$30,000 from the Queens College Foundation. The program enlists QC students to mentor local high school students from immigrant backgrounds to prepare them for college.

Tarek plans to become a CPA to help him pay for business school. With an MBA, he hopes to work for the UN under the auspices of either the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund, or the World Bank.—*Donna Shoemaker*



Najarian has been addressing medical needs in Armenia, her father's homeland, since an earthquake devastated the country in 1988.

DOCTOR WITH A Mission

Carolann Najarian '62 runs a foundation that brings aid to Armenia

Mountainous, landlocked Armenia—intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia, home to Mount Ararat, where Noah's Ark is said to have halted—Carolann Najarian '62 knows well. She has made over 50 trips bringing medical supplies and other humanitarian assistance to Armenia, starting when an earthquake struck the country in 1988.

American born, Bronx bred, Carolann Abrahamian was nine when her Armenian-born father told her about the murders and forced marches that killed 1.5 million Armenians throughout the Ottoman Empire early in the last century. After hearing that, she wanted to be a doctor.

Yet she majored in music (she played the piano) when she went to Queens because her parents could not pay for medical school. In 1976, eight years after her marriage to George Najarian, she went to Boston University School of Medicine, graduated in 1980, and became an internist.

In April 1988 she traveled to Armenia as part of an exchange program sponsored by the Cambridge-Yerevan Sister City Association. A few months after she returned—on December 7, 1988—a 6.9 magnitude earthquake struck near Yerevan, capital of Armenia, killing 25,000 people.

Najarian spent three weeks collecting medical supplies from the Armenian-American community in and out of Boston, hired a cargo plane, and with another doctor took off with 80,000 pounds of medical supplies.

Armenia was a Soviet Republic then. Soviet soldiers with machine guns boarded the plane to investigate, but she was able to reassure them that she was only carrying relief aid. After that, she distributed supplies and helped Armenian refugees fleeing ethnic conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh, an Armenian enclave surrounded by Azerbaijan.

Shortly after returning from that first trip, Najarian gave up her medical practice and established the Armenian Health Alliance Inc., a nonprofit organization with many donors that

primarily funds projects in Armenia: hospitals, schools, students, orphans, and veterans. It founded a primary care center, a feeding program for pregnant women, a dental clinic, and the Adopt-a-Sister Project for women refugees. Using their own resources, she and her husband rebuilt a 4th-century basilica.

In 1995 she retired from medical practice in the U.S. to continue her work and to write a book about her experiences, *A Call from Home: Armenia and Karabagh, My Journal*. “I wanted to convey that after the headlines are gone and people stop reading about a disaster, whatever it may be, that real people still have to carry on,” she says.

The Najarians have also given their support to numerous projects in the United States: a tour of Armenian musicians, an annual genocide studies lecture, and minority scholarships for women. Carolann also recently gave \$10,000 to Queens College, which she says gave her a great educational foundation for her later work.

Life has improved in Armenia since Najarian first went there, and at this stage in her life she goes there less often. But she remembers the solidarity of the early days, living and working with Armenians—when there was no heat or electricity and little food—and after meals huddling together and talking. “You sat by candlelight,” she says, “and you discovered your common roots.”—*Margo Nash*



Christy Radecic

READY FOR Any Event

Frank Supovitz '79 takes a scientific approach to managing football's greatest game

Is the Super Bowl really just one enormous petri dish?

It is from the perspective of Frank Supovitz '79. As the National Football League's senior VP charged with organizing the league's major events—including the Super Bowl, the Pro

Bowl, and the NFL Draft—Supovitz doesn't hesitate in crediting his experience as a biology major for the success he's enjoyed.

“My background in biology helped me set up and test hypotheses and derive data that help you make decisions,” he observes, speaking from the NFL's Park Avenue corporate headquarters. “I think that I approach my job very scientifically—though there's a lot of soft thinking in this job as well.

“Being a bio major was very time consuming, and there was no direct correlation between the number of credits you earned and the amount of time invested,” he continues. “What I do now is very similar: It's not a 9 to 5 job; it's not a five-day-a-week job. It's more of a lifestyle than a career.

“I was always interested in science. It was my favorite subject in school. I started out being

fascinated by astronomy,” Supovitz notes, recalling many childhood trips to a favorite New York City institution. “What was great about the Museum of Natural History back then was that in addition to the bio side you had the Hayden Planetarium, and anytime I could reach out and touch a meteorite, that was pretty cool.”

