Fall 2007

Diane Patrick ’72: First Lady of Massachusetts
Back on the Field

After an absence of more than a decade, Men’s Soccer made a triumphant return in the fall, finishing just three points shy of an East Coast Conference playoff berth. Jesus Daniel Cano and Terrence Ahoua were selected to the conference all-star team, while Noorullah Mashriqi won Player of the Week Honors in October. On the women’s side, Diana Redman was named all-conference for the third straight year. For more on sports at QC, see page 23.

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Assistant VP for Communications
Maria Terrone

Editor
John Cassidy

Creative Director
Dyanne Maue

Writers
Leslie Jay, Bob Suter

Designer
Georgine Ingber

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Queens College first opened its doors on October 11, 1937. Below, members of that pioneering class, a number of whom returned to campus on October 11 of this year to part of the college’s 70th anniversary celebration (see back cover), share their memories of that historic opening day.

Geraldine McVea Kelly

My first view was of a rolling green campus with several low-case stucco buildings having bright orange roofs. The rumor was that this was where “bad boys” were sent, sort of like a prison. I was apprised by some knowledgeable students of the many dungeons in the basements of the buildings where the worst of the “bad boys” were sent. They had only bread and water for long periods of time. I’m happy to say that in my four years at QC, I never had to be sent to the dungeons.

Helen Picozzi Gentile

A beautiful large grassy campus with several low-case stucco buildings with Spanish tiled roofs—with an added bonus—a class of only a few hundred students. Ideal!

John W. Kinder

We were gathered in the assembly hall in the rear of the administration building (later called Jefferson Hall). Dr. Klapper was there to greet us and, among other things, we had to vote on the school’s colors. I voted for brown and yellow but of course blue and silver won.

Guy J. Riccio

I recall standing out in front of what much later became Jefferson Hall along with other freshmen who were gathered there that morning. We all proceeded to the all-purpose meeting room inside where we were welcomed by the president, Dr. Klapper, and also introduced to Dean Kelly and probably to the Registrars, Mr. Knag, as well. I can still recall how impressed I was with my first French class—I had already decided to major in that language. The professor was Konrad Gries and he lost no time in outlining the course program and letting us know what would be expected of us.

Evelyn Puccini Rolleri

I experienced chaos and a feeling of bewilderment and the amazement that I was in college! We, all four hundred of us, couldn’t help but feel a degree of pride, since we were aware that there were many applicants. On that day I was fortunate to meet two people who would be my friends until recently, when they left life as we know it.

Betty Freedman Steinhorn

2. Meeting my teachers of the required courses—English Composition, Contemporary Civilization, German Language, Mathematics (Algebra), Music, and Art. I remember Dr. Darling, Dr. Bankoff, Dr. Pinson, and Dr. Halberg.
3. Traveling by bus and subway.
4. Bringing lunch (paper bag). I don’t think the cafeteria had opened.
5. Joining Iota Alpha Pi. I still maintain a friendship with some of the members.
6. Enjoying the beautiful campus.

For Queens College Alumni & Friends

PHOTOS: Leo Weissman 2; Nancy Barrios 4, 5, 6 (Bennig), 9 (Wilk); 13, 26, 29, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39 (alumni group), back cover; Barry Brown 7 (Chartered); Mohamed Sabrani 7 (oblong); Audrey Ferrara 10, 11; Getty Images, New York 14-15 top; Thomas Waring 14-15 (students); Nancy Sing-Bock 16 (l), Dale Kaplanwitz 16 (r), 17; Nancy Rudolph 32, 33.

www.qc.cuny.edu
**In the News**

**Queens College Named One of “America’s 25 Hottest Schools”**

Queens College has been named by the 2008 Kaplan/Newweek

How to Get into College guide as one of “The 25 Hottest Schools in America.”

“the selected schools all offer top academic programs,” notes the annual guide. “This elite group was selected based on admissions statistics as well as interviews with administrators, students, faculty, and alumni.”

According to the guidebook authors, “Although its families are becoming more affluent, Queens College remains a likely choice for students whose parents never went to college (38 percent of the student body).” Its most celebrated recent fictional graduate is Ugly Betty—Betty Suarez—the working-class character played by America Ferrera on the ABC comedy.”

“The school’s biggest claim to fame is the several generations of lawyers, doctors, and other professionals who could not afford the tuitions and say Queens changed their lives. It’s still a bargain with tuition of $4,000. It looks nothing like the big city campuses of Manhattan. It has 77 acres of rolling lawns and a tree-lined Quad.”

Comments President James Mueskyms: “We are especially pleased with the designation ‘hottest for first-generation students’ and proud of our tradition of providing a life-changing opportunity to students who are eager for a quality education.”

The “Hottest” list also recognizes the college’s growing reputations and “popularity among top students within a booming college-bound population.”

“Art, music, and sports initiatives.”

In other cultural news, QC Hillel has won a slot in a program sponsored by Avoda Arts, a nonprofit that promotes Jewish learning through music, theatre, and the visual arts. “The college is one of only six campuses in New York state participating in Avoda’s Arts on the Move,” says Rabbi Moshe Shur, director of Hillel, who will be eligible for as much as $14,000 in grants. The money will be earmarked for the presentation of concerts, films, plays, and exhibits.

Of course, music is already emphasized at Hillel. Timoreet, the resident a cappella choir, auditions personnel for its twelfth CD. “The last three sold out,” says the rabbi, who recently released his own CD. At Shur Thing, a family thing featuring the vocal and instrumental talents of his three sons.

