What’s News

Whether gathered on the Quad or watching remotely, QC’s incoming students enjoyed a fun- and confetti-filled Welcome Day on Tuesday, August 24, meeting each other and learning about campus organizations.
Every visit is a banner occasion, as signage at the main gate forecasts blue skies for all.

Newly sworn-in New York State Governor Kathy Hochul is no stranger to Queens College—she visited here a few years ago in support of energy and
environmental initiatives and more recently, spoke to the college community during Women’s History Month. “We look forward to her return to campus in her historic new role as New York’s chief executive,” said President Frank H. Wu.

**QC Videos in Demand**

The resumption of some in-person activities on campus has raised lots of questions. Many of them are answered in videos produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing in collaboration with student and faculty leaders and the Department of Drama, Theater and Dance. “What You Need to Know About Modes of Instruction” explains the distinctions among the fully in-person, fully online, and hybrid classes offered this semester. “What You Need To Know About Health Services” describes the health services and counseling services available to students. The message of “Don’t Hesitate, Vaccinate” bears repeating; Alexa, the voice of Amazon’s Echo, is among the speakers urging people to get their shots.

**“Afro Pick” Sculpture Series Debuts on QC Grounds**

*Elevations*, a six-piece sculpture series by social practice artist ’08, just made its debut at Queens College. An outdoor installation, the series comprises 5- to 6-foot Afro picks with ornamented handles fixed to welded metal teeth; images on the handles allude to the African American experience. Shortt, a QC alumna and a member of a family linked to the college for four generations, wants her work to inspire discussion of what it means to be a person of color. *Elevations* is designed to function as a collaborative narrative. At the end of 2022, the picks’ original handles will be replaced by new ones, some
Shortt, a Queens native, earned a bachelor’s degree in math from New York University and spent 15 years in the financial tech sector. She changed careers after earning a master’s in Urban Affairs at Queens College, where her capstone project addressed design in the urban environment. She is the founder of RPGA Studio, a social practice nonprofit formerly known as the Rego Park Green Alliance. The studio, in its own words, “uses art + design + technology + education + activism to address community issues” in neighborhoods around Queens. Its initiatives include Women Who Build, which helps women develop construction skills while expanding their networks, and Revitalizing Spaces, which enhances neglected areas with murals and sculpture gardens.

“Yvonne Shortt’s approach to social practice art—where she mixes her family history with the larger African American experience in the United States and involves different communities—is much needed in these times of division and uncertainty,” says Julia del Palacio, director of strategic partnerships at the college’s Kupferberg Center for the Arts. “The more we do to build community and unite, the stronger an institution and a country we will be.”

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Knowledge Transcends Borders
The flagship college of “the world’s borough” emphasizes study abroad and international collaborations, as described in the latest edition of QC Global.

This issue goes all over the map, reporting on students making music in Perugia, Italy, and faculty members whose work has taken them to Africa, Asia, and Europe. While most of these activities predate the coronavirus pandemic, one music professor managed to participate in a recording session in Germany in spring 2021. To share news of your international projects in a future issue of QC Global, email Mihaela Robila (FNES) mihaela.robila@qc.cuny.edu.

Reflecting on 9/11

With Remember This: A 9/11 20-Year Anniversary Memorial, the Godwin-Ternbach Museum (GTM) is creating a meditative space for education and contemplation. The exhibition, on display from September 1 through December 17, 2021, features six images of Tribute in Light, 2002—a public art installation involving two beams of light projected into the sky from a site just north of Ground Zero.

First realized on March 11, 2002, Tribute has been re-presented annually on September 11. The photographs shown by the GTM were donated to the museum by artists Julian LaVerdiere and Paul Myoda, who created Tribute in conjunction with architects John Bennett, Gustavo Bonevardi, and Richard Nash Gould, and lighting designer Paul Marantz.

Remember This also includes materials and images from MNEMONIC: A 9/11 Memorial Exhibition, organized for the Atrium Gallery at LaGuardia Community College in 2002, and September 11, 2001: The Day That Changed the World, curated and produced by the 9/11 Memorial & Museum.

Remember This can be viewed in the lobby area of Klapper Hall, 4th floor, only while the building is open. The exhibition can also be seen online at www.gtmuseum.org.

Support for First-Year and Transfer Students

Students new to QC will get more out of their first semester by exploring First Year Experience (FYE) workshops. The workshop series helps freshmen and new transfer students learn about different fields—and meet friends with similar interests—through activities such as designing a game with C++, recording a podcast, or editing a Wikipedia article.
The FYE program can also assist newcomers who can’t find a class, are puzzled by Blackboard, or need help with their schedule. Peer mentors field these kinds of questions during drop-in online office hours.

**Before the Law**

QC’s Pre-Law Advisory Program can help prospective attorneys make their best case for law school admission. The program offers comprehensive application support for all students applying to law school this cycle; links for information about LSAT test dates, law school scholarships, and resources for college students interested in law are posted on its website. This November, the program will organize a group trip to Manhattan to attend a law school forum held by the Law School Admission Council https://www.lsac.org/.

