College Launches Sustainability Suggestion Campaign

When Queens College formed its council on sustainability earlier this year, the commitment and enthusiasm of the members was apparent at the first meeting. As it turns out, the desire to help reduce our carbon footprint existed beyond the committee’s conference room walls. When the college launched a suggestion campaign on November 9, asking for ways to make our college more sustainable, the response was immediate. So far, 80 faculty members, staff, and students have sent suggestions—and the ideas keep coming.

Initiating a campus composting program; organizing a tree and flower-planting day; offers to carpool; installing a wind generator on the Quad; encouraging more responsible printing practices; filtering water fountains to promote the use of refillable water bottles; installing airlock (double-door) entryways to reduce heat and cold loss; and offers to mentor high school and elementary school students on sustainable practices are just some of the good ideas received. “I’m inspired by the number of responses,” said Katharine Cobb, vice president of finance and administration and head of the college’s sustainability council. “The suggestions reflect a sincere desire to effect positive change on our campus and our planet.”

If you haven’t shared your idea yet, please email it to GoGreen@qc.cuny.edu. The first 100 respondents will receive a 100% organic cotton tote bag (pictured at left) featuring the Queens College is Green logo.

QC Will Host Green Business Summit in January

As part of its continuing commitment to developing a more sustainable campus and educating students, faculty, and staff on how to reduce their carbon footprint, the college will host the Queens Chamber of Commerce’s first-ever “Queens Green Business Summit” on January 23, 2009. The college expects to have an information table showcasing its sustainability efforts.

Rescheduled from September 2008 due to an overwhelming response from interested participants, the event will be an unprecedented gathering of local and regional businesses looking to explore attainable, measurable, and sustainable tools in an increasingly green economy. Participants will have opportunities to network, showcase green products and services, and develop best practices. National and local speakers will address marketing for green businesses, sourcing products from local markets to reduce delivery truck fuel emissions, green architectural design, environmental law for businesses, green careers, and greening the environment.

Sponsors include the NYC Department of Parks, Consolidated Edison, National Grid, the New York Times, Farrell Fritz, Green Depot, and Random House. Dozens of exhibitors and vendors are expected. For more information and free registration, visit www.queensgreenbusinesssummit.com or contact Alliah Sheeta at 212-289-8506, ext. 312.

New Faculty Give College High Marks in Recent Survey

Junior professors give QC good grades for its location, diversity, and supportive, high-quality faculty. But they’re less enthralled with their compensation, the cost of living, and the quality of facilities. These are some of the conclusions of a job-satisfaction survey conducted by the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE), a consortium of more than 120 colleges and universities in North America.

Based at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education, COACHE invites full-time, continued on page 4
You & Me, a Short Film by Richard Vetere, Focuses on the End of an Interethnic Romance

Queens College is accumulating extracurricular credits. The Science Building recently provided a backdrop for You & Me, a brief movie co-written by Richard Vetere (Media Studies) and writer-director Eddie Shieh.

A love story gone wrong, the plot concerns an interethnic couple who are breaking up because of the prejudice within their relationship. The script consists of an extended cell phone conversation between the partners, who are portrayed by chang- ing sets of twosomes of varying races, nationalities, and gender preferences; the dialogue, which will be subtitled in English, switches among multiple foreign tongues.

“We used nine languages, maybe 10,” reports Vetere, noting that performers were deliberately cast against type: A tall blue-eyed actor did his lines in Japanese and an Indian actress did hers in French. Similarly, the Science Building defied expectations—during several hours of film- ing, the entrance served as the setting for a single scene taking place in Japan.

Although QC students didn’t get any screen time themselves, they played important roles behind the scenes as the professional crew roved around New York. “Five or six of my students were there for the whole five-day shoot, helping out,” says Vetere. “One student basically took over costumes. They learned a lot of practical stuff, such as the fact that you really need to scout a location.”

With the addition of scenes shot in Portugal and Holland, the movie should be edited completely by this spring. Then Vetere and Shieh will begin submitting their short film to festivals worldwide. They also plan to share You & Me with others. Members of the QC community will be invited to the first local screening.

Power to the Peaceful

That’s the message of the cultural exchange project initiated last year by Rikki Asher (Secondary Ed.) that involved the creation and exchange of colorful handmade quilts between students in a Bronx middle school and students in a unique all-girl school in one of the poorest parts of India. Beginning Dec. 15, these quilts (including the one shown here) will be on display along with other “peace quilts” as part of a month-long exhibition at Godwin-Ternbach Museum.

