

YOUR INVITATION TO OCTOBER 2 HOMECOMING INSIDE!

Q

THE MAGAZINE OF
Queens College

VOL. X, NO. 1

FALL 2004

Spotlight on the Sciences



USE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE TO RESERVE TODAY! THIS IS YOUR ONLY NOTICE!



FOR ALL ALUMNI

COME BACK FOR THE DAY – CATCH UP ON A LIFETIME

HOMECOMING DAY

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2004 9:30 AM – 5:30 PM

The day begins with registration and continental breakfast at 9:30 am in the Music Building and continues with lectures, exhibits, campus films, lunch with classmates, and campus tours. President Jim Muyskens will present 50th Anniversary Medals to the Class of '54. There will be special hospitality for the classes of '44 and '54 and a closing reception at 4:30 pm. Dress is casual.

Wear comfortable shoes. Bring your yearbook, photos, and camera!

Due to planning requirements (catering, seating, etc.), you must register by Monday, September 13. (Early replies greatly appreciated.) **Sorry**, we will not be able to accommodate walk-ins. Do you know graduates not in our database? Invite them to Homecoming and enjoy the day together.

Visit www.qc.cuny.edu/alumni_affairs for latest Homecoming details.

FREE ON-CAMPUS PARKING

See you October 2!



THE MAGAZINE OF Queens College

THIS ISSUE: In the first of a series of special themed issues, we examine the sciences at Queens, the research being done by faculty and the careers our students have made after graduation.

**Photon Initiative:
Finding a New Way to
Look at Cancer** 4

By Bob Suter

**Fashioning a Liberal Arts
Curriculum for the
21st Century** 6

By Donald Scott

Fall 2004 Festival of Art 9

Alumni Notes 13

**What Can You Do with a
Science Degree?** 14

By Leslie Jay & Donna Shoemaker

QC News 16

Vol. X, No. 1, Fall 2004

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Maria Terrone

EDITOR

John Cassidy

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Dyanne Maue

STAFF WRITER

Jacquelyn Southern

DESIGNER

Georgine Ingber

Photos: Nancy Bareis cover, pp. 2-6, 16
(Halperin), 17 (Heilman, Michels);
Kathryn McGlynn, back cover

We welcome your letters. Send them to:
Q Magazine, Queens College, CUNY,
Kiely Hall 1009, Flushing, NY 11367

Cover: Bonnie Gersten (Chemistry)
working with students in her lab (see page 4).

COMMENCEMENT 2004

June 3 was a beautiful day for the college's nearly 4,000 graduates and their families. Students received warm congratulations from U.S. Senator Charles Schumer, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall '72, and a number of other dignitaries. Honorary doctorates were awarded to jazz great Jimmy Heath, the founder of the jazz studies program at the college, and research scientist Jeffrey Kordower '80 (see page 14 for a profile). Once again, the complete Commencement ceremony was broadcast live on the Web and is available for viewing on the QC homepage (www.qc.cuny.edu).





Bonnie Gersten encourages students to work with her in the laboratory. "You don't need to be the next Einstein to work well in the laboratory setting," she says.

Photon Initiative: Finding a New Way to Look at Cancer

By **Bob Suter**

While the glint of gold may blind some, for Bonnie Gersten (Chemistry) it offers a new way of seeing. And it may mean hope for many afflicted with one of mankind's most lethal maladies. "It's a project to use biosensors for cancer detection," she says, describing her novel concept for a nonsurgical way to detect lung cancers using a combination of fiber optics and nanoparticles of gold.

Gersten was recently selected to receive a \$200,000 grant for her project. The prestigious James D. Watson grant was awarded in May by the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research (NYSTAR). Only ten awards were given statewide to, in Governor George Pataki's words, "our finest young biotechnology scientists and engineers." The awardees, who all have received their doctorates in the last five years, are based

at universities including Rockefeller, Cornell, and Columbia.

"Dr. Gersten's research," said Russell W. Bessette, executive director of NYSTAR, "could lead to the creation of biosensors that improve our ability to detect cancer at an earlier stage, and it will also strengthen Queens College's role in developing new biotechnology innovations."

In receiving this grant, Gersten is fulfilling part of the mission of the City University of New York's Photonics Initiative, a universitywide effort launched in 2000 to make CUNY one of the country's premier research centers in photonics. Photonics seeks to use laser beams, fiber optics, and as-yet-to-be-developed materials and technologies to create new ways to use light energy (photons) in the fields of medicine, communications, and military defense.

FIGHTING KLINGONS AND CANCER

Mention the word photon and, for many, it conjures up images of Captain Kirk launching bursts of photon torpedoes at an attacking Klingon spaceship in a *Star Trek* battle. That scenario may seem a little farfetched, but, like much of science fiction, it does have theoretical underpinnings in current scientific thinking.

"There's nothing fantastic in this," explains Lev Deych (Physics). "Light can exert pressure. As such, it can move things, it can crack things, it can crush things," he explains in soft, modulated tones resonant with his origins in Tajikistan, one of the former Soviet Republics. Deych, who came to Queens in 2001, was the first to be hired under the Photonics Initiative.

"Deych and Gersten are building on strengths that exist at CUNY and at Queens as well," observes Thomas Strekas,

Dean of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, referring to the presence on campus of Harry Gafney (Chemistry), theoretician Alexander Lisysansky (Physics), and Azriel Genack (Physics).

"Genack really developed the concept of the photonic band gap," Gersten says, referring to the area of photonics that is the focus of research at Queens. She then explains how the concept, which has been around little more than a decade, is propelling her efforts: "It's really opened up an area of engineering. . . . The physics has been developed. Now, what can we do with it?"

Prior to coming to Queens, Gersten had worked as a materials engineer at the Army Research Lab in Aberdeen, MD, with which she still maintains a working relationship. "I'm primarily interested in synthesis of materials and developing them for new applications," she says. For example, Gersten has worked with boron carbide nanoparticles and nanowires to improve the hardness of armor. She is also researching ways to enhance the receptivity of antennas.

"Photonic band gap," she continues, "is the frequency in which light is not permitted." Some of the same materials she is working with for armor applications may, when combined with the right substances, produce photonic crystals that can control aspects of laser light. This could lead to more precise applications. And this is where her research in chemistry ties in with Deych's research in physics.

A FIRE ON A HILL

"The name photonics," Deych observes dryly, "is a kind of a misnomer. It just sounds cool. In a broad sense it encompasses almost all literature in optics. In a more narrow sense, when people talk about photonics they have in mind more modern types of structures in which light exhibits rather unusual properties – artificial structures which hadn't been designed or created ten years ago."

Deych uses the analogy of the development of semiconductors, the materials that made possible the personal computer and other technologies that have changed the ways we work and communicate. "Scientists looked at them as trash that could not be used because they were extremely unpredictable. It's only as scientists devised ways to purify these substances that they became suitable material. This is when the whole revolution began."

Deych finds himself in a position not

unlike one of those early semiconductor pioneers. Only, where they were trying to find better materials to transmit electronic impulses, he is working on better materials to transmit impulses of light.

"In a way we're getting back to the days when people would transmit information by setting fires on hills," he says, pausing to let that image take hold, then adding: "but in a much more sophisticated way. If there is light, it means one thing. If there is no light, it means another. If light is this intensity, it is one bit of information; if it is that intensity, it is another bit of information."

"The main idea of photonics is to find ways to monitor wave light, to send light where we want it to go, to change the properties of light the way we want to change it and then use it for various applications. And this has been done for a long time already," he says, citing the use of optical fibers and lasers.

BUILDING A BETTER LASER

But science always looks for a better way. Deych proceeds to explain the concept of controlled spontaneous emission of light, a way to theoretically transmit light over great distances with minimal or no loss. This is the most important step in creating more efficient types of lasers. There is also the potential to use photonics with semiconductors to create significantly faster, more energy-efficient optical com-

puters. And, as semiconductors were the substance essential to creating the last great technological revolution, the next revolution may be built on photonic crystals.

"What is new about photonic crystals," Deych says, referring to the micro-sized elements Gersten is creating in her lab, "is now we're devising ways to control light propagation in a much more sophisticated way." Some of the applications he foresees include optical switches, new types of optical filters, and so-called super lenses more sophisticated than anything we have now.

"It's a nice goal to replace wires with fibers," explains Deych, "but, once you get to the smaller and smaller scale, you have a lot of problems controlling light," which is the very essence of his research funded by a grant from the Air Force Office of Scientific Research.