Rabbi Shur is also excited about one of his newest projects, Chai Tech, a leadership development course for Jewish immigrant students. This year, 12 undergraduates will be paid to spend four hours a week participating in leadership workshops and volunteering at nursing homes, community centers, and other sites. The idea is to help Bukharian, Persian, Israeli, and other foreign-born students assimilate within the larger fabric of the U.S. Jewish community.”

“The chaplain. ‘We’ll use technical devices to track their development.’ The rabbi has launched with a $200,000, four-year grant from the Judy and Michael Steinhardt Foundation; Rabbi Shur is looking for matching funds that will allow him to expand the program if it’s successful.”

As Hillel feeds souls, it’s not forgetting about other types of nourishment. The organization has arranged for Dougie’s, a popular barbecue restaurant on Main Street, to deliver to campus ten prepackaged meals Monday through Thursday. Now kosher carnivores can “meat” at the Student Union.

**Capital Ideas from the Capital Campaign**

With the conclusion of its ambitious capital campaign last spring, Queens College is the uncontested winner. The six-year drive exceeded its $100 million goal.

“Many of the money came in the form of big checks from individual or corporate donors. We received more than 900 gifts of $1 million and above,” reports Mario Del- laPina, executive director of the Queens College Foundation and director of development for the school. Collectively, foundation board members ante’d up $30 million, including $4.3 million from Virginia Frese Palmer ’42, who self-financed for speech, hearing, and women’s initiatives.

The largest single donation came from Max Kupferberg ’42 and his wife, Selma, who pledged $10 million. As long-time supporters of the arts on campus, the couple plans to split their gift. About half will subsidize major improvements to arts buildings. The remainder will underwrite programming.

Donations have a tendency to attract donations, a happy phenomenon that occurred in this case. “The Kupferberg money was a springboard for us,” says Vivian Charlup, director of the Kupferberg Center for the Visual and Performing Arts. “We got additional funds from the borough president, the Queens delegation to the City Council, New York State Senator Frank Padavan, and the Independence Community Foundation.”

All told, Charlop has a budget of about $6.5 million for the renovation and refurbishment of arts center properties, including the Colden Auditorium, Goldstein Theatre, LeFrak Concert Hall, the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, and the outdoor amphitheater.

Her plans are ambitious. For example: the lobby and backstage areas at Colden and Goldstein—left untouched since their construction in 1961—require makeovers; better lighting and expanded rest rooms are among the goals. At Godwin-Ternbach, the wish list starts with state-of-the-art museum storage, which depends on regulation of heat and humidity. “There are many old and fragile pieces in the collection,” notes Charlop. “They need to be kept in facilities with the correct temperature controls.” The amphitheater, which lacks sound and lighting systems and doesn’t comply with the Americas with Disabilities Act, is underutilized. Properly upgraded, it might get more use.

Studio A, the architectural design department of Manhattan-based Wark Adams Shavin Associates, has been hired to address these issues; the student computer center at Brooklyn College and the new performing arts building at Hofstra University are among the firm’s projects. Studio A can work with design solutions for all the arts sites, as well as a timeline that minimizes disruption on campus. Construction is likely to begin next year.

**Hillel Highlights**

The Jewish campus organization Hillel has lots of developments to report. First on the list: the arrival of the latest Israel Fellow, Yehudith Kikayon. D.T. — as she is known to friends—will spend a year, possibly two on campus, promoting cultural, educational, and arts initiatives.

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**Vets Offer Free Continuing Ed Courses**

Some people express their gratitude with letters, plaques, and med.

Queens College has found another way to say thank you to U.S. servicemen and -women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

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**Sharing the Spirit**

Masks, figures, and ritual and practical objects from three centu-

ries and 14 countries are on display through December 15 at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, which is presenting Spirit and Power in African Art.

**The Swede Sound of Success**

In the year since her triumphal debut at the Met in the role of Lenore in Fidelio (the New York Times called her performance “powerful and sizable, Erik Bodiwala has been making the rounds of opera houses all over the world. But she also accepts book-

ings in the U.S.***

On November 6, 2007, the Swedish-born soprano shared the LeFrak Concert Hall stage with conductor and fellow alum Tito Muoz and an orchestra staffed heavily by past and present students at the Aaron Copland School of Music in a 50-year retrospective of composer Joel Mandelbaum (Music).
suites are estimated to run from $900 to $1400 a month. Some single bedrooms within suites will also be available. The costs per student for the bedrooms and a living and dining area with a refrigerator, microwave, and stovetop.

A Generous Gesture

Sid Kerner will maintain his presence on campus even though his QC Art Center, Face-to-Face: From See to Shining First, closed. The acclaimed New York City photographer has donated the entire exhibition to the college, becoming the first artist to make such a gesture. The gift was announced at the show’s opening on September 11, when Kerner gave a rousing personal gallery talk, also (Above: From the Face-to-Face series, undated.)

A Forum for the Latest Ideas in Business

When the New York Mets wanted to communicate their progress on Citi Field—their replacement for the aging Shea Stadium—they chose an increasingly influential public venue to make their case: the Queens College Business Forum.

Residence Hall Update

Following last spring’s request for proposals for a low-rise residence hall, the college has selected Capstone Development Corporation to work on the design and construction of the project. The hope is to sign a contract early next year so that the residence hall, which will be built on the site of the tennis courts, would open for students in fall 2009. Capstone, which specializes in the development and management of student housing, has worked with more than 50 colleges and universities, including City College.

Strategic Plan Zeros in on Three Major Goals for the College’s Future

By that standard, the Queens College Strategic Plan, for which Loren served as a consultant, is right on the mark: three goals, identified by dozens of people representing every part of the campus community.

The first goal, Advance Our Academic Program, commits the school to maintaining, developing, and retaining world-class faculty—professors who can continue Queens’s tradition of offering an exceptional educational experience and, at the same time, give undergraduates a global perspective.