Starting with his senior year in high school, Supovitz had to juggle the demands of his academic workload with his job as an usher at Radio City Music Hall. Often working until 4 am, he would go home, have breakfast, then go to classes.

Accepted for graduate study in zoology at Clemson University but unable to afford it, he returned to Radio City to earn his tuition. It was 1979, a pivotal year for both the company and Supovitz's career. Radio City was abandoning its traditional for-

mat of a stage show and a movie in favor of just staging events, such as the Christmas Show. The company offered Supovitz a management job, and he rose through a series of positions while taking business courses at Baruch. Eventually he was responsible for developing a special events business that would allow Radio City to stage productions outside the theatre.

Ironically, his Radio City position would provide his first Super Bowl experience, when in 1988 he served as associate producer of the halftime show for Super Bowl XXII. “You're not going to believe it,” he laughs about that show. “It was Chubby Checker, the Rockettes, and 88 grand pianos!”

In 1989 Supovitz and two colleagues formed their own events company, Eventures. Among their accomplishments were Operation: Welcome Home at the end of the Gulf War, and the 1989 and 1990 U. S. Olympic Festivals in Oklahoma City and Minneapolis.



Nancy Bareis

REACHING Mount Sinai

Nick Copeli '09 will enter an elite med school program for non-science majors

When Nick Copeli graduates this spring, he'll embark on a medical career by way of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine's Humanities and Medicine program. He'll also be the first Queens College graduate to be admitted to this program, which has accepted few public university students.

“The program is literally an experiment,” says the Macaulay Honors College student and anthropology major. “They wanted to see if students with no pre-med background can go to medical school and perform just as well as students who are entrenched in the sciences during college.

“I told them I want to do public health abroad,” says Copeli,

The National Hockey League tapped Supovitz in 1992 to become group VP for events and entertainment. He remained with the league 13 years, producing the Stanley Cup Finals and All-Star Games before moving into his present role with the NFL.

One of Supovitz's proudest NFL accomplishments was helping to raise millions of dollars for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort: “I was the lead organizer for both the Bush/Clinton Katrina Fund Telethon on Monday Night Football a couple weeks after Katrina, as well as the reopening of the Superdome a year later.”

With his decades of experience, Supovitz is regarded as a guru of events management. He has collected some of his knowledge in two volumes, *The Sports Event Management and Marketing Playbook* and *Dollars and Events*. And like many an athlete, he is a member of a hall of fame, having been inducted into the Event Industry Hall of Fame in 2006.—*Bob Suter*

who already has significant international experience. A Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship allowed him to travel this past summer to Russia, where he worked at St. Petersburg State University. A proficient Russian speaker raised in a Bukharian family, Copeli served as an English teacher and did translation work. Previously, the Honors College afforded him the opportunity to travel to Peru, where he taught English at a remote orphanage in San Miguel and mastered another language: Spanish.

Internships made possible by the receipt of a Jeanette K. Watson Fellowship in his sophomore year may reveal more about why Mount Sinai saw Copeli's potential as a humanities-oriented physician. In his first assignment, he interned with Global Kids, an organization that prepares urban youth for global citizenship. He maintained NewzCrew.org, Global Kids's Web site that promotes media literacy and political dialogue among young people worldwide. His next internship found him at DonorsChoose, an organization that brings together donors with projects to improve public education.

Queens College is a family tradition for Copeli, whose twin brother Erik is also a QC student. His brother, Frank, graduated last year, while another brother, Joseph, attended during summer 2001. Copeli's own education prior to QC was at Hebrew Academy of West Queens in Richmond Hill. Like many Honors College students, he had been offered full scholarships to a number of private schools, but family obligations kept him closer to home. “I needed to work and help support the family,” he says. “I've been working since age 13 or 14. I've been a stock boy at a pharmacy. I've been a tutor for a subsidiary of Kaplan. I've done private tutoring jobs. I teach swimming. I lifeguard.” A Queens College Foundation Scholarship has also been helpful.

Despite his many commitments, Copeli still managed to do volunteer work for a nursing home, a soup kitchen, and the Coalition for the Homeless.

Having already satisfied the course requirements for the Mount Sinai program, Copeli is indulging his humanities inclinations in his last semesters. “I'm doing music: I'm in the choir and the guitar ensemble. I'm also doing acting and drawing.”