Despite the demands of research, students come first for Deych and Gersten. Indeed, Deych spent part of his summer recruiting students at Moscow State University for QC's graduate program.

"I'm also here to teach undergraduates how to do research," says Gersten. "I have five students I'm presently working with this summer and I have one graduate student and one post doc. What I'm trying to do," she declares emphatically, "is make a difference. And, if nothing else, at least teach my students how to make a difference."



Lev Deych's summer plans included encouraging students at Moscow State University to study physics at Queens. "If I convince 10 people to apply, I will consider the trip a success."



In Queens, the most ethnically diverse county in the nation, cultures once oceans away are now next-door neighborhoods. Our campus has become a microcosm of this global society. In what ways should our curriculum enable students to thrive in such diversity?

Fashioning a Liberal Arts Curriculum for the 21st Century

By **Don Scott, Dean of Social Sciences**

At the beginning of the spring 2003 semester, President James Muyskens invited the Queens College community to address the question of what we want our students to know and be able to do as a result of their college education. He established a special Task Force on General Education – composed of faculty from all four divisions and all professorial ranks – and challenged it to think deeply about what is the ideal undergraduate curriculum. At the end of its three-semester effort, the Task Force would prepare a comprehensive final report and set of recommendations.

President Muyskens' call for a thorough review of general education is especially timely as it has been nearly a quarter century since the college last did so. In that time, unprecedented changes have swept the world, especially in the ways in which knowledge is created, organized, and disseminated. These changes require us to review and, if necessary, revise our curriculum to ensure that it serves the mission of the college and the needs of our students.

The college is not alone in undertaking this examination of general and liberal education. Indeed, our sister institutions in CUNY are engaged in a similar

process; Yale University completed a study last year; and this spring Harvard University issued a report calling for significant changes in the core curriculum it had established in the mid-1970s.

The Task Force embraced President Muyskens' challenge as an opportunity, rare in any academic lifetime, for the college community to address the most fundamental questions facing it. It takes seriously the college's motto, "We Learn in Order to Serve." A vision of the university as a humane force in a global society has guided its discussion and deeply influenced its recommendations. At the end of their undergraduate career, our students should have gone beyond simply acquiring knowledge and analytical and communicative skills; they should be prepared to take their place as citizens of the world.

The explosion of knowledge over the past three decades demands a re-examination of what our students, as educated citizens, should know and be able to do. Entirely new disciplines have arisen, enormous volumes of new information have been added to established fields, and "the" literary canon now extends across the globe. How can we absorb and accommodate this new knowledge and prepare students to understand it?

Computers were experimental objects in the 1970s, and there was no Internet to disseminate information in microseconds. Information literacy has a very different meaning today than even 10 years ago, much less 30. Technology plays a larger role in our lives than at any other time in history. What role should the college play in making technology understandable? Usable? How do we help our students address the moral and ethical issues associated with that technology?

In Queens, the most ethnically diverse county in the nation, cultures once oceans away are now next-door neighborhoods. Our campus has become a microcosm of this global society. In what ways should our curriculum enable students to thrive in such diversity? The ever-faster speed of transportation and information transfer mirrors the quickened pace of daily life. How can we best prepare our graduates to make intelligent decisions in the face of such rapid change? In an increasingly cynical society, what role can education play in addressing ethics and the nature and meaning of a participatory democracy?

There is an even more compelling reason for Queens College to undertake a review at this time, a reason that goes to the heart of the profoundly democratic and uniquely

American mission with which the college was founded and which it has long continued to serve. Today, unfortunately, many would argue that liberal education is a relic of the past, suitable only for the few who can afford to attend expensive, well-endowed private institutions. The truth, of course, is just the opposite. The liberal education that a diverse, heavily immigrant-based, urban public institution such as Queens College has been dedicated to is more essential than ever.

For thousands of students otherwise cut off from the possibility of higher education, Queens offers access to an education that leads to a better life. Just as important, the college has long provided its students with a more profound kind of entry into a broader world of knowledge, understanding, and appreciation, expanding the mind and heart, while fostering understanding of the ethical dimensions of individual and collective behavior and responsibility.

Two issues have dominated the national discussion of general education. The first has to do with the character of knowledge itself. As Vartan Gergorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation and former president of Brown University and the New York Public Library, put it, “The fundamental problem underlying the disjointed curriculum [that characterizes most of higher education] is the fragmentation of knowledge itself. Higher Education has atomized knowledge by dividing it into disciplines, sub-disciplines, and sub-sub-disciplines – breaking it into smaller and smaller unconnected fragments of academic specialization.” This is not a trivial problem, for as Gergorian says, “understanding the nature of knowledge, its unity, its varieties, its limitations, and its uses and abuses is necessary for the success of our democracy.”

The second issue has to do with what is often referred to as “critical thinking.”

Few refrains have been more insistent in the many recent calls for reform than the need for “critical thinking.” Students must understand that knowledge is constructed from “data” and “evidence” (themselves subject to debate and dispute); they need to learn to identify and

evaluate different viewpoints; to understand how different kinds of arguments are constructed – to recognize the assumptions and purposes that inform them – and evaluate them; and they need to learn how to construct their own logical and persuasive arguments.

These two concerns have shaped the Task Force’s report and recommendations. In an academic world in which knowledge is increasingly fragmented, specialized, and professionalized while also crossing disciplinary boundaries in unprecedented ways, general education must enable students to make connections across course and disciplinary boundaries and between their education and the constantly changing world. Moreover, the Task Force believes that general education should not be confined to a set of courses taken only at the outset of a student’s undergraduate career; it must extend throughout the whole of it. Accordingly, it recommends a two-tier system of areas-of-knowledge requirements, with three courses, designed around integration and synthesis, to be taken in students’ last two years.

The capacity for critical thinking is also a fundamental goal that must be addressed through the course of a liberal education. But rather than consider “critical thinking” a discrete “ability” to be taught in a few basic courses, the Task Force has identified a set of core critical abilities that constitute critical thinking. It recommends that these abilities be incorporated into general education requirements, and that the responsibility for equipping students with these abilities be suffused throughout the curriculum and embedded in courses at every level.

The Report and Recommendations of the President’s Task Force on General Education will be presented to the college community on September 1 for discussion and debate, consideration by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and a vote by the Academic Senate. The members of the Task Force look forward to a lively discussion and feel confident that the final result will be of great benefit to all our students and the reputation of the college.

How the Task Force Worked

In spring 2003 the Task Force conducted a series of faculty and student forums, solicited opinions from across the community, and presented its initial report to the President. That fall the President released the report, which served as the framework for yearlong discussions. During the fall the Task Force held a series of faculty forums on the report; members met with chairs’ committees of each division, as well as with the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee of the Academic Senate. In addition, the coordinator and other members of the Task Force met regularly with the president, vice president, and chairs of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Government. In late November the Student Government held an open forum on the report that members of the Task Force attended.

On the basis of these discussions, the Task Force organized working groups to examine four key dimensions of general education: The Entry Experience, Areas of Knowledge, Suffusing Critical Abilities throughout the Curriculum, and An Integrative Capstone Experience.

These working groups, with over 60 faculty and staff members, met intensively for eight weeks in the spring and produced a number of suggestions. Finally, the Task Force drew heavily on the efforts of these groups and the ideas generated in various forums to produce its final Report and Recommendations.

Task Force Members

Ali Ahmed, Comparative Literature
June Bobb, Africana Studies and English
Martin Braun, Mathematics
Mary Bushnell-Grenier, Elementary Education
Raymond Erickson, Music
Allan Ludman, Earth and Environmental Sciences
Frederick Purnell, Philosophy
Robin Rogers-Dillon, Sociology
Donald Scott, Dean of Social Sciences and Professor of History, Coordinator

SPECIAL PULL-OUT CALENDAR

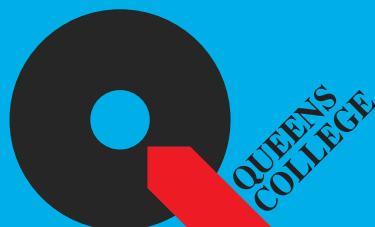
QUEENS COLLEGE

FALL 2004 FESTIVAL OF ART

Your guide to the best
of the arts in Queens



Clockwise from top left: author Tom Wolfe, *Diagonal Route* by Professor Emeritus Clinton Hill, *Still Life with Amphora and Fish* by artist Yiannes, Louis Armstrong with wife, Lucille, *Clara's Dream: A Jazz Nutcracker*, QC music director, Michael Mossman, choreographer Yin Mei.