Build a Culture of Community, the second objective, focuses on the campus and its neighborhood. Strengthening students’ college experience, enhancing staffs’ professional development, creating a greener site, and leveraging technology all fall under this heading. The end result will be to make QC an economic engine for the entire borough.

The third item on the list, Solidify Our Financial Foundations, will support its predecessors. To reach this goal, the college will increase its endowment, diversify its funding streams, and advance its facilities master plan by fostering public-private partnerships, reengineering business processes, and developing a new business model.

What the Strategic Plan doesn’t do is identify the steps QC needs to take to realize its goals. That topic will be tackled in an Implementation Plan that is being drafted. A copy of the Strategic Plan can be accessed at www.qc.cuny.edu.

Loren

A little bit of travel can confer other benefits, too. “Many of our students have never left home, or gone anywhere without their parents,” Braglia continues. “They come out of this more independent. It’s amazing what one month can do for them.”

A few more trips will do wonders for any college student who can afford to take them. How many students have the luxury to travel abroad? Not many, it seems, according to Braglia. It’s a shame, she says, because it’s an important lesson in the global community we all live in.

Educational programs that offer foreign study are an example of educational endeavor that Braglia supports. In a recent interview, Braglia noted the need to provide more opportunities for students to study abroad.

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The next forum, Feb. 29, will feature Bruce Bendell ’75, president of Mayor Automotive in Long Island City. Chen Musi, whose Forest Hills firm Musi Development is building luxury condominiums near Flushing Meadows Park, will address the forum May 2. On that occasion Donald Chang, founder of Forever 21, which operates more than 400 stores in the U.S. and Canada, will be honored as Entrepreneur of the Year. The latter event will be followed by the official opening of the Schutzman Entrepreneurship Center at Queens College. The inspiration of Len Schutzman ’67, chairman of the Board of NextWave Networks, the center will bring together students, faculty, alumni, and established entrepreneurs for the purpose of creating new business ventures.

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Diane Patrick: Lessons to Share

By Bob Buder

Diane Patrick's rise to become only the second African-American governor in U.S. history is a remarkable story of talent trumping circumstance.

Raised on welfare in tenement housing on Chicago's South Side, he graduated from Howard and became an attorney. While working for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, he met then-Governor Bill Clinton, who would later, as president, tap Patrick to become assistant attorney general for civil rights.

Diane Patrick '72 knows this story well, having told it countless times during her husband's uphill campaign for the Massachusetts State House in 2006. Those who heard her speak on these occasions have remarked on her warmth and clarity, qualities that often remind them of a favorite school teacher—and for good reason: Patrick graduated cum laude from Queens with a degree in early childhood education.

"I taught in the New York City school system for five years before NYC had its financial crisis in the late 70s. I was one of many municipal employees to be laid off," Patrick says, speaking from the Boston law office of ropes & Gray. "The economy was bad, and I'm a part-time lawyer. I am convinced to this day that I would still be teaching were it not for that crisis."

When that opportunity disappeared I had to go and learn something new," she recalls. "With no real passion or interest in pursuing a law career, I went to law school." But her feeling about the professorship lingered during the summer break between her first and second year at Loyola Law School. "I was a summer associate for a large firm in Los Angeles and was exposed to the practice of law in different areas: corporate law, labor and employment law, real estate and commercial law. I liked the collegiality, I liked the service aspect of the legal profession, and people who asked hard work and striving for excellence." When she returned to Loyola, she decided to focus on labor and employment law.

Much of Patrick's legal work is for colleges and universities. "There are a lot of things that intrigue me about helping my clients develop their human resources policies, ensuring that their employee and labor relationships are constructive, advising them on their affirmative action obligations, or conducting training such as sexual harassment avoidance. The day-to-day human interaction in the workplace is fascinating."

Patrick was forced to cut back on her practice during the financial crisis that occurred just weeks into her husband's term. In early March, Patrick removed herself from the public spotlight to receive treatment for depression and exhaustion she saw partially brought on by the stress of balancing the demands of her new public role with those of her career as an attorney. When she was ready to return to public life, she did so by appearing at a conference on victims' rights at the Massachusetts State House on April 26. There she announced that, despite limitations in her activities as First Lady necessitated by her recent illness, she would continue to speak out "in a big way" on issues of early childhood education and domestic violence.

"Days later, Patrick did exactly that. With grace, wisdom, and humor she publicly re-visited her first "marriage from hell," delineating an inspirational keynote address on March 5 at the 15th anniversary celebration of The Second Step, a nonprofit organization that provides long-term transitional services to survivors of domestic abuse. Soon after, on May 17, she was the featured speaker at Celebrating Families, the annual gala benefit for the Gallatin School of Individualized Study."

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Patrick's mother, public school teacher Lilian T. Bemus, opened a few doors. "We spent a day at F.S., 256 Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn, and it was eye opening not only for this young professor, but for most of the other students in my class who had never been in an inner-city setting. And that began a relationship between this professor and my son's school; he took his students there for years after."
THE QC SCIENCE DEPARTMENTS EMPHASIZE HANDS-ON RESEARCH. BUT TO AUDIT THE FISH POPULATIONS OF JAMAICA BAY, BIOLOGIST JOHN WALDMAN (LEFT) USES HIS ARMS AND LEGS, TOO.

The first Friday in September found Waldman, National Park Service district ranger Dave Taft and QC laboratory technician Andrew Silver all clad in waist-high rubber waders, dragging a green 35-foot nylon seine through ponds and ocean surf. With each haul, they saved a few diminutive specimens and released the rest: silversides, mummichogs, white perch, ctenophores, white mullet, striped killifish, kingfish, alowite, menhaden, mullet, and flounder. “Silversides are really good dipped in flour and fried in olive oil,” observed the professor, displaying a more than academic appreciation for piscine life forms.

