What’s News

**Soul-ful Night at the Oscars**

*Soul*, Disney Pixar's critically acclaimed movie about a music teacher—inspired by Peter Archer '85, the recently retired band director at Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School 74 in Bayside—won the Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature and Best Original Score on Sunday, April 25. The Oscars aren't the sole honors accumulated by the film; it previously received Golden Globes, BAFTA, and NAACP Image awards.

**College Appoints Finance Budget Director**

Leaving Jamaica for Flushing, Jonathan Batista—formerly director of business affairs at the SUNY Queens
Educational Opportunity Center at York College—will become QC’s finance budget director, effective May 6.

Batista began his career in the treasury and securities division of JP Morgan Chase, analyzing financial data in order to limit risk exposure during the 2008 financial crisis. He subsequently spent nine years at the City College of New York. His responsibilities included overseeing administrative affairs and financial planning for research, academic, philanthropic, and physical plant services, information technology maintenance, scientific equipment procurement, STEM programs marketing, and human resources. From City College, he went on to direct the financial and administrative affairs of the surgery department of Rutgers University Medical School where he managed a comprehensive academic, research, and philanthropic portfolio and a clinical operation with multiple locations statewide.

Batista holds a BS and a BA from the University at Buffalo, an MBA in Finance and Accounting from the Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College, and an MPA from the Marxe School of Public and International Affairs at Baruch. As a proud graduate of public universities, he is committed to the success of public higher education. He is equally committed to ensuring a fair workplace, transparent decision-making, and promoting an environment of collaboration and innovation.

Walk Right In and Roll Up Your Sleeve

Don’t hesitate; vaccinate! For New Yorkers age 16 and older, COVID-19 shots are available without appointments at many city-run sites. People who live outside of the state but work or study in New York are also eligible to get vaccinated. (Eligible 16- and 17-year-olds may receive the Pfizer vaccine only. Sites administering Moderna and Johnson & Johnson will not give those vaccines to 16- and 17-year-olds.)

Princeton Review Values QC

For the fourth year in a row, Princeton Review has pronounced QC a “Best Value College.” The annual guide cited QC for its outstanding liberal arts and science programs, world-class faculty, and affordability. Two hundred schools are listed for
Princeton Review is not alone in its esteem for QC. College Consensus, a new college review aggregator, includes QC in its *Best Value Colleges and Universities for 2021*, featuring the “top 100 most affordable consensus ranked schools” for the current year.

CUNY Senior Vice Chancellor for Institutional Affairs, Strategic Advancement and Special Counsel Glenda Grace made a presentation to Rabbi Moshe Shur's class, “In the Footsteps of Dr. King,” on Wednesday, April 21. Grace began her career by clerking for a federal judge in Birmingham, Alabama. During the years she served as QC's general counsel and chief of staff, she was closely involved with Footsteps, an experiential program in which students visited sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement.

The Success of Open Access

To the many things that have become freely and easily available since the advent of the internet you can add scholarly research, mainly facilitated by a two decade-old initiative called Open Access. At Queens College, Open Access falls largely under the purview of Humanities and Scholarly Communication Librarian Nancy Foasberg.

The Open Access movement began principally in the scientific community in the early 2000s, says Foasberg. “They were noticing several problems with scholarly publishing. More and more journals were owned by a small number of large legacy publishers who charged increasingly ridiculous prices for them, and these prices kept going up year after year. Which is one reason librarians have been very active in the Open Access movement, because librarians are
very sensitive to these changes in journal prices.”

Indeed, prices were rising faster than could be accommodated by library budgets, limiting access to those journals. “For example, if you look at fields like medicine or education, practitioners in those fields often need access to scholarly research,” comments Foasberg. “But they can’t get it because it’s in these high-priced scholarly journals, and they’re not necessarily associated with the academic institutions that subscribe to them. Another problem is that much of the world doesn’t have the money that Europe has or the U.S. has, so they were being shut out of this research, as well.”

**Principles Behind Open Access**

Declarations issued at conferences in Bethesda and Berlin in 2003 set out the founding principles for Open Access. The Berlin group declared that the internet had completely transformed “the practical and economic realities of distributing scientific knowledge and cultural heritage.” The Bethesda group followed, describing the necessity for scholarly articles to be made publicly available for free through any digital medium and with the insistence they be deposited in an online repository.