AUGUST 20–OCTOBER 24, 2004
LOUIS ARMSTRONG HOUSE MUSEUM
IN HIS SPARE TIME

Louis Armstrong was a world-famous trumpet player, vocalist, and actor. He performed an average of 300 concerts each year, with his frequent tours to all parts of the world earning him the nickname "Ambassador Satch." This exhibit looks at how Pops passed frequent lulls in his busy touring schedule, and explores the private world of the offstage Louis Armstrong. The Museum is located at 34-56 107th St., Corona, NY 11368. For information, call 718-478-8274.



SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 9–OCTOBER 27, 2004
QUEENS COLLEGE ART CENTER
Rosenthal Library, 6th Floor

DENNIS CADY: BY LAND OR BY SEA, PAINTINGS, PRINTS AND SCULPTURE, 1982–2004

GALLERY TALK AND RECEPTION:

Thursday, September 9, 5–8 pm. New York landscape painter Dennis Cady, based in New York City and the Hudson Valley, will exhibit over 50 works, including paintings, prints, watercolors, and sculpture. His richly colored landscapes, including those of the Hudson Valley, Long Island, the Catskill and Adirondack regions, and the Northwest from where he hails, capture the spirit of the land and the changing moods of each unique setting. Hours: Mon–Thurs, 9 am–8 pm; Fri, 9 am–5 pm. Closed weekends and holidays.

20 MON

FACULTY RECITAL: Art Songs and Operatic Arias. Meredith Parsons McComb, soprano, and Charles Burkhart, piano. LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.



Eagle Creek by Dennis Cady

23 THURS

ALUMNI COMPOSERS CONCERT: Leo Kraft '45 and Friends, with Morey Ritt '65, piano. LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

30 THURS

FACULTY RECITAL: Jan-Piet Knijff performing on the Maynard-Walker Memorial Organ. LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

OCTOBER

7 THURS

ALUMNI CONCERT: Daijiro Ukon (MA '04) conducting the Queens Sinfonietta in *Pierrot Lunaire* by Arnold Schönberg. LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

OCTOBER 13–DECEMBER 15, 2004
GODWIN-TERNBACH MUSEUM

Klapper Hall, Room 405

RECENT ACQUISITIONS: 1998–2004

A selection of gifts generously donated to the Museum by alumni and friends since 1998, representing works in all media, periods, and cultures. Free public programs include a walk-through of the exhibition and guest lectures by noted curators and scholars. Hours: Mon–Thurs, 11 am–7 pm; Sat, 11 am–5 pm. For program information and schedules, call 718-997-4724.

17 SUN

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: American Premiere of Felix Mendelssohn's *Humboldt* cantata, James John, conductor. Elebash Recital Hall, CUNY Graduate Center (5th Avenue and 34th Street), 3 pm.

21 THURS

QUEENS COLLEGE CHOIR AND CHORUS: James John and Cindy Bell, conductors. LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

21–24 THURS–SUN

THE COLLEGE PLAYS: A festival of world premiere short plays in college settings, directed by Susan Einhorn. Rathaus Hall, M 11. Thurs, 7 pm; Fri & Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm. \$13/\$10 QCID, seniors, alumni. For ticket information, call 718-997-3095.



Maurice Peress

28–31 THURS–SUN

THE COLLEGE PLAYS: A festival of world premiere short plays in college settings, directed by Susan Einhorn. Rathaus Hall, M 11. Thurs, 7 pm; Fri & Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm. \$13/\$10 QCID, seniors, alumni. For ticket information, call 718-997-3095.

NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER 2, 2004–JANUARY 9, 2005
LOUIS ARMSTRONG HOUSE MUSEUM
LOVE ME OR LEAVE ME: LOUIS ARMSTRONG AND THE WOMEN IN HIS LIFE

From his grandmother, to his mother and sister, to his four wives, women played an important role in the development of Louis Armstrong as man and musician. The Museum is located at 34-56 107th St., Corona, NY 11368. For information, call 718-478-8274.

NOVEMBER 3–DECEMBER 23, 2004
QUEENS COLLEGE ART CENTER

Rosenthal Library, 6th Floor

YIANNES: CERAMIC SCULPTURE

Co-sponsored by the Foundation for Hellenic Culture, New York City. **Queens College Gallery Talk and Reception:** Thursday, November 4, 5–8 pm. The Greek-born sculptor and multimedia artist known as Yiannes will exhibit his clay sculptures, spanning several decades of work. Yiannes, who teaches in the Art Department of Queens College as well as in its Continuing Education program, utilizes various materials with his clay, such as wood, rope, wire, and glass, to achieve maximum expression. His metaphorical works, rich with symbolism, also convey something of the land and earth of his Greek heritage. Hours: Mon–Thurs, 9 am–8 pm; Fri, 9 am–5 pm. Closed weekends and holidays.

3 WED

VOCAL SEMINAR PERFORMANCE:

Claudio Monteverdi's *The Coronation of Poppea* in a new English translation staged by David Leighton. LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

10 WED**QUEENS COLLEGE ORCHESTRA GALA**

EVENING CONCERT: Maurice Peress, music director. **Mozart concertos** featuring David Jolley, horn, Daniel Phillips, violin, and Morey Ritt, piano; Edward Smaldone, Trio Concertino (world premiere). LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm.

EVENING READING: A Tribute to Roger Straus. With Jonathan Galassi, Jamaica Kincaid, Norman Manea, Susan Sontag, Derek Walcott, and Tom Wolfe. Roger Straus, of Farrar, Straus & Giroux, was one of the most important publishers in contemporary literature, a "brash and opinionated grandee who presided for nearly six decades over the book-publishing company that bore his name . . ." (*The New York Times*). Music Building, 7 pm. \$15. For ticket information, call 718-793-8080.

15 MON**QUEENS COLLEGE BRASS STUDIO RECITAL:**

David Jolley, instructor. LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

17 WED**QUEENS COLLEGE WIND ENSEMBLE:**

Michael Lipsey, conductor. LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

18 THURS**LONG ISLAND COMPOSERS ALLIANCE**

CONCERT: LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

CHORAL COFFEE BREAK: Queens College Choir and Chorus, James John and Cindy Bell, conductors. Norman and Carole Barham Rotunda, Rosenthal Library, 12:15 pm.

19 FRI**GUEST PERFORMANCE:**

Sharmila Daniel, soprano, and Andrew Saderman, piano. **Highlights from Puccini's *La Bohème***. LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm.

21 SUN**CECILE LICAD, PIANO:**

First of five events in the **Colden Center Classical Concert Series**. LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 pm. Single Tickets: \$34; Five-Event Series: \$140. For tickets or information, call 718-793-8080.



Cecile Licad

22 MON**QUEENS COLLEGE PERCUSSION**

ENSEMBLE: Michael Lipsey, director; special guest David Cossin. **Music of Ralph Shapey**. LeFrak Concert Hall, 12:15 pm.

23 TUES**QUEENS COLLEGE GRADUATE AND DIRECTORS SYMPHONIC WINDS CONCERT:**

Richard Sang, director. LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm.

28 SUN

KIDSCCLASSICS: Brass. First concert in a series designed to teach youngsters about the parts of the orchestra in a fun way. Pre-concert activities and Fun Book included. Recommended for children ages 5–10. LeFrak Concert Hall, 3 pm. Single Tickets: \$12. Five-Event Series: \$40. For tickets or information, call 718-793-8080.

30 TUES

EVENING READING: Cynthia Ozick. The National Book Critic Circle Award-winning author of the novels *The Shawl*, *The Messiah of Stockholm*, *The Puttermessa Papers*, and forthcoming *Heir to the Glimmering World*, has been described by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* as "one of the finest and most imaginative writers of our time." In addition to reading from her work, Ms. Ozick will also be interviewed by Leonard Lopate. Music Building, 7 pm, \$10. For ticket information, call 718-793-8080.

DECEMBER**6 MON****AN EVENING OF CHORAL MUSIC:**

Queens College Choir and Chorus, James John and Cindy Bell, conductors. LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm.

7 TUES**GRADUATE****STUDENT COMPOSERS**

CONCERT: Bruce Saylor, coordinator.