THE MEN and their catch weren’t headed for the kitchen; they were participating in a BioBlitz, a 24-hour tally of flora and fauna. Waldman and Gillian Stewart (Earth & Environmental Sciences) organized the Blitz to document the diverse wildlife in and around the bay, a unit of federally protected parkland within Gateway National Recreation Area. Queens College was the lead institution for the event, sponsored by the college, the Jamaica Bay Institute, the Gateway National Recreation Area of the National Park Service, the CUNY Institute for Sustainable Landscapes, and the North Atlantic Coast Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit.

The festivities commenced on September 7 at 3 pm with speeches at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge visitor center, designated as BioBlitz base camp. Jamaica Bay Institute director Kim Tripp, National Park Service unit supervisor Lisa Eichler, and City Councilman James Gennaro—squeezing in an appearance on the day before his son’s wedding—took turns addressing the crowd of several hundred from an ad hoc wooden platform. Then veteran naturalists began leading more than 20 squads of volunteer surveyors into the field for three-to-24-hour shifts.

Walking through the woods in clear, breezy weather, people tended to lose the sense that they were within the limits of New York City. “If it weren’t for the buildings you see in the distance, you would swear you were in the Everglades,” mused Waldman, who, like his BioBlitz colleagues, had permission to wander off the park’s trails. Local college students and reporters traipsed behind him in single file to minimize their impact. Ironically, the freshwater ponds on their itinerary were man-made. “What looks very natural in Jamaica Bay usually isn’t,” said Taft, explaining that the ponds were built in 1953 for the benefit of birds; no one knows how the fish arrived, adding to the urban pool of undocumented aliens.

The sun had already set when Waldman and company returned to base camp from their foray into the salt waters off Fort Tilden. Trooping through the visitor center, where one room was set up as a temporary lab, participants filed reports and fortified themselves from a menu of animal crackers, Swedish fish, energy bars, and Gatorade. An exterior wall of the building was draped with a white sheet, courtesy of Jamaica Bay Guardian Don Ruepe; insects alit on the fabric, lured by the fluorescent lamp glowing beneath.

Despite the hour, the BioBlitz was just heating up. New volunteers trickled in, equipped with sleeping bags for the long haul. Meanwhile, some event staff were starting to show understandable signs of wear. “My dogs are barking and it’s only been nine hours,” declared Stewart, who had set up base camp at 11 am Friday and remained tethered to the premises as its manager. As the lab’s tables filled up with specimens—from tiny mollusks corralling in a petri dish, to nearly labeled fungi arranged in an amorphous display—she was, in her own words, “constantly wowed.”

IN THE MIDDLE of the evening, bird expert Andrew Bernick, who did his doctoral research on night-heron foraging ecology at CUNY Graduate Center, assembled a crew. Bernick, carrying a spotting scope and binoculars, warned that the stiff breeze, which had the beneficial effect of keeping mosquitoes away, could complicate his mission. “At night, you often try to identify birds by the sounds they make,” he said. “With the wind, that’s not easy.” Nonetheless, as people followed him around trees and along the beach on a course illuminated only by moonlight, they saw occasional herons, shorebirds, ducks, and an osprey. Flocks of Canada geese, mallards, and green-winged teal congregated in a single pond, as if attending the avian equivalent of a block party. During the three-hour search, seasoned birders recognized the cries of black-skimmer and heron gulls; other calls were traced to Bernick, a skilled mimic.

Activities extended through the night, as 10 or 11 stalwarts attempted to monitor birds and insects. “It was truly a 24-hour experience,” reported Stewart, who did not sleep at all. Waldman repaired to his car for a few hours’ rests; several volunteers and National Park Service staffs briefly crashed on cots in the visitor center.

SCIENTIFIC surveys continued through the morning. For the general public, the schedule of free activities included guided field walks, a workshop on sketching plants and animals in the wild, and a junior BioBlitz for children. By the event’s 3 pm conclusion, the tentative species count had hit 665; complete data would push that figure beyond 700, exclusive of participating Homo sapiens. At the closing ceremonies, President James Myskens and City Councilman James Gennaro, general superintendent of the Gateway National Recreation Area, shared the podium with Congressman Anthony Weiner, a longtime bay advocate who proudly declared himself a birder.

Gratified as they were by the support of legislators, Waldman and Stewart were even more pleased by the BioBlitz’s findings. The survey revealed some surprising bay residents, such as a red-spotted newt, a black widow spider, and a moth species not previously spotted in New York State. Subsequent audits, which the professors hope to repeat periodically, can help track changes in plant and animal populations.

But this year’s most exciting discovery may be the existence of an unexpectedly strong local community of future naturalists. “I’m blown away by the number of young people who wanted to go into the field and learn how to identify things,” says Stewart.
By Leslie Jay

Entering Ann Birstein’s apartment on Manhattan’s Upper East Side is like walking into a toy store for culturally literate adults. Among the thousands of items that fill the space are three thousand books and papers portraying the post-immigrant experience. "Writing the Record," Birstein says, was published in 2010, a collection of poetry and prose by students that will be published in book form soon. Birstein is also the recipient of the 2011 Michael Jacobs Book Award for her book "Over Your Shoulder," a collection of stories about the American dream.

Birstein grew up in a large, lower-middle-class family in New York City. Her parents were both teachers, and her father was a journalist. She attended Julia Richman High School and later became the valedictorian of her primary school. In 1952, she graduated from Queens College with a degree in English.

Birstein is a member of the New York City Board of Education and the New York City Department of Education. She has taught English and creative writing at Queens College, Lehman College, and Barnard College. She is currently teaching at the City College of New York.