A Cyber World War II Memorial

The World War II History Project, initiated two years ago at the behest of alumnus and veteran Arnold Franco ’43, has gone from terra firma to cyberspace with the creation of a Web site documenting all known members of the QC community killed during the conflict. Franco recently joined some of the students responsible for creating the site for a preview. (You can see it at www.qc.cuny.edu/history/wwiiveterans/.) From left to right are Jae Min Lee, John Paul Baldo, Russell Oates, Franco, and Matthew McCann.

Affairs to Remember

Wherever QC grads work or live, parties are sure to follow. In October about 20 alums—a few from as far back as the 1940s—attended a get-together that the Office of Alumni Affairs sponsored at a restaurant in Hoboken, NJ. “They rekindled their interest in Queens College,” reports Dale Nussbaum, the director of special events for institutional advancement. “Some volunteered to do events in their homes.” The same month, a smaller group breakfasted in Manhattan with President James Muyskens, who talked about the latest college developments, including the new residence hall. Another presidential breakfast was held early this month in Great Neck, Long Island. Next year, Alumni Affairs and Institutional Advancement hope to schedule gatherings in locations ranging from New York City to southeast Florida and Los Angeles. “We’re looking to do at least one a month,” says Nussbaum.

The Season for Giving

The annual Queens College/CUNY Charitable Campaign for Giving is currently under way. Please take a moment to make a contribution to one of your favorite charities. If you need a booklet or a form, contact Jane Denkensohn at ext. 75725.

Let’s show that Queens College is #1 in giving to others!
Townsend Harris High School began the 2008 school year with a new principal, Kenneth Bonamo, a veteran teacher of Russian and history. The high school, which borders the QC campus, enjoys a close relationship with the college, especially with the Division of Education.

Bonamo, who was formerly assistant principal for humanities at Staten Island Technical High School, holds a BA in foreign languages and literatures from the University of Delaware and a master’s degree in educational administration from Kean University in New Jersey. He succeeded Thomas Cunningham, who retired after a distinguished career with the NYC public school system.

Along with such schools as Stuyvesant and Bronx Science, Townsend Harris is one of New York City’s elite high schools and its premiere public humanities secondary school. Each year more than 6,000 students compete for roughly 250 seats in the incoming ninth-grade class. U.S. News and World Report consistently ranks it among the nation’s top high schools.

Recalling When He Put It in the Books

The voice of the New York Mets and the New York Islanders, sportscaster Howie Rose ’77 returned to his alma mater Nov. 19 to tell an overflow audience about how his enthusiasm as a Mets and New York Rangers fan meshed with his experiences at Queens College. A New York broadcasting legend whose signature phrase “put it in the books” has become as well known as his idol Marv Albert’s “kick save and a beauty,” Rose described his formative experience in radio as one of the first broadcasters for the student-run radio station, WQMC. “It’s kind of humbling to be back here. It’s a great honor,” said the former Communications major. He was also delighted to note the construction of QC’s first residence hall, eliminating for future students what he said for him had been the stigma of “the 13th grade.” With the addition of the residence hall, he said, “it’s the perfect school.”

New QC Journal Examines Issues of Equity

The launch of Equity in Education, a peer-reviewed, open-access electronic journal, was announced by Myra Zarnowski (EECE) in a Nov. 19 email message. Zarnowski noted that “We are defining equity as practices that encourage and support social and intellectual development while eliminating barriers stemming from prejudice, bias, and discrimination. The journal is intended to provide a forum for research and practice in promoting equity in N-16 urban settings.”

The first issue, to be published in fall 2009, will contain articles describing efforts to promote education in wide-ranging urban areas across the country. “We are hoping,” said Zarnowski, “that QC faculty will contribute to this journal.” Completed manuscripts should be sent to myra.zarnowski@qc.cuny.edu. Interested faculty should email Zarnowski of their intent to submit a manuscript no later than January 1. Completed articles must be submitted by April 1, 2009.

One Good Turn Deserves Another

In November QC music faculty and alums donned protective goggles and toured Steinway’s Long Island City piano factory, where an employee (left) and Marvin Hamlisch ’68 (right) watched President James Muyksens work the rim-bending press. During an on-site recital, students and Hamlisch performed and the president made a pitch for the Aaron Copland School of Music’s quest to become an all-Steinway school.