LeFrak Concert Hall, 7:30 pm.

9–12 THURS–SUN

DANCE CONCERT: Directed by Yin Mei Critchell, featuring choreography by guest artists Eiko & Koma. Goldstein Theatre Mainstage. Thurs, 7 pm; Fri & Sat, 8 pm; Sun, 3 pm. \$13/\$10 QCID, seniors, alumni. For ticket information, call 718-997-3095.

11 SAT**QUEENS COLLEGE CHORAL SOCIETY**

WINTER CONCERT: Joseph Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, James John, conductor. Colden Auditorium, 8 pm. \$15 orch, \$13 mezz; \$2 alumni discount. For ticket information, call 718-793-8080.

12 SUN**NEWSDAY FAMILY THEATRE****CLARA'S DREAM: A JAZZ NUTCRACKER:**

Inspired by the Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn jazz version of Tchaikovsky's fairy tale ballet, *Clara's Dream* is a high voltage, swinging, and sophisticated modern-day classic where the dancers wear tap shoes, the nutcracker gets a red zoot suit, and Clara gets whisked away to a posh 1940s nightclub! Colden Auditorium, 7 pm. Adults: \$15, Children 12 and under \$12. For tickets or information, call 718-793-8080.

13 MON

CHORAL COFFEE BREAK: Holiday Songs and Carols. Queens College Choir and Chorus, James John and Cindy Bell, conductors. Norman and Carole Barham Rotunda, Rosenthal Library, 12:15 pm.



KidsClassics

19 SUN

KIDSCCLASSICS: Woodwinds. Second concert in a series designed to teach youngsters about the parts of the orchestra in a fun way. Pre-concert activities and Fun Book included. Recommended for children ages 5–10. LeFrak Concert Hall, 3 pm. \$12. For ticket information, call 718-793-8080.

AARON COPLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The Aaron Copland School of Music presents an exciting series of mostly free events featuring faculty, students, alumni, and distinguished guests. To receive a complete Music Calendar, send your name and address to the School of Music office (Music Building, Room 203A).

For information, call 718-997-3800 or access the Events Calendar on the Web at www.qc.cuny.edu.

COLDEN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Colden Center for the Performing Arts has been presenting the finest artists and attractions to the metropolitan region since 1961, offering a sophisticated range of classical music, jazz, contemporary entertainment, and children's events. Colden Center is comprised of the 2,127-seat Colden Auditorium and the 489-seat LeFrak Concert Hall, a recital hall boasting state-of-the-art acoustics and recording facilities. Both venues are available for rental year-round.

BOX OFFICE HOURS: Mon, 10 am–4 pm; Wed, 12 noon–8 pm; Fri, 12–4 pm; Saturday, 10 am–2 pm. Discounts are available for groups, seniors, students, and alumni. For information, to receive a season brochure, or to be placed on our email list, please call 718-793-8080, or visit www.coldencenter.org.

DRAMA, THEATRE & DANCE

The Drama, Theatre & Dance Department produces four mainstage productions each season: a musical or opera (co-produced with the School of Music), a classical play, a contemporary or world premiere production, and a dance concert. These are directed by our faculty and guest artists. The department offers an intensive curriculum in all areas of theatre, literature, history, acting, directing, design, musical theatre, and dance training in modern, ballet, tap, jazz, Asian dance forms, Caribbean and African dance, as well as dance history.

For information, call the Arts Hotline at 718-997-3095.

GODWIN-TERNBACH MUSEUM

Klapper Hall, Room 405

Conceived as a teaching institution, the Godwin-Ternbach Museum is a professional not-for-profit art museum with a comprehensive permanent collection of 3,500 objects, ranging from the ancient world to the present day. Exhibitions, which alternate between showcases of the collection and special presentations of contemporary and historical significance, are designed as cultural and educational vehicles for students, faculty, and public audiences alike. Recently we have received over 500 gifts of objects from alumni and friends of the museum. To make a

donation of art to the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, please call 718-997-4724.

Hours: Mon–Thurs, 11 am–7 pm; Sat, 11 am–5 pm. For information, call 718-997-4724 or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/art/gtmus.html.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG HOUSE

Louis Armstrong House
34-56 107th Street, Corona, NY 11368

Louis Armstrong was an international celebrity who could have lived anywhere. In 1943 he and his wife, Lucille, settled in a modest house in Corona, Queens, where they lived for the remainder of their lives. This unpretentious house was Louis's haven from the road, a home where he entertained friends and neighbors, and where he created a remarkable record of his life through his writings, collages, and home recordings. The Louis Armstrong House offers hourly tours, interpretive exhibits, a gift shop, and special events in the Armstrong garden.

Hours: Tues–Fri, 10 am–5 pm; Sat & Sun, 12 noon–5 pm; closed on some holidays.
Admission: adults: \$8; seniors, students, and children: \$6; Group rate: \$6; Current Members: Free. Group tours are available. For information, call 718-478-8274, or visit www.satchmo.net.

THE LOUIS ARMSTRONG ARCHIVES

Benjamin Rosenthal Library, Room 332

The Louis Armstrong Archives is the home of Louis and Lucille Armstrong's personal belongings originally found in the Armstrong home. Included in the collection are 1,600 sound recordings, 650 home-recorded audio tapes in hand-decorated tape boxes, 86 scrapbooks, 5,000 photographs, 270 sets of big band parts, 120 awards and plaques, and much more. Between 100 and 200 new items are added to the collection annually. The Armstrong Archives is open to the public free of charge.

Hours: Open by appointment. For more information, call 718-997-3670 or visit www.satchmo.net.

QUEENS COLLEGE ART CENTER

Rosenthal Library, 6th Floor

The Queens College Art Center welcomes you to its seventeenth season in the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library. The program features a variety of exhibitions of modern and contemporary art, presenting the works of both emerging and established artists in diverse media.

Hours: Mon–Thurs, 9 am–8 pm; Fri, 9 am–5 pm. Closed weekends and holidays. For information, please call 718-997-3770, or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/Library/art/artcenter.html.

EVENING READINGS

Queens College Evening Readings celebrates its 29th Anniversary Season with readings and interviews with some of the greatest living writers in the world, from Nobel Laureate Derek Walcott to Cynthia Ozick to Jamaica Kincaid and Tom Wolfe.

For information, call 718-997-4646, or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings. To order Season Tickets, call the Colden Center Box Office at 718-793-8080.

Directions: www.qc.cuny.edu/directions



The generosity of alumni and friends keeps the arts alive at Queens College. Be a patron of the arts by making a tax-deductible gift to any of the departments listed below:

Aaron Copland School of Music
718-997-3800

Colden Center for the
Performing Arts 718-544-2996

Department of Drama,
Theatre & Dance 718-997-3090

Godwin-Ternbach
Museum 718-997-4724

Louis Armstrong House
& Archives 718-997-3670

Queens College Art Center
718-997-3770

Queens College Evening Readings
718-997-4646

And when making a donation, ask your company if they have a matching-gift program or are interested in a corporate sponsorship.

Q

Alumni Notes

1950: Virginia Lucas Freye and Henry B. Freye (né Freydyberg) '52 write that despite the passage of more than 50 years, they still care about what goes on at their alma mater. Henry was co-captain of the QC soccer team and played in the Orchestra-Band. Henry and Virginia met at the college and married in 1954. Virginia went on to a career at Sloan-Kettering Institute, Ciba Pharmaceutical, Duke University, and the University of California at San Francisco, where she authored or coauthored 13 scientific publications. Henry graduated from Duke University Medical School in 1959 and returned there for a pediatric residency, followed by a fellowship in allergy and immunology at Duke and CHMC in Boston. He joined the faculty of Brown University in 1965 and started a private practice in Rhode Island and Connecticut, which he continues on a part-time basis. Henry and Virginia have three grown children . . . **1956:** Marcia Ascher is an emerita professor of mathematics at Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY. She has written several highly regarded books on the relationship between culture and mathematical ideas and on applications of mathematics to archaeology. Marcia has been a Getty Scholar at the Getty Center for the History of Art and the Humanities, and was twice named a Dana Research Fellow at Ithaca College . . . After a career as an educator – her last position being

head of St. Paul's School for Girls in Baltimore – Evelyn A. Flory is retired and lives in Princeton. "In addition to the usual retirement activities (travel, writing, family, etc.), I have set up my own business for selling my late husband's paintings. I can scarcely believe that I am only two years away from my fiftieth reunion!" she writes . . .