Birstein is also a published author, having written many books and articles on the topic of education. She has been a contributing editor to The Atlantic, The New York Times, and The Washington Post. She is also the author of the book "Over Your Shoulder: A Collection of Stories about the American Dream."}

By Bob Suter

What a difference a letter makes.

Quens College already seemed like a natural fit for aspiring writers looking for a master’s degree: affordable tuition, great faculty, and located in the world’s most exciting city. But, more and more, students were looking for an MFA in creative writing—a degree that would allow them to teach at the college level—and not the MA Quens offered.

But this fall, in large part thanks to poet and novelist Nicole Cooley (English), the college welcomed 26 students into its new Master of Fine Arts program in creative writing. The 36-credit MFA emphasizes literary craft and the integration of literary studies. Under the guidance of a faculty mentor, each student will develop a thesis in the program’s final year: a polished collection of poetry or fiction, a play, or a quality translation.

MFA director Nicole Cooley (English) and Distinguished Professor Kimiko Hahn (English) have been impressed with the caliber of students. “This is an exciting time to be here,” Cooley says. “It’s wonderful to watch faculty and students generate positive energy and set high goals.”

Many programs say you can never take a fiction workshop,” says Cooley. “To counter that, we’re having every student take a workshop in a genre outside of their own. That sort of cross-fertilization can be very beneficial for all.”

Cross-fertilization appears to be a natural fit for novelist resident John Currie, who rejected other MFA programs before finding the right fit at Quens Querrie, who holds a degree in speech pathology from NYU, signs for the deaf and disorders, often employing his skills as an audiologist. “I like the idea that the program mandates cross-fertilization; I like the idea of utilizing what you do know in a different way,” he says. “I plotted a number of times when I was a teacher, so I’m always interested in exploring new ground.”

Cooley hopes to publish selection of poems and possibly a book of topical essays.

A Creative Take on Creative Writing

Unique MFA program welcomes its first students

We want everyone to come together as part of one community. The MFAs’ track in literary translation, notes award-winning poet Kimiko Hahn (English), also sets it apart from programs at other schools. Allowing to the cultural and linguistic diversity of Quens, Hahn notes, “We decided to offer the translation program because of Quens and because we have a very good comparative literature program.” And the program hopes to attract more than the typical creative writing student. “We are not interested in training teachers to be writers,” she says. “Rather, we want people in all walks of life to write poetry and continue to write when ever their lives may lead them.”

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A Blessing in New Orleans

“The students came from all sorts of socioeconomic backgrounds... and their answers ranged from ‘I want to see what it’s like not to have anything’ to ‘This is something I need to do in order to see long-term what I want to do.’” Celine Traylor

By Bob Suter

Spring break usually evokes images of students flocking to a warm locale like Daytona Beach for fun in the sun. But this year 20 Queens College students opted for a spring break they will never forget.

They traveled to New Orleans to join students from dozens of other colleges who were assisting in the cleanup of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina. The QC group went under the auspices of Operation Blessing, a nondenominational relief agency that was participating in the Gutting Taskforce, whose goal is to clear out thousands of Katrina-damaged houses.

The QC effort, explained Celine Traylor, Assistant Director of Student Life and Special Events, was initiated by a QC student whose family lost everything in the storm. Along with two other students, Jahrod Pender wrote a proposal that was presented to President James Muyskens and the College’s Health Service Center, chapereoned by a group of student volunteers who were selected based upon their GPA (3.0 minimum) and essays in which they explained their reasons for wanting to participate.

“The students came from all sorts of socioeconomic backgrounds,” says Traylor, “and their answers ranged from ‘I want to see what it’s like not to have anything’ to ‘This is something I need to do in order to see long-term what I want to do.’” Seventy-nine students applied and 20 were selected: 11 males and nine females.

“Operation Blessing provided a site manager, a professional contractor who would come to the site with us, and tools and training,” Traylor explains. The students were charged with removing any remaining contents in the house, then gutting any damaged structural components—walls, wiring, plumbing, etc.

The extent of the devastation hit the students right away. “As we were driving from the airport,” says Traylor, “we saw houses where written on the outside was the number of people who had died there. We were brought into an area where the numbers kept increasing. We went in and gutted these homes where people had died.”

Housing for the students was arranged by Operation Blessing in a temporary dormitory-style facility set up in a former supermarket in nearby Slidell, LA. “We had breakfast and would leave about 7 in the morning,” says Traylor. “For lunch we were provided with military meals (MREs) to which we had to add hot water. Sometimes the homeowners would buy us pizza, or I’d run off and get sandwiches if we didn’t want to eat the MREs. We would have to come back to Slidell by 6 pm.

“We were in the Ninth Ward by the second day,” Traylor recalls. “We were maybe five or six homes from the actual point where the floodwall broke.”

On that day, the students came upon the scene of one of the grimmest episodes of the New Orleans tragedy: a church where over 200 people, most of them elderly, had died. As the floodwaters rushed in, some young people tried to hold up the elderly to protect them. All of them drowned, the volunteers learned. “That’s when the students all just broke up,” says Traylor, describing the group’s emotional low point.

The emotional high point came days later when they met the owner of one of the houses they were gutting. He was ecstatic at having finally located his wife, from whom he’d become separated during the flood. He wound up in Texas, she in Florida. “He was so excited that he had this aura and the students just surrounded him,” says Traylor. “The students met many other flood survivors who also were happy to see them.

The QC contingent had a remarkable rate of productivity. Rather than stop for proper sit-down meals, many in the group would grab some fast food and return to the house they were working on. “Normally to do one house it takes a group of 15 about seven to eight days,” says Traylor. “Our group did five homes in six days.”