New Principal for Townsend Harris

Annual Holiday Party

Monday December 8, 3–5 pm
Student Union Ballroom
Fourth Floor

Please bring along an unwrapped toy that will be given to a needy child. Toys will also be accepted in HR, the Welcome Center in Jefferson Hall, and the History Dept. office in Powdermaker Hall, room 352, through Dec. 17.
A Fulbright specialists grant offered Samuel Heilman (Sociology) a welcome opportunity to return to the People’s Republic of China for four weeks this fall, where he renewed ties he had made at universities there years earlier.

“The last time I was there was 2002,” says Heilman, who first taught Jewish studies in China in 1999. Both occasions were at the invitation of Prof. Xin Xu, founding director of the Institute of Jewish Studies at Nanjing University. Xu’s application to the Fulbright program also made this most recent visit possible.

“I gave lectures to hundreds of Chinese students and faculty at Shanghai and Nanjing Universities and Henan University in Kaifeng,” he says, describing a busy schedule of talks before packed lecture halls. His topics, delivered mostly to graduate students, included “Jews and the Presidential Elections,” “The Jewish Minority Experience in History,” and “American Jewish Life and Contemporary Society.” “My talks were standing room only,” he says. “I never received so much applause for my talks, so much appreciation. The people there are absolutely fascinated with Jews and America.”

That fascination extended beyond the lecture hall. Heilman had opportunities to meet one-on-one with several students to discuss their interest in American academic life, Jewry, religion, and similar topics. He also invited all the students to attend a Chinese dinner that he had arranged.

Heilman Finds the Chinese Fascinated with All Things Jewish

Asian American Voices
Celebrating the cultural mosaic of Queens are writers (l to r) Jilian Abbot, Alvin Eng, S. J. Rozan, and Henry Chang. They read selections from their works for an Oct. 30 event, “Knowing Me, Knowing You: Asian, American Voices,” sponsored by the Asian/ American Center and the newly launched Asian Initiative at Queens College.

University, Northeastern University, State University of New York at Albany, University of Cincinnati, and University of Connecticut. “Relying on the advice of COACHE administrators, we looked at colleges that had student populations, mission, and institutional type most similar to Queens College’s,” says Henderson.

QC’s best rankings occurred in the policies and practices category, where faculty said that colleagues respected their efforts to balance work and home responsibilities. The college also did well in the area of global satisfaction, with respondents saying that if they had to make their choice again, they would accept their current position.

The Best Way to Get Your News Out
Faculty and staff are already taking advantage of the new, easy-to-use online submission form to send out their news and announcements via QC mailers, calendars, and plasma boards. To have the link always at your fingertips, bookmark this address: https://apps.qc.cuny.edu/Communications/. You can also access the form any time by clicking on “News & Media” on the QC home page, and then clicking “Home,” one of the links on the left.

Faculty Survey from page 1
pre-tenure professors from consortium members to take its annual electronic survey. Each school’s results are organized into five categories—tenure; nature of the work; policies and practices; climate, culture, and collegiality; and global satisfaction—and compared to the scores of five institutional peers named by the school’s representative. Faculty participation is voluntary and anonymous.

At QC, surveyed for the first time in spring 2008, 66 of 122 eligible professors chose to answer, a typical response rate for the college’s peer group, as defined by President James Muyskens and Vice President Sue Henderson: Lehigh

Samuel Heilman indulges in Chinese culinary fare not likely found in our local restaurants.
Heilman from page 4

Affiliated with the Institute for Jewish Studies at Nanjing to his apartment on the Sabbath to review the different ways that the Jewish Bible is interpreted. All the students spoke English and many, he was surprised to learn, spoke Hebrew.

China has seen extraordinary changes in the six years since his last visit, says Heilman. “The country is going through the biggest migration in the history of the planet of people moving from small towns to the big cities.”

The universities where Heilman taught were among China’s elite schools. “Though, we’re talking about students whose parents were peasants; so everything is really riding on these kids. . . . The stories of what they’ve gone through to get to this level are really remarkable.”

He also notes that “Some of the people who I had taught in seminars in 1999 and 2002 are now in important positions at different institutes: One is a dean at Henan University; another is a dean of graduate studies at Shanghai University.” Heilman says he was able to make important new academic contacts in China that offer the promise of a continuing relationship for the future.

“My treatment in China was excellent, and the hosts could not have been more gracious and accommodating,” concludes Heilman. “I only wish I could have spent more time there and eagerly look forward to my next visit.”
A Room of Her Own

Her title is Director of Housing and Residence Life, but it may be simpler to call Terry Walsh QC’s residence expert. Anyone interested in The Summit can visit her office—the old book store in the Dining Hall—Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. “I’m here to answer questions,” says Walsh, who also has sample furniture on display. “Come check it out.”