1957: Marvin Miller was awarded a grant by the Puffin Foundation to prepare a slide lecture on the Vatican and the Holocaust. Marvin previously presented slide lectures on related topics to religious groups, schools, libraries, Holocaust centers, Elder-hostel groups, and historical societies . . . The Boston University School of Music recently honored Joel L. Sheveloff, professor of music and chairman of the musicology department, with its highest teaching award, the Metcalf Cup. Joel has been teaching at BU since 1964



and has developed and taught over 50 courses, ranging from medieval keyboard music to music in the Soviet Union. His articles have been published in *Current Musicology*, *Chigiana*, *Musica Poetica*, *Symphony Newsletter*, *Critical Inquiry*, and other journals. Joel has also conducted lecture series about Bach, Handel, Domenico Scarlatti, and contemporary musical issues. Joel, who earned his MFA and PhD from Brandeis University, is married to Thea Jones ('59) . . .

1958: Neil Wolf received his master's degree (1960) and doctorate (1966) in physics from the Stevens Institute of Technology. Neil was a physicist at the Gordon Space Research Lab (1965-67), and a professor at Dickinson College (1967-98). He writes that "I had an excellent education at Queens, and was well prepared for grad school. I also appreciated the well-rounded program. The non-science courses helped me as a professor at Dickinson, a liberal arts college, where I taught many courses on the history of science and also science and society (as well as physics courses, of course). The physics program at Queens was especially useful in classical physics. I remember good advanced courses in optics and

acoustics. My research field was and is plasma physics. Now I am doing computer simulations of the plasma boundary in the DIII-D tokamak at General Atomics Lab here in San Diego." You can contact Neil at wolf@dickinson.edu . . .

1959: Marian Kaplun Shapiro began her professional life as an English teacher, before returning to graduate school at Harvard in 1974. Since receiving a doctorate in 1978, she has been practicing as a psychologist, specializing in trauma. Marian has written one professional book, chapters in psychology anthologies, and many journal articles. Recently, she returned to her first love: poetry (she first published in QC's *Spectrum*). In the past three years she has published in many small poetry journals and received six prizes. Married for 44 years to Irwin Shapiro, a physicist, she has two married children and three grandchildren. Marian lives in Lexington, MA, where she has a private practice . . . **1962:** Ira Greene (MA '65) is a partner in the Brooklyn law firm of Wenig, Ginsberg, Saltiel & Greene LLP, which concentrates on complex real estate and landlord-tenant litigation . . .

1963: Gary A. Leo is president and chief executive officer of the ALS Association (ALSA), the nation's preeminent organization in the fight against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Gary has more than 30 years of experience in management, fundraising, teaching, and training in the nonprofit sector. He most recently served as senior vice president for development at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Gary holds a master's degree in social work administration and planning from Rutgers University, and a master's degree in educational administration from New York University. For more information, visit www.alsa.org . . .

1964: David Goldbeck and his wife, Nikki, a nutritionist, are the editors of *Healthy Highways: The Traveler's Guide to Healthy Eating* (Ceres Press, 2004). It lists over 1,900 en-route alternatives to fast

food in all 50 states. Since publication of their 1973 best-seller *The Supermarket Handbook*, the Goldbecks have coauthored several books on diet and lifestyle. Previously, David directed a community legal service program (after completing his BA in economics, he obtained his LLB from Brooklyn Law School). The Goldbecks live in Woodstock, NY . . . **1965:** Lynne Friedman (MS '74) is a painter who lives in Kingston, NY.



In May she had her sixth solo show in New York City at Noho Gallery in Manhattan, featuring work created during an art

residency in New Mexico, awarded to her by the Helene Wurlitzer Foundation in Taos. Lynne received a doctorate in art education from Columbia University's Teachers College. Her work is in the collections of Pfizer, McGraw-Hill, and IBM . . . **Robert Levy** is president of the New York Chapter of Tax Executives Institute, the premier professional organization for in-house corporate tax attorneys and tax accountants . . . **1967:** Ira



Strauber was awarded the national C. Herman Pritchett Award for his book *Neglected Policies: Constitutional Law and Legal Commentary as Civic Education* (Duke University Press). The award is made by

Continued on page 18

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our deepest sympathy to George Gubernikoff '77 on the sudden death of his wife, Judith. George, director of clinical cardiac services at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY, recently approached the college with the idea of starting a Queens College Medical Alumni Association (see Spring 2004 issue of Q). Our thoughts and condolences are with George and his family at this difficult time. If you would like to extend your sympathies to George, please contact Alumni Affairs.

LET'S KEEP IN TOUCH

Want to be informed by email of important happenings at the college? Then go to www.qc.cuny.edu/QC_Foundation/ and click on Register for Email, and complete the form.

What Can You Do with a Science Degree?

Queens College graduates answer this question in laboratories, hospitals, on the open trail, and on the high seas

By **Leslie Jay and Donna Shoemaker**

Fighting the Most Frightening Diseases

Jeffrey H. Kordower

He's the director of the Research Center for Brain Repair in the departments of neurology, neurosurgery, and neuroscience at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. He's one of the nation's top authorities in Parkinson's, Huntington's, and Alzheimer's diseases. He's the author of "about 200" papers and the recipient of more grants than he can remember. He received an honorary doctorate from Queens College at this year's graduation ceremonies. So it's surprising to learn that Jeffrey H. Kordower '80 discovered his calling by accident. "I stumbled into psychological research in the labs of Susan Fleischer and Richard Bodnar," says Kordower, a Forest Hills High School grad who describes himself as just an average student until he was inspired by talented professors.

Clearly, his trajectory since then has been anything but average. Based at Queens for his graduate work at CUNY, he completed his PhD in three-and-a-half years—a period in which he published 10 peer-reviewed papers on pain perception and analgesia. Kordower's next stop was a postdoctoral program at the University of Rochester School of Medicine, where he concentrated on neurodegenerative diseases and published another 22 papers.

He stuck with this topic in Chicago, spending two years at the University of



Illinois School of Medicine before moving to Rush in 1990 and establishing a nonhuman primate center as the headquarters for his research. His recent efforts involve gene therapy, which holds tremendous promise as a mean to arrest, and perhaps repair, the damage wreaked on patients' brains. Better yet, at age 45, Kordower can expect that some of his most exciting work lies before him. "I love science," he says. "It's been a great ride."

On the Whale Watch

Arthur Kopelman

Like a latter-day Captain Ahab, Arthur Kopelman '75 tracks whales. But he's pursuing data, not revenge. As president of the Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI), he monitors local marine environments and their rich plant and animal life.

A native of the landlocked Jamaica neighborhood, Kopelman began exploring waterfronts in his teens: He sailed the



Hudson River as a frequent volunteer on the *Clearwater*, an environmental study center housed in a nineteenth-century-style sloop. After earning a BA in biology, he stayed on the

Queens College campus for seven years, teaching in the biology department and working toward his PhD, awarded by CUNY in 1982. "My doctorate was for research on parasitic insects, but I started looking at whales as a grad student," says Kopelman. "Queens provided me with the

mental tools and rigor that I needed." He didn't have to look far to find the cetaceans. "I have documented twenty species of whales and dolphins in New York," he adds. "That's one-quarter of all the species in the world."

A faculty member at the Fashion Institute of Technology, where he has been a full professor for eleven years, Kopelman co-founded CRESLI in 1996 with a team of local scientists and educators. "I wanted to put my work where my rhetoric was," he explains. Today, he lives in Sayville and divides his energies between the classroom and the field, leading whale watches, conducting population assessments, and promoting the rehabilitation of stranded sea mammals and turtles. He also makes occasional political waves. "I recently testified against the Long Island Power Authority's plans to build wind farms in the ocean without testing them first," he says. "Our natural systems are being stressed. There's no political constituency for the offshore area."

From Dancer to Fitness Trainer

Mary Kathryn Haltiwanger Schmitz

Epidemiological research was not what Mary Kathryn Haltiwanger Schmitz had in mind when she came to New York in 1984. A former dance major who earned a BA in economics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, she planned to support herself in arts management. Instead, she spent four years performing with companies as varied as Martha Graham and Avodah—a Jewish liturgical dance troupe—before swapping her slippers for sneakers and becoming a

fitness trainer. In the process, she turned a professional liability into her strongest asset. "I was always told I was thinking too much," Schmitz notes. "That's bad in a dancer, but good in a trainer."