Aneesa Hussain ’07, a senior majoring in English at the time of the trip, says she had never volunteered to do anything before that involved such heavy physical labor. “We were really doing construction work. I was lifting 40 pounds of cement. But it made me want to work harder because I knew it was going to help out somebody.”

Hussain remembered how surprised she was that, nearly two years after the storm, “People were still living in such really poor conditions.” Yet, despite great feelings of sadness about much of what she saw, Hussain intends to continue her volunteer work. “I want to give more to the community.”

Soon after the group returned to campus, Traylor received a letter from Operation Blessing telling her that the students had touched the lives of both the homeowners and many of the aid workers. “They were like a breath of fresh air,” the letter said.

The students also touched the life of their chaperone. “This was one of the most incredible experiences of my life,” says Traylor. Indeed, the New Orleans experience was so extraordinary that the Office of Student Life has created a program, called Service Learning, which each year will send students to participate in similar relief efforts. Spring break may never be the same.
Alums rejoin an inspiring teacher on a Pacific expedition

EASTER ISLAND REUNION

By Bob Suter

Nancy Sing-Bock ’77 has no doubt as to when she first met her lifelong friend Dale Kaplowitz ’74. “In 1974 on a trip John Loret conducted to the Yucatan peninsula.”

Loret was then director of the college’s Environmental Studies program, and the trip was typical of many courses he taught that integrated science and outdoors adventure. “We had a whole team of professors to study the ecology, marine biology, archaeology,” recalls Sing-Bock. “We worked with Victor Segovia, one of the top archaeologists in the Yucatan, who had just discovered a new Mayan temple.”

“We snorkeled and camped out on the beach of what is now Cancun,” says Kaplowitz. “As educators, Kaplowitz and Sing-Bock continue to be influenced by their experiences with Loret. ‘I’ve always felt that students need firsthand learning experiences that integrate different content areas, and I learned that from John,’ says Sing-Bock, relating how her elementary school students at PS 51 in Manhattan are studying the Hudson River in conjunction with a school from Croton, NY, and the environmental group Riverkeeper.”

Kaplowitz did her best to give her students at Long Island’s West Hollow Middle School a sense of her Easter Island experience by creating a blog with which they could follow her progress. The blog includes photographs that help convey the hands-on nature of the work. Members of the expedition are seen painstakingly working to uncover, document, and protect ancient rock carvings called petroglyphs that are threatened by erosion and occasional trampling by wild horses. Another photo shows Kaplowitz on hands and knees, planting a mimosa tree as part of an effort to restore the landscape scientists believe was once lush and tropical.

“The island is green, but it’s not ecologically sound,” explains one of those scientists, QC biologist Jon Sperling ’59, who accompanied Loret’s group. Noting that Polynesians are believed to have first settled the island around 1200 AD, he continues. “When the Dutch got there in 1722, the island was practically barren of trees. But when people dig down and find root systems of giant palms, they realize there may have been over a million palms that covered the island from one end to the other. This was once one of the most lavish ecosystems you can imagine.”

“I’m a commuter,” Sperling laughs, describing a longstanding interest in Easter Island that has taken him there a number of times. “I’m interested in invasive species. The island has far more invasive than indigenous species of plants. The entire bird life, in fact, is non-native, brought there when conditions were very lax. Sheep farmers in the 19th century and anyone, until very recently, could bring their pets in.”

A Teacher for the Ages

Of joining her former teacher more than three decades later on another science adventure, Kaplowitz observes, “It was great. We’re all older, obviously, but for the most part, he was the same John, still into a million fascinating things. And he had great stories.”

Mindful of the lessons future generations of students might learn from Loret, who turns 80 this fall, Sing-Bock and Kaplowitz are hoping to get him to commit some of his stories to paper or tape recordings.

“He’s affected many people in such positive ways,” says Sing-Bock. “He’s the most inspirational teacher I ever had.”
The Sixth World Conference of the International Society for Universal Dialogue drew 150 participants to Helsinki, Finland, in 2005. Now some of the most compelling papers from that conference are available in a single volume, *The Challenges of Globalization: Rethinking Nature, Culture, and Freedom* (Blackwell Publishing), edited by philosopher professor Steven Hicks and his DePaul University colleague, Daniel Shannon. Hicks, a former president of the BUD, wrote the introduction to the book, which includes eleven essays by leading scholars from all over the map. Collectively, they address a wide range of issues, from international law to cultural relativism, many of the contributors also propose ways to overcome social and political repression.

The son and nephew of tugboat captains, *Arthur Kellner* ‘49 followed them to the Manhattan waterfront, briefly working as a deckhand. In 2001, after a long career as an industrial psychologist, he reconnect- ed with his peers: He began researching and writing *New York Harbor: A Geographical and Historical Survey* (McFar- land & Co.). Illustrated with vintage prints and photos, the book tracks the harbor’s changing role from the nineteenth century to the present. Kellner’s wife and children served on the editorial crew. “The writing of this book was a family affair,” says the first- time author.

Do you need more time to get up from a chair or run the same distances you’ve covered for years? Do you find yourself slouch- ing instead of standing tall? You don’t have to take these changes lying down. In *Age-Defying Fitness: Making the Most of Your Body for the Rest of Your Life*, physical therapist Marilyn Mufti ‘62 sets out a program for combating age-related changes. Many of her recommended techniques—showering in the shower, tightening stomach muscles while watching television—are designed for people whose schedules leave them little time for the gym. The book contains a free Thera- Band exercer, to add moderate resistance to certain movements.