On November 19, to help people do just that, she held a pair of open houses about the residence hall; a total of 65 students attended the sessions. “We explained the process of how to get a place in the building, and presented information about becoming a residence assistant,” says Walsh, adding that 11 will be hired.

To date, she has received 75 housing applications from current students. She’d welcome more. “The Summit is for all QC students,” she says, dispelling rumors that the residence hall is primarily for athletes and graduate music students. “However, freshmen have to be accepted to QC before we can do anything with their application,” she notes.

Walsh is nothing but supportive of people who want to live on their own. She does, too. After spending the last 14 years in the south, she moved to New York to take her job at QC. So, since October, she’s been staying with her parents in Long Island, where she grew up.

Halal meets Hillel: Only in New York

The Queens College Hillel Sukkah Party, appropriately named “Pizza in the Hut,” brought hundreds of Queens College students from different ethnic backgrounds to the QC Hillel Sukkah this past week. Live music was provided by the QC Hillel Student “Jam Band” featuring Alex, Ozzie, Mark, Steve, and Daniel. Our neighboring Halal Schwarma stand sold drinks while Hillel served pizza. Business was brisk for both. A festive atmosphere celebration.

QC PEOPLE

An article co-authored by JOSHUA BRUMBERG and SUSAN CROLL (Psychology) along with a post-doctoral fellow in Brumberg’s lab, Raddy Ramos, and Phoebe Smith from Suffolk County Community College, won the award for best laboratory article in the Journal of Undergraduate Neuroscience (the official journal of the Faculty for Undergraduate Neuroscience). This is the second year in a row that Brumberg and Ramos have won this award. They are the first ever to win consecutively and the first two-time winners as well. The award-winning article is “Demonstrating Cerebral Vascular Networks: A Comparison of Methods for the Teaching Laboratory”... Violinist DANIEL PHILLIPS (Music) was featured in a music and lecture series commemorating the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, presented Nov. 9–13 by the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust and the Royal Conservatory of Music. He was the solo violinist in a performance of Holocaust and the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Members of QC’s ACM club took two QC teams placed in the top 20 out of 52 teams from 22 universities and colleges. The teams consisted of three students each with support from coaches JERRY WAXMAN (Computer Science) and JERRY WAXMAN (Computer Science). Three students in QC’s MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) program won best presentation awards for their oral presentations at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students held Nov. 5–8 in Orlando. The students are Brian Estevez, mentored by ZAHRA ZAKERI (Biology); Lisbeth Nunez, mentored by ALICIA MELENDEZ (Biology); and Jair David Zapata, mentored by SUSAN CROLL (Psychology)...

The Model UN Club received two awards at the recent Model UN Conference in Washington, DC. Representing Italy, they won a committee award for Distinguished Delegation in the General Assembly Plenary, and a team award for overall performance as a Distinguished Delegation. The awards cap a year in which the club garnered six awards at three conferences, reports club president DEWAN TAREK.

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Legally Speaking

Alumni (l to r) Kenneth E. Newman, Marc Redlich, and Ira Sills share a graduation year (1967) and a profession: they’re attorneys. They also shared a date, Nov. 17, on which they participated in a QC Alumni Roundtable to discuss the finer points of a career in law.

A Pair of Poets

This year’s National Book Awards winner for poetry, Mark Doty, receives a congratulatory hug from Kimiko Hahn (English), one of the judges for the event which took place Nov. 19 at Cipriani’s on Wall Street. Quoted in the New Yorker, Hahn observed she was pleasantly surprised at the real-world concerns of most of the poets: “American poets aren’t afraid of political poetry anymore.”

Student Association and SEEK Honor Espaillat

Assemblyman Adriano Espaillat ’79 displays the award he recently received from the Student Association and SEEK, saluting him as a “role model and champion for all CUNY & SEEK students.” Fellow QC alum Assemblyman Jose Peralta ’96 is to his immediate left, and he is flanked by SEEK students Wei Huang (left), Sergio Tepi, and Student Association President Adjani Papillon.