Typically, Watson Fellows spend their last summer abroad. Copeli is thinking of working in Brazil, but first has to learn Portuguese. Characteristically unfazed, he remarks, “It's decently easy if you know some Spanish.”—*Bob Suter*

Alumni Notes

1953: After graduation **Agnes Meditz Hay** went to Wyoming, where she married a cattle rancher and punched cattle for 13 years. After her husband died, she earned a degree in Russian language studies at the University of Wyoming, and then drove with her four children to Penn State, which had offered her a Sparks Fellowship, to pursue her MA. Agnes worked in Penn State's libraries until retiring in 1993. She now lives in Port Matilda, PA, where she enjoys her six grandchildren and four horses ... **1959: Les Krasnogor** and **Joan Stern Mazza '63**, who married in 2004, spend their leisure time steering their Catalina sloop around Long Island Sound. The two former biology majors say their careers are also sailing smoothly. Joan is a professor of biology at SUNY Dutchess in Poughkeepsie; Les was chief of the pulmonary medicine department at Stamford Hospital for 35 years before founding a pulmonary/critical care physician group in Stamford, CT ... **1960: Irene Rosensweig Fairley** has left academia for art. Retired from teaching English and linguistics at Northeastern University, she exhibits paintings, prints, and sculpture at galleries in the Boston area, where she has lived for many years ... **1962: Richard Klein**, a doctor specializing in internal medicine and infectious diseases, has just published his memoir, *From Anecdote to Antidote: Medical Musings and Practical Prescriptions from a Humanitarian Healer* (SelectBooks). In addition to seeing patients, Richard teaches at New York Medical College, volunteers with community organizations, and flies cancer patients and their families to hospitals, free of charge—he's an instrument-rated aircraft pilot ... **1964:** Ohio State University honored **Edwin M. Cooperman** with the Distinguished Service Award at its spring



2008 commencement. A former chair of the Travelers Bank Group, Edwin is a member of the Ohio State University Foundation Board as well as a member of the Queens College Foundation ... **Carol Glazer** (MS '66) has been designated a senior investment management consultant by the managed money unit of Citigroup's Smith Barney division. She joined Smith Barney in 2006 after more than 25 years at Morgan Stanley ... **1965: Eugene Fidell** recently joined the Yale Law School faculty as the Florence Rogatz Senior Visiting Lecturer in Law. A partner at Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP in Washington, D.C. and the founding president of the National Institute of Military Justice, Gene began teaching at Yale in 1993 ... **Lynn Newell** is executive director of the Institute for Expressive Analysis. A psychoanalyst in private practice in Manhattan and a registered yoga teacher, Lynn is also a book review editor for the *Psychoanalytic Review* ... **Philip Zuchman** and his wife Deborah Gross-Zuchman were selected for summer fellowships at the Julia and David White Artists' Colony in Ciudad Colon, Costa Rica. Philip and Deborah are painters; he is an associate professor of studio art and aesthetics at the Art Institute of Philadelphia, and she is a project manager for the Philadelphia Mural Arts Program ... **1970: Fred Glueckstein**, author of *The '27 Yankees*, returned to the baseball diamond to write *Mickey Mantle: Rookie in Pinstripes* (iUniverse). The print-on-demand biography can be ordered online through Amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com, among other book retailers ... **1971: Barry Bendes**, a partner in multistate law firm Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge LLP, has been reappointed chair of the third-party legal opinions committee of the New Jersey State Bar Association's business law section. He will coordinate the efforts of the committee, which issues reports and serves as a resource for New Jersey attorneys. At EAP&D, Barry

specializes in domestic and international corporate and commercial transactions, financings, SEC-related matters, and Internet- and computer-related law matters. A Manhattan resident, Barry graduated from New York University School of Law ... **1972: Mark Michaels** didn't have to pull strings to open the New York Ukulele School in Manhattan; he has 25 years of professional musical experience ... **Harold Rosenbaum** (MA '74) received the Laurel Leaf Award from the American Composers Alliance at its annual Festival of American Music in June. The organization honored Harold, a celebrated choral conductor and the founder of the New York Virtuoso Singers, for his long-standing support of works by contemporary U.S. composers ... **1973: Elliot Abemayor** is a professor of surgery at UCLA and is vice chief in the division of head and neck surgery. Elliot's practice is focused on the treatment of benign and malignant tumors of the head and neck and the surgical treatment of disorders of the thyroid and parathyroid glands ... **Earl Fitz** (MA), a professor at Vanderbilt University, was named a Volunteer of the Year by Gilda's Club Nashville. Part of Gilda's Club Worldwide—named for the late comic actress Gilda Radner—the Nashville affiliate is a free community resource for cancer patients and their families and friends ... **John Ray**, president and general manager of WRDW-TV in Augusta, GA, has acquired an additional title: The Georgia Association of Broadcasters, a state organization representing more than 350 radio and television stations, elected him president ... **1974: Samuel Daniel** received his MD at Columbia University, specialized in gastroenterology, and carried out research in chronic hepatitis C. He is president and CEO of North General Hospital in New York, and is also associate dean at North General Hospital/Mount Sinai