To bolster her resume and her earnings, she enrolled in the master's program in exercise physiology at Queens. Soon she found herself involved in a groundbreaking study that would demonstrate the beneficial impact of physical activity on teenagers' health. "Professor Paul Fardy basically turned over the reins of the project to me," Schmitz recalls. "We did it at Hillcrest High School on a shoestring, using donated equipment and the help of graduate students and undergrads in the physical education program. I learned how much you can do for very little money." Upon receiving her MEd in 1994, Schmitz took her investigative and budgetary talents to the University of Minnesota, earning a PhD in kinesiology and subsequently joining the faculty. Now she's in the third year of her first big grant, for a study of strength training in obesity prevention. She's also conducting research into the impact exercise can have on the health of cancer survivors. Appropriately enough, Schmitz works out regularly and limits her consumption of certain carbohydrates, but her choices have nothing to do with the Atkins plan. "You can't get a good bagel in Minnesota," she complains. "And the pizza—ohhhhh."

A Naturalist's Trail Alan Kaplan

The Berkeley, CA second-graders gathered around Alan Kaplan '72 bypassed the enticements of Tilden Regional Park's carousel, pony rides, and swimming lake. Instead, they came to the Tilden Nature Area to learn about insects by catching them in nets.

Kaplan, the naturalist at the East Bay's most popular park, says he's known in the park district as the "go-to guy for dragonflies, household pests, and yellowjackets." At Tilden, he has offered a science camp for 20 years. He also tends its butterfly

garden; cares for the burros and other animals on its farm; raises mealworms, mice, and turtles; maintains the microscopic exhibit of pond life; and guides birders through Tilden's nature trails.

Growing up in the post-Sputnik era fueled Kaplan's passion for all things scientific. He thrived on geology, chemistry, and biology and pursued those interests at the Bronx High School of Science. "I could not not be interested in science; it was all around me," he says. "I grew up at exactly the right moment."

Among the many moments at Queens College that Kaplan recalls, he tells of his first semester biology class, where each student dissected a lobster. Then students learned to appreciate their research in another way: "The teaching assistant boiled the tails, and we had them with melted butter."

His fascination with invertebrates took wing as a biology student at Queens College, where he maintained the fly and parasite colonies of the professor who became his mentor: Peter Chabora (Biology). It was Chabora who guided Kaplan into graduate work at the



University of California, Berkeley and prepared him to hold his own in studying entomology. Kaplan completed his MSc in 1979 at Berkeley.

"The two cornerstones of my life," Kaplan believes, have been his enriching opportunities in biology and his liberal arts education at Queens. That solid grounding led him to delve into classical music, collect the novels of Anthony Burgess, and commit to writing books when he retires in about a year, at age 55.

While the West Coast has been home since 1972, "I'm still the Bronx boy that I was," Kaplan affirms.

Learning to Live Without Wheat

Anne Roland Lee

"Our lifestyles today are so hectic that we tend not to prepare food but to grab-and-go. That's what gets us into trouble," observes nutritionist Anne Roland Lee (MS '02). As a working mother of three

teenagers, Lee tries to keep her family on the right nutrition track. At work, she has devoted her career to celiac disease patients, who must follow a gluten-free diet.

Once celiac disease surfaces, "you have it for life," Lee says. Celiac patients not only have to shun wheat, rye, and barley, but they must be ever vigilant for traces of the gluten protein in soy sauce, packaged foods, and cosmetics. If patients let their guard down, they suffer from diarrhea. Once they go on the gluten-free diet, "the beauty of it is that the absorptive surfaces [in the small intestine] completely recover."



For two years Lee has been the research dietitian at the Celiac Disease Center at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. She takes a special interest in children and recently published a cookbook for pediatric celiac patients. Lee teaches families how to cope by packing school lunches, taking gluten-free treats to birthday parties, scrutinizing food labels, and using grains like quinoa and kasha. She offers other tips on the disease in her "Nutrition Corner" column (www.cdcc.hs.columbia.edu/A_Patients/A05-pNutrition.htm).

At Syracuse University Lee majored in nutrition and had begun her master's degree. To complete her MS, she chose Queens because "it has a great science program and a great nutrition department."

Her master's thesis – published in the November 2003 *Journal of the American Dietetic Association* – was a large-population study of how celiac patients viewed their quality of life. Their general outlook on health was similar to the control group, but they were negative when it came to how managing their disease affected life socially and at home. At a party or restaurant, for example, they must ask detailed questions about every dish.

Celiac disease is more prevalent in Ireland and other northern European countries than in the United States. Lee's own background is part Irish, though she knows of no celiac disease in her family tree. This spring she presented her research in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

to identify the factors that predict which children go on to develop AD/HD is the focus of a \$2 million National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) grant recently awarded to Halperin and his team at the Queens College Preschool Project (QCPP). "If we can identify who will develop AD/HD, we can have more focused early intervention with the children, and parenting behaviors can be modified," he says. The five-year study will examine genetic and environmental factors and focus on children from the ages of three to five.

Recent Science Grants

\$2 Million Grant for Research on AD/HD

A significant number of preschool children are being medicated for hyperactivity and aggressive behavior, characteristics typically associated with AD/HD (attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder). Although the medication is helpful for some, it may be that many of these children don't need it at all. "What we know is that a lot of young children seem impulsive and hyperactive, but for many of them it's just a behavioral blip that disappears," says **Jeffrey Halperin** (Psychology). "But others do not outgrow their symptoms." Trying



HHMI Funds College for \$800,000

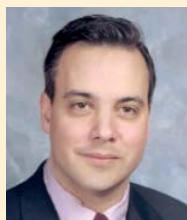
The college received a four-year, \$800,000 grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) for several initiatives in biology and neuroscience. Nearly 200 colleges were invited to compete for the funding, based on their records of preparing students for graduate education and careers in science research, teaching, and medicine. The grant will enable Queens to award four two-year postdoctoral research-teaching fellowships in neuroscience and bioinformatics. With the help of faculty mentors, the four postdocs will both conduct laboratory research and design and teach courses in neuroscience or bioinformatics. Recognizing that experience in teaching is essential to a strong research program, HHMI hopes this will become a national model for preparing scientists for faculty positions. The grant will also allow a number of high school students (many from minority groups underrepresented in the sciences) and QC undergraduates to work with faculty in the college's laboratories.



Understanding Cancer Suppressors

Cathy Savage-Dunn (Biology) received a \$720,000 four-year grant from the American Cancer Society to investigate cell-cell communication in animals using a genetically tractable model organism, the roundworm *Caenorhabditis elegans* (pictured above). Cells communicate, or signal, by releasing molecules that are sensed by other cells. These signals help to control cell growth and function, while cancer represents an escape from the normal regulation of cell growth and replication. To understand the causes of and possible treatments for cancer, a detailed understanding of the normal regulatory pathways is essential. One important class of signaling molecules regulates many aspects of cell function in diverse animal species, and components of their signaling pathways act as tumor suppressors involved in human cancers. Through this funding, Savage-Dunn's laboratory will investigate the molecular, genetic, and cellular processes involved in cell communication via TGF β signals.

New VP for Student Affairs



Joe Bertolino has been appointed Vice President for Student Affairs, effective August 1. He succeeds Burt Backner, who retired as Dean of Student Affairs after 35 years of service to the college.

Bertolino brings with him an exemplary professional and academic record, including awards for administrative ability, service, and commitment to diversity. He spent the past eight years at Barnard

College, where most recently he was Dean of Community Development. Previously he was Director of College Activities for SUNY at Old Westbury and held administrative positions at East Stroudsburg University in Pennsylvania. Bertolino received a BS cum laude in psychology and sociology from the University of Scranton, an MSW from Rutgers University, and an EdD from Teachers College of Columbia University.

Global Warming Under the Microscope

Global warming is the focus of a \$438,000 National Science Foundation grant awarded to **Gary Hemming** (Earth and Environmental Sciences), who hopes to shed light on whether current warming trends are a dangerous aberration or a cyclical phenomenon similar to others seen throughout earth's history. His research looks at historically high levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide that have resulted from the burning of fossil fuels, a major factor in global warming. Since carbon dioxide dissolves in

water, affecting its pH balance, Hemming has developed a tool that can accurately gauge the acidity of the ocean hundreds of thousands of years ago. The data can then be compared with what is already known about climate change to determine if the present high levels of carbon dioxide are part of a historic pattern.