“That’s what Open Access is all about,” says Foasberg. “Things are made available without legal or financial restriction. Open access may be provided directly by publishers, or via self-archiving in online repositories. In some cases, there’s an embargo and you have to wait, but once the embargo expires, they’re freely available online. Anyone can look at them and download them, which is why it’s so important for overcoming the barriers I mentioned.”

Foasberg acknowledges another motivating factor behind Open Access. “Researchers want to reach broader audiences, and those audiences don’t always have access to all of these journals,” she observes. “When research becomes publicly available online it can reach a lot more people. This is very important to academic authors striving to achieve a national reputation, especially if they want to reach readers outside academia.”

Citing CUNY Academic Works, the university’s vast online Open Access repository of scholarly works from all the CUNY colleges, she says, “Sometimes materials in CUNY Academic Works have been cited in public policy, and they’ve been used by people all over the world.”

Academic Works, she notes, has functionality that notifies authors where around the world their work is being downloaded. “Say someone from India just downloaded this or someone from Oslo just downloaded it. It’s really gratifying to see that people are interested in your research at that level.”

**Faculty Research Matters**

Foasberg gets QC faculty research into CUNY Academic Works by different ways. One is by watching out for new publications by faculty members and reaching out to see if they’re willing to add their work to Academic Works. If they agree, she uploads it. She also reviews faculty CVs to see what can and cannot be included in Academic Works. Some publishers, she says, have rules about which versions of an article can be included. “I help faculty to identify the appropriate version and to share it. Of course, faculty can always upload things themselves.

“We’ve done things like use a script to find articles that are licensed under a Creative Commons license, for example, and include those automatically.

“We’re also starting to look into getting more student works into the repository. Right now, at the Graduate Center they’re including almost all of the dissertations that the PhD students have written. It’s really amazing, because dissertations were difficult to get a hold of before the age of repositories, and now, you can very often find that dissertation on that subject.
that’s of interest to you. I’d like to include more of this type of work in our repository because our collection of student work is very small right now.

“So, we’re working with a few departments and trying to get a better workflow for asking their students to include their work. It’s all very voluntary right now, it’s all very pilot-y, but I’m very excited that we’re going to be able to, hopefully, add more soon.”

Foasberg advances Open Access efforts at QC by offering annual instructional workshops. “There’s an event called Open Access Week that happens in October, so I schedule around that,” she reports. “I offer, for example, workshops about authors’ rights, which help authors to understand what they can do with their own work, or I offer workshops about the repository. There have also been workshops on increasing the visibility of your research on Google, which you can do by creating a Google Scholar profile. Most people are searching for material with Google Scholar, and Google Scholar indexes our repository and makes it easy to find.

“What I’m hoping to do in the future is to integrate our Subject Specialists program a little more. In the library we have specialists dedicated to every subject that’s taught at the college. This is great because the subject specialists are in touch with the departments and have those relationships built up. What I’d like to do is involve the subject specialists in those conversations, because I know the needs of the faculty in different disciplines are really different. I want to be sensitive to that, but I also want to take advantage of those relationships to get the word out.”

The library is currently undergoing a reorganization effort; facilitating Open Access at QC is one of its goals. Foasberg will be running the Scholarly Communication unit, which will expand the library’s Open Access efforts and examine other methods of promoting faculty scholarship.

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**No Ensemble Sang It Better**

Reprising an arrangement she presented at the Marvin Hamlisch International Music Awards last month, Aubrey Johnson (ACSM) directed a choir of alumni from the jazz program in *The Spy Who Loved Me* theme song, “Nobody Does It Better”. Did somebody say encore?

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**Register Soon To Vote in June**

With citywide primaries less than two months away, would-be voters have until May 28 to register. To be eligible, you
must be a U.S. citizen who will have lived in New York for at least 30 days—and reached age 18—by the time of the election. Concern about COVID-19 should not keep you from casting a vote, because absentee ballots are readily available. For information about voter registration and absentee ballots, click here.