Everyone is invited to learn more about this advisory program at the Pre-Law Zoom Welcome tomorrow—Wednesday, September 1—from 12:15 to 1:30 pm; register here. “The pre-law program is open to all QC students and alumni, from all majors and academic backgrounds,” says Sari Kisilevsky (Philosophy), the program’s director.

**Keeping Profitable Company**

Whether you’ve started a company or just dream about doing it, you can benefit from “From Idea to Business,” presented this fall by the Tech Incubator at Queens College. Over 28 sessions, starting on Thursday, September 9, participants learn how to identify their audience, create a product or service, and market and monetize it; they also have access to a Slack group for informal discussions. Course sessions take place virtually on Tuesday or Thursday evenings, from 6 to 7:30 pm.

**Finding SEEK’s Video**

The Percy Ellis Sutton Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge Program (SEEK) marked its 55th anniversary on July 15 with a virtual event featuring alumni, faculty, and staff. If you missed the date, you don’t have to miss out: A recording with clips of each segment presented at the celebration has been posted here.
Visit the SEEK anniversary website to learn about the program’s history at QC and appreciate greetings sent by Congressman Adriano Espaillat ’79 (a SEEK alumnus), Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, and President Frank H. Wu.

In Memoriam

Leona Dushin

Leona Dushin, an alumna honored as a U.S. Pony Club Legend for her accomplishments as a riding instructor and horse breeder, died on July 31 at the age of 95.

Like many Queens College students then and now, Dushin—nee Leona Margaret Christina Hauff—interrupted her studies for work. Her job was spectacular: performing with the Ringling Brothers Circus, a natural outlet for someone who had spent her childhood in Whitestone riding horseback and taking lessons in acrobatics, dance, and wire walking. After a year with the big top, she re-enrolled at QC, completing a degree in fine arts with a minor in education.

Changing her name with marriage to an architect, Dushin settled in Garrison, New York, with a family that would grow to five children. She started a horse and pony club in 1957; 20 years later, she began offering therapeutic riding to people with emotional and physical disabilities. She also bred Morgan horses.

Returning to the classroom in her 50s, Dushin became a substitute teacher and then earned master’s degrees in science and special education, as well as accreditation in Spanish. She taught grade K-8 science and conducted special ed evaluations “from pre-school to Rikers Island,” she told the Highlands Current. In her retirement, she sang at local open mic nights, accompanying herself on ukulele, and volunteered at the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in Peekskill.

Dushin was predeceased by her ex-husband, who passed away in 2007. She is survived by all her children, six grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Temitayo Fagbenle

QC alumna Temitayo Fagbenle, a producer at public radio station WNYC, died on July 27 at the age of 25.

At 15, Fagbenle became one of WNYC’s Radio
Rookies, developing and producing original newscasts about topics important to teenagers. Her coverage of sexual cyberbullying won her a Third Coast Award and recognition from SparkAction, the social impact and storytelling collective of the Forum for Youth Investment. More recently, she worked on the podcasts “Nancy” and the “Takeaway.”

**Heard Around the Virtual Campus**

Natanya Duncan  
Nicky Nieves  
Núria Rodríguez-Planas

**Yin Mei Critchell** (Dance) completed a two-week residency at the Baryshnikov Arts Center . . . . **Natanya Duncan** (Africana Studies) delivered
the 12th Annual Marcus Mosiah Garvey Lecture on August 17. The event was livestreamed on the YouTube page of the African Caribbean Institute of Jamaica/Jamaica Memory Bank. Nicky Nieves, an alumna on the sitting volleyball team representing the United States in the Paralympics, was profiled by NBC News. Núria Rodríguez-Planas (Economics) has a paper on Penalty-point system, deterrence and road safety: A quasi-experimental analysis - ScienceDirect in the Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization. Next February, she will deliver the keynote at the Australian Gender Economics Workshop 2022 hosted by the Women in Economics Network and the Australian National University.

Nicky Nieves, an alumna on the sitting volleyball team representing the United States in the Paralympics, was profiled by NBC News.

Núria Rodríguez-Planas (Economics) has a paper on Penalty-point system, deterrence and road safety: A quasi-experimental analysis - ScienceDirect in the Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization. Next February, she will deliver the keynote at the Australian Gender Economics Workshop 2022 hosted by the Women in Economics Network and the Australian National University.

Anthony Tamburri (Calandra Institute) explores the decidedly mixed legacy of a man credited with discovering America in The Columbus Affair: Imperatives for an Italian/American Agenda. Tamburri also published an article (“From diacriticality to the diversity of the culture of Italians in America”) in La Voce di New York.

Megan Victor (Anthropology) was interviewed about her archaeogaming research; the interview was used as the opening remarks for this year’s Archaeogaming Conference (ArGaCon), which took place on August 6-7 with a combination of prerecorded and live presentations. Victor also did a research interview with the company Ritual Motion and an episode with the Women in Archaeology podcast.

President Frank H. Wu was appointed by Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez to represent all CUNY college presidents on the search committee that will recruit and screen candidates for the position of CUNY Law School dean.

The Q View is produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Comments and suggestions for future news items are welcome. Send them to jay.hershenson@qc.cuny.edu.