Preparing a New Generation of Scientists

For the first time, the college is being funded by the NIH for the MARC program (Minority Access to Research Careers). Typically, this program, which stresses biomedical research, only goes to colleges designated “minority-serving institutions” by their demographics (over 50% minority students). Although Queens doesn’t fit that profile, **Zahra Zakeri** (Biology) has managed to bring a modified version of the program here with \$244,377 in funding. Six juniors and seniors will be chosen to conduct research with faculty mentors. Students will receive a stipend of \$10,000, paid tuition, and additional funds for lab supplies and travel.

An Exceptional Scientist

Susan Rotenberg (Chemistry) has received an Exceptional Project Award of \$100,000 from the Breast Cancer Alliance. The awards are granted on the basis of a project’s innovativeness, impact, approach, and feasibility. Rotenberg is keeping exceptional company, as the three other winning researchers are affiliated with the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Rockefeller University, and the Yale Cancer Center. Her research focuses on identifying cellular proteins that cause a cancer cell to spread throughout the body. This process – cancer metastasis – is poorly understood. Rotenberg has identified protein kinase C as an enzyme that promotes cell movement. She now hopes to identify the protein substrate(s) of this enzyme in order to better understand the chain of intracellular events that supports cell movement.



QC Alum at D-Day Ceremony: Arnold C. Franco '43 (r) shakes hands with French President Jacques Chirac after the ceremony at the American Cemetery in Normandy at Colleville-sur-Mer, France, on Sunday, June 6, marking the sixtieth anniversary of D-Day. President George Bush is in the background. Arnold, who was featured in the fall 2000 issue of Q, wrote a book about his wartime experiences, *Code to Victory: Coming of Age in World War II*.

Heilman and Michels Named Distinguished Professors

The City University of New York has bestowed its highest honor, the title of Distinguished Professor, on two more QC faculty members: **Samuel C. Heilman** (Sociology) and **Corinne Michels** (Biology). President James Muyskens introduced them at a CUNY Board Meeting on June 28.

“Samuel Heilman’s work is required reading not only for sociologists but also for anthropologists, economists,



Samuel Heilman

students of religion and minority affairs, and anyone with an interest in the forces shaping our world,” Muyskens noted. A member of the college’s sociology faculty since 1973, Heilman currently holds the Harold Proshansky Professorship in Jewish Studies and Sociology at CUNY. His books, all of which are still in print, have won numerous awards, including the National Jewish Book Award twice, for *When a Jew Dies* and *A Walker in Jerusalem*.

He is currently finishing a new book, *The Rise and Fall of American Modern Jewish Orthodoxy?* A graduate of Brandeis University (BA), New School University (MA), and the University of Pennsylvania (PhD), Heilman has also written a monthly column on the sociology of Jewry for *New York Jewish Week* and is editor-in-chief of *Contemporary Jewry*.

“If I were asked to explain in two words what makes Queens an exceptional college,” Muyskens noted in introducing the second distinguished professor, “my answer easily could be **Corinne Michels**. As a graduate of Queens College, she is a fine example of what someone with a first-rate liberal arts education can achieve. And now, as a teacher and researcher, she has few peers.” Michels graduated from Queens in 1963 with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. She joined the faculty in 1972, and since then has earned an international reputation for her research into the regulation of maltose fermentation in yeast, which helps to explain metabolism control in almost all living cells. Her work has been praised as “pathbreaking,” “truly exceptional,” and “novel, unexpected, and exciting.” She has a remarkable record of funding for her research, including continuous support from the NIH for almost 30 years. Michels’s textbook *Genetic Techniques for Biological Research: A Case Study Approach* is widely used.



Corinne Michels



the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association. Ira is a professor of political science at Grinnell College

in Grinnell, IA . . . **1968: Bob W. Strauss**, a partner at Strasburger & Price, LLP was honored by the *Dallas Business Journal* for being legal counsel for one of the Best Real Estate Deals of 2003. The transaction was cited under the category "Best Community Impact in the Greater Dallas Area." Bob earned his LLM (taxation) from New York University (1976) and his JD from Brooklyn Law School (1971) . . .

1969: David M. Guskin (MBA Univ. of Conn. '72) is director of Artery Financial Services, LLC. In addition, Dave is an adjunct professor in the Business Administration and Economics Dept. of Montgomery College. He was recently selected as the precinct vice chair for his election district and serves on the Parents' Advisory Board for the University of Maryland, where his daughter, Emily, is a junior. He continues in his capacity as the



chairman for the QC Alumni Association in the Washington, DC region, and has organized the alumni trip to Tuscany this September . . . **Gary Morgan** retired after 31 years in the New York City civil service. Gary was also a psycho-therapist and adjunct college professor. He recently began taking acting classes and has appeared in films, community and off-Broadway theater, industrial videos, and television. Gary reports that he took one acting course at Queens, where the seed may have been sown . . .

1970: Alan Landes can still be seen at Queens, where he is entering his 25th season coaching the men's tennis team. In April the team gave him a milestone 300th career win. They also went to the NCAAAs for the third time in three years, and Alan was named the ITA (Intercollegiate Tennis Association) Division II Coach of the Year. As a coach, Alan says, "I'm not a whatever person." Alan still plays tennis and, in warm weather, rollerblades 20 miles a day. His fourth daughter was born May 18. Alan invites former players to call him at his office: 718-997-2727 . . . **1971:**

Jane Gabin, chair of the Carolina Alumni Chapter, is director of college counseling at the Chapin School in Manhattan . . . **Jane Breskin Zalben** and **Steven Zalben** ('69) have published their first book

together (and his first ever), *Saturday Night at the Beastro* (Harper-Collins, 2004). Jane writes about attending orientation at QC: "The speaker talked about math and said that 'some of you might even meet your husbands or wives here.' I turned to a friend and said, 'Like that would ever happen—I am never taking a math course again and I doubt meeting a husband.' It was 1967, campus revolution, the Vietnam War, and feminism. Well, I met my husband the first day of college on the Quad. I was wearing an orange mini-skirt and he had real long hair and sandals. He graduated with a BA in Mathematics. We married in my junior year, much to my parents' dismay, saying only beauticians get married at nineteen—"not that there's anything wrong with that," to quote Seinfeld." Jane has since published 50 children's books and won several book awards, while Steven is an architect . . . **1973: Bradley Mandell** is a doctor of chiropractic in Pasadena, MD. He is also an avid sailor on the Chesapeake Bay and is building a 34-foot catamaran



. . . **John L. Ray** was named to the foundation board of the Medical College of Georgia. He is president and

general manager of WRDW-TV in Augusta, GA, and serves on the CBS Television Affiliates Advisory Board, as well as on the board of directors of the Georgia Association of Broadcasters . . . **1974:**

Barry Bass earned an MS from NYU in 1977, a DDS from SUNY-Stony Brook in 1981, and a specialty in oral and maxillofacial surgery at Long Island Jewish Hospital in 1984. He is in private practice in oral surgery in Plainview and Massapequa, NY, and is associate director of the TMJ Department at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset . . .

1977: The New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants recently installed **Stephen F. Langowski**, a CPA and partner of KPMG, LLP, as its president-elect. Stephen has more than 25 years of experience in delivering audit and advisory services in the public sector. A frequent speaker and thought leader on governmental accounting, auditing, and reporting, he joined KPMG in 1994 after starting his career with Ernst & Young in 1979. Stephen and his wife, Lorna, have two children . . . **1978: Larry Russ** obtained an MS in physics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1980. He then worked at Bell Laboratories and at Bellcore before obtaining a JD degree from Fordham Law School. Larry is now a patent attorney at Lerner, David, Littenberg, Krumholz & Mentlik, LLP, in Westfield, NJ. He writes: "I have fond memories of my studies in the Physics Department including my classes with Profs. Lazar, Nueberger, Cotter, Garcia, Orenstein (both), Cadieu, and Shore and my research work for Prof. Garcia. I feel my classes at Queens gave a good foundation for the analytical work in my career." Larry lives in West Orange, NJ (Lawrence.Russ.SAS80@alumni.upenn.edu) . . .