School of Medicine. Samuel was the featured speaker at a special alumnus roundtable discussion held on campus for pre-med students last March ... **Marlene Wiedenbaum** had a solo show of her pastels at the Elisa Pritzker Gallery in Highland, NY. The exhibition, held in June, featured more than 25 landscapes that depict preserved lands throughout the Hudson Valley ... **1975: Joanne O'Reilly Calcagno** (MSEd '76) has drawn on her experiences as an elementary school teacher to write fiction for young readers. *Raaoif* (BookSurge) is the story of a Yemenite boy who has to cope with language barriers and prejudice when his family moves to Flushing ... **Elizabeth Rao** was named national transit development director of HNTB Corporation, a national transportation infrastructure firm that works with public and private clients ... **1976: Michael Mell** has released the second edition of *Building Better Theaters* (Entertainment Technology Press). Michael has been involved in the creation and renovation of performing arts facilities in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, France, Switzerland, and Korea. He has worked on Broadway and in regional theatres and television studios as a lighting designer, technical director, stage manager, and stagehand ... **Joseph M. Ruggio** published research as an undergraduate in the chemistry department with Prof. Jerome Schulman. He graduated from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1980, and went on to specialize in cardiology at Einstein. Joseph is an invasive/interventional cardiologist practicing in southern California, and is founder and president of Pacific Cardiovascular Associates. He recently established an annual award in honor of Schulman, to be given to a graduating student with an interest in physical chemistry who best exemplifies the professor's character, intelligence, and intellectual curiosity ... **Judy Stagnitta** is a licensed real estate salesperson with Charles Rutenberg Realty, but she also runs a

sweeter business: She sells gourmet chocolates and chocolate favors online at www.webaliciouschocolatesandmore.com ... **1978: Bruce Eder** provided a commentary track for Criterion's DVD re-release of the classic Alexander Korda film *The Thief of Baghdad* ... **1979: Amber A. Guth** was the first woman to be appointed a faculty member in the Department of Surgery at NYU Medical Center. She has practiced there since 1991, where she now holds the rank of associate professor of surgery. Her research interests focus on benign and malignant diseases of the breast and women's health issues in surgery ... **1980: Mitchell Raps** was recently appointed administrator of South Broward Endoscopy, a licensed and accredited freestanding ambulatory surgery center in Cooper City, FL. He continues to serve as executive director of Gastroenterology Consultants, PA, a single-specialty group practice with offices in Cooper City and Hollywood, FL. After graduating from QC, Mitchell earned an MBA in management and MPH in health systems management from Tulane University in New Orleans. He lives in Weston, FL, with Michele, his wife of 22 years, and their two teenage children ... **Andrew Vollo** is director of the NYC Taxi and FHV (For Hire Vehicles) Driver Institute at LaGuardia Community College, which offers courses to improve the professionalism of drivers of taxis and for hire vehicles. One of Andrew's courses is "Taxi Yoga," which shows drivers how to relieve stress when working a long shift ... **1981: Evan Ginzburg** (MA) is busy in multiple media. An 18-year radio veteran formerly with WBAI-FM, he now hosts "Evan Ginzburg's Legends Radio," a weekly celebrity talk show that airs on the Internet. He is also associate producer of director Darren Aronofsky's film *The Wrestler*, starring Mickey Rourke and Marisa Tomei. Meanwhile, Evan has been working on a documentary, *Tiger Khan—Fire in the Blood*, and completing his second book. His first, *Apartment 4B, Like in Brooklyn* (Alternative Press), deals with the turbulent 1960s and 1970s