**THE SCHOOL OF ARTS & SCIENCES**

Through December 15

**SPIRIT AND POWER IN AFRICAN ART**

Godwin-Ternbach Museum

Funded by Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, the Solow Art and Architecture Fund, and the NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs. Spirit and Power in African Art is guest-curated by William Siegmund, Curator Emeritus of African and Pacific Art at the Brooklyn Museum. The exhibition comprises more than 100 objects from the collections of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum and the Queensborough Community College Art Gallery, including masks, figures, and ritual and practical objects made of wood, metal, and ivory from the 11th to the 20th centuries and numerous African nations.

Spirit and Power contextualizes objects with field photographs to demonstrate their use and consider their aesthetic, social, and religious significance. The show examines the reciprocal exchange between Western and African cultures in the spirit of the new global consciousness, adding an important dimension to the picture of aesthetic evolution and the role of Africa in global artistic and cultural exchange.

Through December 21

**BRUSH WITH NATURE: INSTALLATION ART BY BARBARA ROUX**

Barbara Roux’s installations are influenced by her efforts to protect habitats and record incidents in natural history. Inspired by her father (a pharmacologist who did research in the Amazon Delta), her own stays in wilderness areas around the world, and by natural history and contemporary art, she focuses on habitat change in New York’s remaining wild landscapes. Roux engages with the material and anthropomorphism to evoke a sense of mystery, freshness, and recognition. Co-sponsored by the Department of Biology and by the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Part of the Focus of the Nation initiative.

**DECEMBER 15**

**QC CHORAL SOCIETY: 67TH ANNUAL WINTER CONCERT**

James John, Music Director
Colen Auditorium, 8 PM
$18; $16 seniors, students, alumni; $5 for students with valid QID at Box Office only

The Queens College Choral Society, joined by an orchestra, presents a holiday pro- gram including J.S. Bach’s Christmas Ora- torio (Part I), Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G Major, and G.F. Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah.
MARCH

SAT

1

MOSCOW CIRCUS: A RUSSIAN FAIR FOOL

Colden Auditorium, 3 PM, $12

A Russian Fair Fool combines drama, cultural history, and, of most all, the excitement and entertainment that can only be created by the Moscow Circus. Featuring some of the world’s greatest Russian circus performer—folk musicians, acrobats, dancers, the Russian puppets, contortionists, aerialists, jugglers, and more—the Moscow Circus continues to be the standard by which all other circuses are judged.

11 TUES

EDNA O’BRIEN

in addition to reading from her work, Ms. O’Brien will be interviewed by Leonard Lopate.

Music Building, 7 PM, $15 at door

Edna O’Brien is one of Ireland’s greatest living writers. She is the author of the collection of stories A Fanatic Heart, as well as the novels The Country Girls Trilogy, Night, Wild December, In the Forest, and The Light of Evening. Newsday has said: “To read Edna O’Brien is to be swept up... Her prose remains among the most stylish and subtle in the English language.”

20 SAT

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FEBRUARY 7–MARCH 28

WHITE LANDSCAPE: DRAWINGS BY JIN LEE

Queens College Art Center

Gallery talk: Thursday, February 7, 5–6 PM; Reception: 6–8 PM

Jin Lee, Untitled, 2001

Jin Lee’s organic free-form drawings and paintings conjure thoughts of undisembodied life forms. Inspired by nature’s abstract forms and creative forces, Lee articulates complex variants of expanding and contracting imaginary biomorphic structures in images that are at once microscopic and cosmically huge. A combination of additive and transformative art techniques produces a rich, dimensional effect that dramatizes the evolutionary energies conveyed by the consuming organic images.

Part of the Focus the Nation initiative.

24 SUN

CLASSIC HITS FOR KIDS: A YOUNG PEOPLE’S CONCERT

LeFkra Concert Hall, 2 PM, $12

Introduce your children to musical classics like Prokofiev’s Peter and the Wolf and Saint-Saëns’s Carnival of the Animals. Then enjoy their listening repertoire to include special selections by some of the “Four Bs”: Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, and Bernstein. This hour-long concert features the QC Orchestra led by brilliant young conductor Tong Chen. The relaxed, intimate setting of LeFkra Concert Hall is sure to make this a fun and entertaining experience for everyone.

35 SUN

ANNA MATOUSKOVÁ: PLACES—ABSTRACT PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND GLASS SCULPTURE

Queens College Art Center

Gallery talk: Wednesday April 9, 5–6 PM; Reception: 6–8 PM

Anna Matouskova’s fascination with the fundamentals of aesthetics is both deeply philosophical and elegantly pure: a vocabulary of geometry—ovals, circles, cubes—enriched by the kinetic play of light that draws the viewer into her spaces. Her forms and paintings are both seductive in their beauty and provocative of distillations of a conceptual, structural aesthetic. A pupil of the renowned artist and teacher StanislavLibenský, she is interested in the paradox that binds shapes to certain dimensions and their possible visual variations.

Co-sponsored by the Aaron Copland School of Music and the Czech Center New York. An exhibition of the artist’s glass sculpture will be presented concurrently at Chappell Gallery, New York City.

APRIL

8 TUES

MUSIC BUILDING, 7 PM, $15 at door

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte Goldstein Theatre, Fri. & Sat., 7:30 PM; Sun., 2:30 PM; Fri. & Sun., $20/$18 seniors & QCID; Sat., $22/$20 seniors & QCID Mozart’s masterpiece The Marriage of Figaro is regarded as a cornerstone of the standard operatic repertoire. This fully staged co-presentation of the Aaron Copland School of Music and the Department of Drama, Theatre & Dance features live orchestral accompaniment.