The Big Idea of the Week

Desiree Byrd (Psychology) is the expert showcased in this week’s new Big Ideas episode, “Opening Up the Pool: Diversity Improves Psychological Research,” which will debut on Thursday, April 29. Byrd is a fellow in the American Psychological Association, Division 40, Clinical Neuropsychology. Last year, at the request of editors for the culture and gender department of The Clinical Neuropsychologist, she provided a commentary on white privilege in neuropsychology. The Big Ideas series, produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing, highlights cutting-edge research conducted by Queens College faculty.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Since April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, QView is taking this opportunity to share ways to contact NYC Well, a free and confidential hotline available around the clock for mental health support and crisis intervention. Call 1-888-692-9355, text WELL to 65173, or chat online at. To report sexual harassment at QC, click here.

Talk of the Town Halls

As part of QC’s Strategic Plan 2021-2026 process, a series of six town halls will be held on Zoom next month. Separate dates are scheduled for department chairs; faculty; staff; students; the President’s Council; and alumni, the Queens College Foundation, and members of the community:
Monday, May 10, 2-3:30 pm for department chairs tinyurl.com/QCTHChairs
Tuesday, May 11, 4-5:30 pm for faculty tinyurl.com/QCTHFaculty
Wednesday, May 12, 9:30-11 am for staff tinyurl.com/QCTHStaff
Thursday, May 13, 12 noon-1:30 pm for students tinyurl.com/QCTHStudent
Friday, May 14, 2-3:30 pm for the President’s Council tinyurl.com/QCTHCouncil
Monday, May 17, 6-7:30 pm for alumni, the Queens College Foundation, and members of the community tinyurl.com/QCTHCommunity

Participants need to register in advance for the appropriate date. If you have any questions or issues registering, please contact Matthew Townsell at matthew.townsell@qc.cuny.edu. Notes from last fall’s Strategic Plan town halls are available here.

Saluting AAPI Heritage in May

Concerts, panel discussions, and a photo exhibit are among the events taking place in May, when Queens College and its partners celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. Watch your email and the QC home page for complete listings.

On Sunday, May 2, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm, students, faculty, and staff are invited to participate in We Belong Here: Queens Rises Against Hate, a march and rally led by Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., U.S. Rep. Grace Meng, and other leaders, including Queens College President Frank H. Wu. We Belong Here will start in front of Flushing Town Hall, at 137-35 Northern Boulevard in Flushing.

Stay on Course This Summer

Spending summer in the city—why not study cities in the summer? Urban Studies 101: Urban Poverty and Affluence, an introduction to the field, investigates why cities are places of economic and political opportunity for some and of deprivation, discrimination, violence, and impoverishment for others. Borrowing its title from a popular TV series, Urban Studies 114: Sex and the City explores fundamental concepts in the study of sexuality and urban space, the impact of culture and regulation on urban sexual
subcultures, and controversies around new forms of sexuality and sex that are emergent in urban life today. Enjoy facts and figures? Urban Studies 257: Public Budgeting covers the principles of taxation, revenue, expenditures, debt, balanced budgets, and the economic and political aspects of budget-making.

Nearly 600 courses are available this summer. Explore your options.

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Poetry Month Continues

This week, QView features poetry by faculty members Uche Nduka (English), Geoffrey Nutter (Classics), and Sokunthary Svay (English)

**Peeling Oranges**

This is not a call to worship
the pain I wear
on my sleeve.

I can brick up
the canyon or
change the course
of the wind.

Peeling oranges
while bows ripen
on strings.

As if a reunion
is rising and falling
inside mists.

And homelife coasts
in trees that blare.

—Uche Nduka

**For Malcolm X**

Incorrigible
and amply fed by red.

The pastoral melancholy
You cracked something open.
What's yours and mine.

A skein of ruptures.
Brutality and tenderness.

The myth of that
which is
called ease.

One damn shot after another.
He fired on the clock.

This dive of an osprey.

Opal of our era.
Agate of any era.