in East Flatbush. To learn more, visit his Web sites www.evangelinburg.com and www.wrestlingthenand-now.com ... **1982: Joseph Rutkowski** continues his noteworthy career as director of instrumental music for the Great Neck North Secondary Schools. A clarinetist active in chamber music, he has an unusual double: accordion ... **1983: Lisa Tipton** celebrated Mother's Day by presenting a concert at Weill Recital Hall. The program featured works by Ives and Dvořák as well as pieces commissioned for the occasion from such contemporary composers as Inessa Zaretsky and Nicolas Scherzinger ... **1987: Linore Rose Burkard**, a writer who specializes in "inspirational romance for the Jane Austen soul," has signed a two-book contract with Harvest House Publishers. Her first Harvest House title, *Before the Season Ends*, is now in bookstores. The sequel, *The House in Grosvenor Square*, will be released early in 2009. Linore also writes *Upon My Word!*, a free monthly ezine about Regency England. To read past issues, visit www.LinoreRoseBurkard.com ... **Bram Weiser** wrote in to notify friends and classmates of his skill in another form of communication: He has joined the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf as a nationally certified sign language interpreter, qualified to transliterate between spoken English and a signed English system ... **1988: Ronit Rogoszinski**, a Long Island-based financial planner and money manager, has merged her private practice with Arch Financial Group, a Boca Raton firm founded by **Eyal Galinsky '89**. Together, they manage more than \$150 million in assets ... **Gabriel Sanchez** was appointed regional director of the U.S. Census Bureau's Dallas Region, where he will oversee the country's largest peacetime



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operation in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi for the 2010 Census. During a previous assignment at U.S. Census headquarters in Maryland, Gabriel served as a corporate recruiter, receiving the Commerce Department's Equal Opportunity Award in recognition of his superior work with Hispanic employees ... **1989: Alan Srulowitz** was among 56 analysts, experts, activists, and managers who were named Millstein Rising Stars of Corporate Governance by the Yale School of Management. Inaugurated this year, the annual list honors outstanding governance executives who are younger than 40. Alan is vice president of internal control function at CA Inc. ... **1991: Douglas Knehans** (MA) has been appointed dean of the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music. Douglas returned to the U.S. with his family, having served since 2000 as director and professor of music for the Conservatorium of Music at the University of Tasmania ... **Michel Nadeau** (MME) has drawn on his extensive experience in teaching band in Commack's public schools to publish his first volume of *Band Brilliance*, a comprehensive method book for brass, woodwind, and percussion instruments. *Band Brilliance* includes sight-reading

exercises, rhythm charts, a jazz section, and full-band arrangements; free tutorials are available online at <http://bandbrilliance.com> ... **1992: Rebecca (Tapie) Brazzano** has joined the New York office of law firm Thompson Hine LLP in the business litigation practice group. She earned her JD at Brooklyn Law School ... **Cynthia Millman** (MLS) partnered with dancer and choreographer Frankie Manning on his autobiography, which was published last year. *Frankie Manning: Ambassador of Lindy Hop* (Temple University Press) grew out of a project Cynthia initiated as a grad student at QC's library school ... **Mary Margaret Nevins** (MA '08) is the only non-faculty member to provide academic advisement to students at CUNY Law School, where she is director of academic planning and programming. Last May she participated in her second QC commencement, receiving a master's in urban administration. Mary has strong family ties to the college; one of her sisters works in Student Life and the other works in the Sociology Department ... **1993: Alfred Erdmann** was chosen from a pool of 500 applicants to officiate at the Little League European Regional Final in Kutno, Poland, last summer. A

second-generation volunteer umpire for the league, he usually presides over games on the diamonds of Ridgewood, Glendale, Middle Village, and Maspeth, where his two children play. Out of uniform, Alfred is a partner at the New York accounting firm Eisner & Lubin ... **Joseph Lawler** is a portfolio manager for MKM Longboat Capital Management. Joseph earned his MD and PhD degrees from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, where his research on "DNA-Based Computers" received the Paul Ehrlich Award ... **1996: Elena Olaru** has been promoted to senior manager in the Manhattan office of J.H. Cohn LLP, the largest independent accounting and consulting firm in the northeast. Elena commutes to work from East Meadow ... **1997: Dean Radinsky** was among the artists included in *Post No Bills*, a group show presented last summer by Long Island City's Gallerie Pulaski. An 80-foot construction wall painted gallery white, the exhibition space was open round the clock, thanks to its location at 11th Street and Jackson Avenue, next to the Pulaski Bridge ... **1998: Jonathan Weber** played at Shea Stadium in July; a violinist, he was in the musicians' lineup for Billy Joel's final concerts at the stadium ... **1999: Earl Fyffe** (MFA '05) was among the artists featured in the Uncomun [SIC] Festival, a one-day event held on September 20 in Brooklyn's hip Williamsburg