QC Author

An Armenian raised in a working-class Catholic town, poet and performance artist Nancy Agabian (English) experienced the cultural confusion that accompanies minority status. But her memoir Me as Her Again: True Stories of an Armenian Daughter (Aunt Lute) is not the usual saga of how a second-generation American forges a hyphenated ethnic identity. The big topic here is the long-term impact of the Armenian genocide on her family and, by extension, her entire community. Agabian’s paternal grandmother, Zanik, barely survived a death march from Turkey to Syria, where she was sold into servitude. Older brothers who had immigrated to the United States years earlier rescued her from an orphanage, only to push her into an arranged marriage with their prospective business partner. Unspoken problems reverberated through the generations, as Zanik’s American-born daughter-in-law—Agabian’s mother—was pressured into marriage prematurely; at age 23, she was considered an older bride. Agabian wrestles with this painful, complicated legacy in her book, linking the struggles faced by the women in her family to her own questions about gender; the title is a homophone for miaseragan, the Armenian equivalent of gay.

Knight News Editor Appel Receives Murray Kempton Award

Three seems to be a lucky number for Steven M. Appel, who has been the editor-in-chief of the Knight News for the past three years. Elected at the end of his freshman year, the senior majoring in political science has repeatedly led the paper to national recognition.

Twice the paper was named as a finalist for the Associated Collegiate Press Association’s Pacemaker award, the most prestigious prize in college journalism. Last year was the first time a CUNY school placed as a finalist for the award since its inception in 1927.

Going for the trifecta, the Knight News editor, who resides in Manhattan, was awarded the Murray Kempton Pride of the University Journalism Award for Commentary at CUNY’s Journalism, Broadcast, and News Media Conference and Career Fair in October. The first-time Murray Kempton awards of $750 each, which were underwritten by the Economist, were named for the famed columnist “who captured the soul of the city while often serving as its conscience.” These awards recognize a professional journalist for outstanding public service and honor the contributions made by CUNY undergraduate student journalists.

Appel (left) and other Kempton Award winners
Queens College honored faculty and staff with 20 and 35 years of service at a ceremony on November 11 in the Student Union. President James Muyskens and Provost Evangelos Gizis were on hand to present the awards.

AIDS Researcher Lectures at QC
One of the leading figures in AIDS research, Dr. Marie-Lise Gougeon, head of the Antiviral Immunity, Biotherapy and Vaccines unit of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, visited Queens College Nov. 17 to present a talk entitled “AIDS: Virus–Host Interactions and Therapeutic Strategies.” Gougeon was a participant in research that resulted in the award of the 2008 Nobel Prize for Medicine to Françoise Barré-Sinoussi and Luc Montagnier.

The Secret Life of Squares
Dancers (l to r) Saki, Erik Stern, and Karl Schaffer make some kinetic observations about mathematics at the Seventh Annual TIME 2000 Conference: Celebrating Mathematics Teaching. The Dr. Schaffer and Mr. Stern Dance Ensemble has received five National Endowment for the Arts Access to the Arts awards over the past 20 years for their cross-disciplinary performance work linking dance and mathematics. Over 300 NYC and LI high school students participated in the conference, which encouraged their interest in pursuing careers in math education.
December

9 TUE
CONCERT: Charles Neidich, clarinet. LeFrak Hall, 10 am. Information/Reservations: 73802.

CONCERT: QC Wind Ensemble, Richard Sang, conductor. LeFrak Hall, 7:30 pm.

LECTURE: “Dizzy?: Learn about Causes and Treatments,” Karen Hogan-Curran. Frese Hall, Room 014, 12:30 pm.

16 TUE
CONCERT: QC New Music Group, Inés Thiebaut, director. New music for violin, clarinet, and piano by current ACSM composers, performed by the Second Instrumental Unit. LeFrak Hall, 5–9 pm.

18 THU
JAZZ GRADUATE RECITAL: Danny Muniz, jazz guitar. Music Building, Room 264, 2 pm.

Exhibits


6 SAT

8 MON


9 TUE
JAZZ GRADUATE RECITAL: Benny Reid, saxophone. Music Bldg., Room 264, 3 pm.

10 WED
BIOLOGY COLLOQUIUM: Gerald Thomsen (Stony Brook). Science Bldg., Room D139, 11:15 am.

13 SAT
68TH ANNUAL FALL CONCERT: QC Choral Society, James John, director; Maurice Peress, guest conductor. Bach’s Cantata BWV 122 (Das neugeborene Kindelein), Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony (Choral). Golden Auditorium, 8 pm. Tickets $18, $16, $5 for students with valid QCID.

14 SUN

15 MON
CONCERT: Artur Balsam Center for Chamber Music, Morey Ritt, director. LeFrak Hall,12:15 pm.


Frank Zappa

William Saroyan

FYI items should be submitted to Maria Matteo, maria.matteo@qc.cuny.edu, Kiely 1310, x75593.