—Uche Nduka

**Let Us Look at One of Those Teardrops**

In a typical post-war American town in 1957, in a ranch-style house on Aluminum or Oak Street on the wood-paneled wall of a bedroom, above the bedside table where a cigarette smolders in a crystal ashtray embossed with the logo of Zim's in orange lettering, there hangs a painting of a girl with huge round eyes. She is a child of perhaps twelve. Her hair is straw-yellow, like corn to stuff a corn-husk doll. Judging by her dress she has spent the night in an ash-heap. She is holding a terrified-looking cat. She is standing in front of a blank wall of a building streaked with earthtones. And a single teardrop flows from each enormous eye, each teardrop big and glinting. Let us look at one of those teardrops.

One day sailing, one executive, on the deck of his small boat one summer, drinking his bottle of beer on open sea, was caught in a glittering mist blown in from the sea. It was some kind of magical mist from the sea that makes fathers vanish forever. It might have made him shrink like Gulliver to the size and texture of a spice, or a pink or emerald grain of sand, or turned him into a fish, or simply made him vanish. And so this executive was overcome by that mist and lost and gone forever...goodbye...goodbye....

On shore a boy and girl were eating lunch out of an erstwhile violin case: papaya and oysters, agave and sea kelp for salt and sweetener. They have eloped together having only just met; and now, among the waving grass and the sisterly things that also follow no logic, preceded here in expectancy by sunlight on the ice-plant, they break their long fast: “How many cats
grew up in your home town? Who paid to feed them? Was the city green as a tree stump or blue as an atom summer nights?" "Was Mélisande's convolvulus scattered in sunbeams?" "How tall is God?" The girl lived in a phosphorescent dome with cement bay windows, strips of greenish paint curling in the salt air. Tall eucalyptus trees brushed the sky.
The boy was abashed, having until late been killing time from age to age, cloud-sculptor, glimmer of starlight rising with the rays of somerset, one among people by the lakes of the sea and living on a ball of wire where the glassy vertical ships are set on end along the sky for lightning catching towers. The sky behind them is brownish, gray, then gray-violet, shading to lavender, blue-gray, pearl-gray shading to deep purple, blue gray. Now let us say goodbye to them. Goodbye...goodbye....

And our true penitent tears turn to solid pearl....

—Geoffrey Nutter

I am the Apsara's daughter
For Soriya

I wander in her forest
hearing ankle bells jingle with each step, the universe at her feet and hands.
I want to touch her.
She flies in my house in paintings with petals of orange blossom raining from the ceiling.
With her bas-relief tattooed on my skin
I worry I've offended the deity.
In my dreams I cry out to her,

I am still learning
as I copy myself in her image.
To she who abides in the sea of milk—
I try to churn my own from motherhood.
I hope it worthy an offering for this nymph of clouds and sky.

—Sokunthary Svay
James Lowry (GSLIS) was selected to receive one of the Henry Wasser Awards for outstanding Assistant Professors in CUNY for 2021. . . . The Model United Nations team won recognition for best position paper for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty at the National Model United Nations this month. The team is mentored by François Pierre-Louis (Political Science). . . . Sonia Rai, a junior Design major, was accepted to a summer internship program with Disney films . . . . Naomi Shohet, who will graduate in May, has been named the recipient of a prestigious Jonas E. Salk Scholarship by the City University of New York. She was mentored by Uri Samuni (Chemistry and Biochemistry). More coverage will be given to Shohet in the next issue of QView . . . . Chat Travieso (Art) was commissioned by New York Magazine to create a public memorial proposal that would help New Yorkers memorialize the toll of the pandemic . . . . Anahi Viladrich (Sociology) has published an article on anti-Asian stigma during the COVID-19 pandemic in American Journal of Public Health. . . . Dana Weinberg (Sociology) won a $4 million grant from the Office of Naval Research for “Malign Information Operations, Narrative Resonance, and the Fracturing of American Identity” . . . . President Frank H. Wu is among the panelists at the Fourth “China Initiative” Webinar: Legal Resources & Policy Advocacy: How to Combat Racial Profiling Under the “China Initiative” presented by APA Justice on Wednesday, April 28 at 8 pm. Wu was interviewed by the staff of Tasty Byte for “Front Page Voices” about anti-Asian hate and other topics.

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.