neighborhood ... **Richard Louissaint** continued his education at Brooklyn College, earning an MFA in creative writing. He's also a photographer; his work was included in two shows over the summer. To learn more about his career, visit his Web site at www.richardlouissaint.com ... **2001: Akira Ohiso**, author of *Sushi Kiddush*, nominated by the *Jerusalem Post* for Best New Jewish Blog of 2005, has collaborated with his wife, graphic artist Elyssa Ohiso '00, on *Surviving*. The nonfiction

book explores Akira's personal saga as a social worker who assisted Holocaust survivors and discovered, during his conversion to Judaism, that he was the grandson of a man who had suppressed his Jewish identity. The book is available at www.ohiso.com ... **2004: Chang Seok Choi** reports that his opera, *Mung Bean Flowers Will Soon Bloom*, was performed in the National Theater of Korea in honor of the country's civil rights movement. The opera premiered in 2007 ... **2006:** The jazz Web site AllAboutJazz.com featured a review of *Here for Now*, a new CD by tenor saxophonist **Kenji Omae** ... **John Rodger** continued his vocal training at Indiana University, earning a master's degree. An alum of young artists programs at Opera North, where he sang Pong and covered Calaf in *Turandot*, and Glimmerglass Opera, where he covered Claudio in the early Wagner work *Das Liebesverbot*, he will be a studio artist with the Sarasota Opera in 2009 ... **2008: Basia Revi** (Barbara Rzezwicka-Gajdek) (MA)



was the subject of a Q&A column in the October 2008 issue of *Classical Singer*. A mezzo-soprano, Basia reached the finals in the Emerging Professional Division of the magazine's Aud/Comp contest earlier this year.

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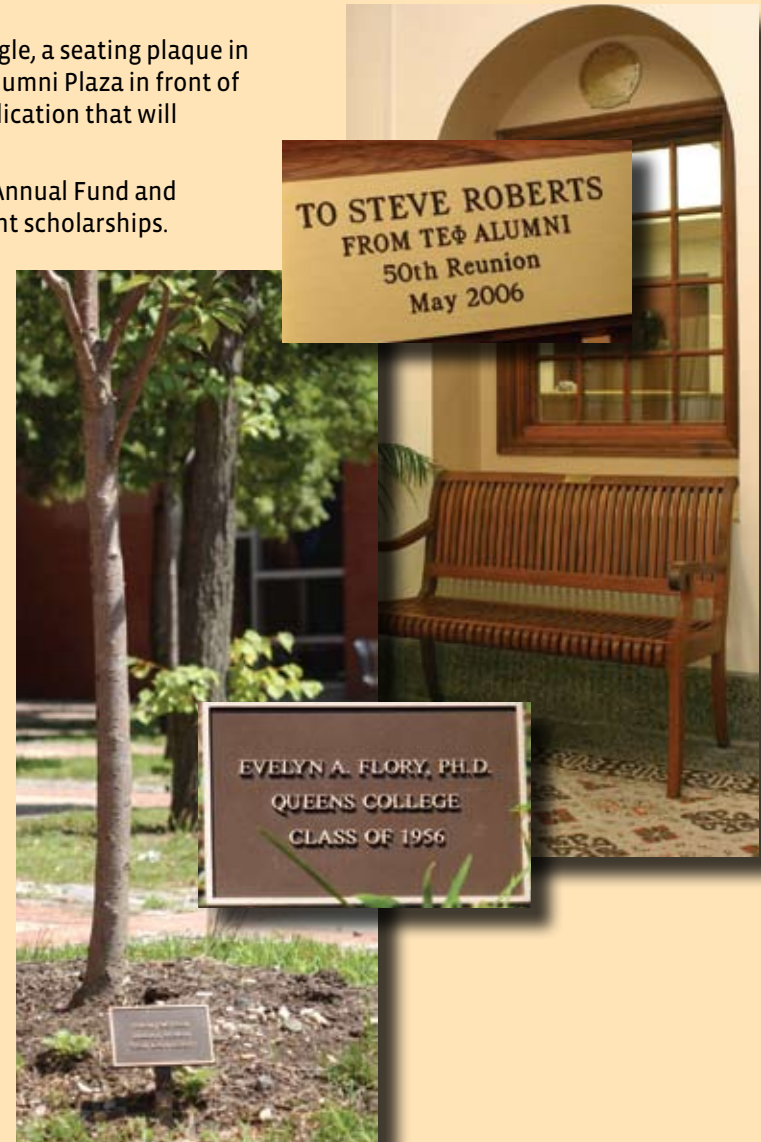
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The sisters of Theta Nu recently had a book-signing party to celebrate the publication of *Pedro's Treasure*, written and illustrated by Claire (Devoy) Puttre '57 and Kathy (Eisenhower) Hiscox '58. Back row: Rhoda (Kooperstein) McManus '57, Joan (Henneberger) Broderick '58, Meg (Harper) Lawrence '56, Carla (Ames) Strauss '58, Claire, Dotty (Ducas) Frederick '58, and Kathy. Front row: Betty (Weiss) Jacobson '58 and Carolyn (Strauss) Hetzel '57.