1979: Helen M. Grady, associate professor of technical communication at the Mercer University School of Engineering, received the 2003–2004 Vulcan Award for Teaching Excellence "for her outstanding contributions to undergraduate education, student learning and campus life." Helen joined

FAMILY TRADITION LEADS TO SALK SCHOLARSHIP

Eleonora Khaimova '04, a native of Uzbekistan, received the Jonas E. Salk Scholarship, awarded to graduating seniors who show promise of becoming outstanding physicians. A psychology major at the college, she conducted over two years of neuroscience research, leading to several peer-reviewed publications, including one on which she is senior author.

That distinction is rare, according to her research advisor and department chair Richard Bodnar. "From my lab there have been three or four students in my 25 years here who have been senior authors. What you're doing is entrusting an entire body of research to her," he explains. Khaimova's research, conducted in Bodnar's Laboratory of Opioid Pharmacology, concerns the neuroanatomical, neurochemical, and behavioral analysis of feeding in rats.

The scholarship will help Khaimova fulfill her dream of becoming a doctor. In Bukhara, the central Asian city where she grew up, both her parents were in medicine: her father as a pediatrician, her mother as a

nurse. Following the Soviet break-up and national independence in 1991, however, increasing anti-Semitism toward the ancient community of Bukharian Jews led most of the Jewish population to leave Uzbekistan. The Khaimova family came to this country in 1994 and began the process of rebuilding their personal and professional lives.

At Queens Khaimova excelled academically, staying on the Dean's List, being inducted into the Golden Key National Honor Society, and serving as an editor of *Nucleus*, the journal of undergraduate scientific research. She graduated with highest departmental honors and won the Mitchell L. Kietzman Award for Excellence in Psychological Research.

Khaimova, who hopes to become a pediatrician, will attend New York Medical College in Westchester, which has awarded her a \$20,000 scholarship in addition to her \$6,000 Salk Scholarship.



Eleonora Khaimova

the faculty of Mercer in 1991 after a decade of industry experience leading a technical communication unit. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, her master's degree in biology from QC, and her doctorate in instructional design and distance education from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, FL. She lives in Macon, GA . . .



1988: Halina Goldberg is editor of the anthology *The Age of Chopin: Interdisciplinary Inquiries* (Indiana UP, 2004). Halina is an assistant professor of musicology at Indiana University. Much of her research concerns the cultural environment of Chopin's Warsaw . . . **1995:** Demetris Nicolaides is a professor at Bloomfield College. "The sound of the words Queens College brings only joy to my heart," he writes. "Twenty years ago I came to the USA and I learned English at the ESL program at QC. Then I earned a BA in physics and applied math as well as an MA in physics at Queens. I went on to earn my PhD in physics at the City University of New York with Queens as my base college. I learned to do original research with the help of a great thesis advisor, Professor Alex Lisiansky, and also learned to teach physics as a graduate student. Without a doubt QC prepared me professionally and I would not do anything different if I was taken back in time and had to start from the beginning" . . .

1998: Bridgit Pilchman Goldman is pursuing a PhD at CUNY in the field of plant molecular biology. As teaching assistant in QC's Biology Department, she won a 2003 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student . . . **Dennis Velasco** is a production editor in the Scientific, Technical, and Medical Division of John Wiley & Sons. He is also the co-founder and publisher of www.fanalyze.com, a Web site specializing in the world of fantasy sports. Dennis lives with his wife, Tavia, and son in New Hyde Park, NY . . . **2002:** Zhuo Chen completed eight weeks of U.S. Navy basic training and is now

Navy Seaman Chen . . . **Steven M. Cohen** (MLS) was honored as one of the 55 most innovative librarians in the United States by *Library Journal*. An assistant librarian for Rivkin Radler, a law firm in Uniondale, Steven created and is the Web master of librarystuff.net, a library and information science Web log that serves about 2,700 visitors daily. He and his wife, Barbie, live in Smithtown, NY . . .

WE REMEMBER

1949: Jeanne Knakal, editor-in-chief of the yearbook *Silhouette*, died January 2, 2004 at her home in Spring Hill, FL. She had a master's in clinical psychology and studied in Columbia University's Analytical Psychology Doctorate Program. For many years she worked in the social services division of Cancer Care, NY and Misericordia Hospital in the Bronx. Later she had a private practice in Sausalito, CA, and did social work at Mary's Help Hospital and Harkness Hospital, both in the San Francisco Bay Area . . . **1972:** Steve Pasternack,



54, died June 15 of an infection following a trip to Rwanda. A journalism professor at New Mexico State University for 21 years,

Steve was instrumental in efforts to establish an open press in Rwanda. He was also involved in ongoing efforts to strengthen free presses in the emerging democracies of Africa, the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe, for which he was awarded several Fulbright fellowships. Steve held a master's in journalism from Iowa State University and a doctorate in communications from the University of Tennessee. He wrote two books and numerous articles on media law and ethics . . . **1974:** Anne Panepinot Ciccone died January 2003. She was the author of *Creating Bridges: The Art of Utilizing Creative Skills in Day to Day Living* . . . **2004:** Manny Goldberg, whose experiences as a translator during World War II were highlighted in the fall 2000 issue of *Q*, died this June, several weeks after receiving his BA in music. Manny was 86 years old.

ALUMNI NEWS



Hamlisch Named Distinguished Alum

Marvin Hamlisch '68 has won virtually every major award that exists: three Oscars, four Grammys, two Emmys, a Tony, three Golden Globes, and the Pulitzer Prize. He will soon add to his trophy case the 2004 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). Hamlisch was nominated for this by QC President James Muyskens. Past winners include President Lyndon Johnson and General Colin Powell. Among Hamlisch's numerous credits are the groundbreaking musical *A Chorus Line* and the scores of over 40 motion pictures, including *The Way We Were*. He will receive his award at the annual meeting of the AASCU on November 23 in Charleston, South Carolina.

Pioneers Events

QC Pioneers – members of the classes of 1941–1955 – are invited to two special events this fall. The first is a tour of the Louis Armstrong House, complete with concert and soul food, on Sunday, September 12, 3–7 pm. Then join us Sunday, November 21, at 2 pm for a concert by pianist Cecile Licad, followed by a reception hosted by President James Muyskens & Mrs. Alda Muyskens. For more information call 718-997-5554.

Italy Trip a Hit

The Alumni Affairs-sponsored trip to Tuscany this September is completely booked. "I am thrilled that our first attempt in

years at an overseas alumni tour sold out so quickly," notes Washington, D.C. chapter chair and trip coordinator David Guskin '69. "Please let me know which destinations would interest you for our 2005 trip."

Wanted: Class Correspondents

Can't get enough of "Alumni Notes"? Then be a class correspondent. You will collect and pass along news of your classmates for *Q*. It's a great way to get in touch with old friends. Contact Alumni Director Joe Brostek for more details.

Oral History Project

Another reason to come to Homecoming on October 2: the Oral History Project will have an exhibit in the Dining Hall. Visit them and find out how you can add your memories to the college's historical record.

Q Magazine Updates

Be sure to check the college's Web site this November for a Web-only update of *Q*.

Missing Alumni

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

Send Us Your News!

We want to hear from you. Tell us where you are, what you are doing, and send a photo. Mail to:

Alumni News
Office of Alumni Affairs
Queens College
65-30 Kissena Boulevard
Flushing, NY 11367

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

Alumni Affairs Web site:
www.qc.cuny.edu/alumni_affairs



Q GALA HONORS PALMER AND WANN: Virginia Frese Palmer '42 (left) was 15 years old when she entered Queens College during the Great Depression. Robert Wann '82 (third from right) entered QC in 1980, a year after he had emigrated from Taiwan. Both were honored on June 23 at the Q Gala, which recognizes women and men who combine successful careers with a dedication to higher education. "Ginny and Robert, graduating 40 years apart, are proof of the timeless value of a fine liberal arts education," noted President James Muyskens. "It offers you both the tools to succeed and the proper definition of success, which is serving others." Ginny had a long career as a speech therapist, and Robert is Senior Executive VP and COO of New York Community Bancorp, Inc. This year's gala raised over \$860,000 to support scholarships and college programs. With Robert are Gala co-chairs (l-r) Muyskens, Joseph Ficalora (New York Community Bank), and Richard Goldstein (Alpine Capital LLC).



QUEENS COLLEGE
CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
65-30 KISSENA BOULEVARD
FLUSHING, NY 11367-1597

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FLUSHING, NY
PERMIT NO. 48