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191 Years of Teaching

Collectively, Robert Bittman, Andrew Hacker, Joel Mandelbaum, Corinne Michels ’63, and Patricia Rachal have worked at QC for close to two centuries, becoming educational institutions in their own right. Here is news of their latest projects. Why not write to us (qmag@qc.cuny.edu) and share your stories of these professors—or any other professors you remember fondly?

Robert Bittman

**Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Started at QC: 1966**



Students in Bittman’s first class, on organic chemistry, included Dennis Liotta ’74, who became a member of the chemistry faculty at Emory University and co-inventor of the anti-HIV drug Emtricitabine. “I joke with him that he wouldn’t have made his discoveries without me,” says Bittman, who now teaches advanced undergraduate and graduate-level courses, mentors PhD students, and runs a research group with post-docs. Specializing in lipids—fat-soluble molecules—involved in biological functions, Bittman has received over \$7.8 million in National Institutes of Health grants since 1971.

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Andrew Hacker

**Professor Emeritus of Political Science
Started at QC: 1971**



“I’m still teaching,” says Hacker. “They pay me in green stamps.” More to the point, he’s still teaching introductory courses in American politics. His students haven’t changed much, either. “Eighteen-year-olds are all the same,” he observes. A prolific writer with 10 books to his credit—his most recent title, *Mismatch: The Growing Gulf Between Women and Men*, was

published in 2003—Hacker is working on another, which he doesn’t want to discuss. He’d rather talk about the films he sees in his spare time. “I’m an indiscriminate moviegoer,” he admits.

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Joel Mandelbaum

**Professor Emeritus of Music
Started at QC: 1961**



Mandelbaum made his campus debut as a lecturer in music appreciation. “Every student was required to take it,” he recalls. Rising through the academic ranks, he taught music literature and conducting. In retirement, he keeps up the baton work, leading one undergraduate conducting class a semester. A pianist and composer, Mandelbaum just finished *An Explosion of Memory* for Capstone Records. Recorded in LeFrak Concert Hall, the CD features his settings of May Sarton poems, sung by mezzo-soprano Constance Beavon, wife of QC music professor and composer Bruce Saylor.

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“It seems like a long time to me,” says Rachal, whose nearly 30 years at QC make her the newcomer of this group. Although she’s chaired her department for more than a decade, she has continued to teach one course every semester. “I have to be in the classroom,” Rachal explains. “I need to know what our students are like.” Her expertise in interagency collaboration recently won her a

five-year federal grant of \$2.875 million. As principal investigator for the New York Deaf-Blind Collaborative, Rachal will assess the needs of deaf-blind children and youth, their families, and their service providers, and then find ways to improve services for this population.

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Nancy Bareis

Two Hall of Famers Since meeting in a mathematics class at Queens College over 40 years ago, Russell and Alice (Feldman) Artzt have done remarkable things: Russ is the co-founder of Computer Associates (now CA), one of the world's largest software companies, and Alice has been a long-time professor in QC's secondary education department and co-founder and project director of the innovative TIME 2000 mathematics program. The couple—pictured here at the 2008 commencement exercises, where they received the President's Medal for service to the college and community—both earned another distinction last year: Russ was inducted into the Long Island Technology Hall of Fame, and Alice was inducted into the Long Island Mathematics Education Hall of Fame.