APRIL 9–JULY 10

ANNA MATOUSKOVÁ: PLACES—ABSTRACT PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND GLASS SCULPTURE

Homage to Leo Kraft

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13 SUN

THE EMPEROR’S NEW CLOTHES

Plaza Theatrical Productions

Coldsen Auditorium, 2 PM, $12

Young audiences will delight in Plaza Theatrical Productions’ amusing version of The Emperor’s New Clothes by Hans Christian Andersen. The classic fairy tale about a vain emperor who is swindled by two rogues before a little boy punctures the court’s pretensions is told with music, mischief, and merriment.

27 SUN

STEPHEN HOWH PHOTOGRAPHY

LeFkra Concert Hall, 2 PM $34/$32 seniors, students, QC alumni, QCID

Since winning first prize in the Naumburg International Piano Competition in 1983, Stephen Hough has come to be regarded as one of the most important and distinctive pianists of his generation. Hough integrates the imagination and pianistic color of the past with the scholarship and intellectual rigor of the present, illuminating the very essence of the music he plays.

2010

MARCH 1 SAT

MOSCOW CIRCUS: A RUSSIAN FAIR CIRCUS

Colden Auditorium, 3 PM, $12

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14–16 FRI–SUN

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COLDEN CULTURAL ARTS: A RUSSIAN FAIR CIRCUS

Colden Auditorium, 3 PM, $12

A Russian Fair Circus combines drama, cultural history, and, of most all, the excitement and entertainment that can only be created by the Moscow Circus. Featuring some of the world’s greatest Russian circus performers—folk musicians, acrobats, dancers, the Russian puppets, contortionists, aerialists, jugglers, and more—the Moscow Circus continues to be the standard by which all other circuses are judged.

2 SUN

ELIOT FISK & WILLIAM DE ROSA

GUITAR & CELLO

LeFkra Concert Hall, 2 PM $34/$32 seniors, students, QC alumni, QCID

Eliot Fisk, one of the world’s most brilliant guitarists, has performed worldwide to dazzling critical and public acclaim. Fisk has expanded the repertoire of the guitar enormously through his countless ground-breaking transcriptions of works by Bach, Scarlatti, Haydn, Mozart, Paganini, and others. William De Rosa melds distinctive artistry, profound musicianship, and exquisite tone. De Rosa has risen to national prominence and has been the subject of several documentaries and television specials on the PBS and CBS networks.

8 SUN

BLACK CULTURAL ARTS:
THE O’JAYS IN CONCERT

Colden Auditorium, 8 PM $48 orchestra/$54 seniors, students, alumni, QCID, QTIP, $42 mezzanine, students, alumni, QCID, QTIP

Back Stabbers, Love Train, For the Love of Money, Let Me Make Love to You, Ain’t No Woman (Like the One I Got), I Love Music, and Family Reunion epitomized the Philly soul sound of the 70s. Don’t miss original singers Eddie Levert and Walter Williams along with Eric Nolan Grant as they perform these classic sounds of one of soul’s greatest groups: The O’Jays. It will be an unforgettable evening of smooth harmonies and fabulous funk featuring many of the O’Jays’ biggest hits.

27 SUN

STEPHEN HOUCH PHOTOGRAPHY

LeFkra Concert Hall, 2 PM $34/$32 seniors, students, QC alumni, QCID

Since winning first prize in the Naumburg International Piano Competition in 1983, Stephen Hough has come to be regarded as one of the most important and distinctive pianists of his generation. Hough integrates the imagination and pianistic color of the past with the scholarship and intellectual rigor of the present, illuminating the very essence of the music he plays.

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AARON COPLAND SCHOOL OF MUSIC
The Aaron Copland School of Music presents an exciting series featuring faculty, students, alumni, and distinguished guests; most events are free. 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 visit www.KupferbergCenterArts.org.

KUPFERBERG CENTER PERFORMANCES
Kupferberg Center Performances (formerly Colden Center) has been offering a sophisticated range of classical music, jazz, contemporary entertainment, and children’s events since 1961. Performances take place in the 2,124-seat Colden Auditorium, the 479-seat Goldstein Theatre, and the 489-seat LeFrak Concert Hall. Colden Auditorium and LeFrak Concert Hall, a recital hall boasting state-of-the-art acoustics and recording facilities, are available for rental year-round. Box Office Hours: Mon., 12 noon-6 pm; Wed., 12 noon-8 pm; Fri., 12 noon-6 pm; Sat., 10 am-2 pm. Discounts available for groups, seniors, students, alumni. For information, to receive a season brochure, or to be placed on our email list, please call 718-793-8080, or visit www.KupferbergCenterArts.org.

DRAMA, THEATRE & DANCE
The Drama, Theatre & Dance Department presents four mainstage productions each season: A musical or opera (co-produced with the School of Music), a classical or contemporary play, or a world premiere production; and two dance concerts. These are directed by our faculty and guest artists. Numerous events produced and directed by students also occur throughout the season. For information, call the Arts Hotline at 718-997-3075 or visit www.KupferbergCenterArts.org.

GODWIN-TERNBACH MUSEUM
Klapper Hall, Room 405
The Godwin-Ternbach Museum—a professional non-profit art institution unique in Queens—has a comprehensive permanent collection of 3,500 objects, ranging from the ancient world to the present day. The Godwin-Ternbach serves the Queens community and the New York metropolitan area. Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 11 am-7 pm; Sat., 11 am-5 pm. For information, call 718-997-4724 or visit www.KupferbergCenterArts.org.

LOUIS ARMSTRONG HOUSE MUSEUM
34-56 107th Street, Corona
Louis Armstrong was an international celebrity who chose to settle with his wife in a modest house in Corona, Queens. This house, furnished with memorabilia, is open to the public. Admission: Adults: $6; seniors, students, children: $6; group rate: $6; current members: Free. Group tours available. For information, call 718-478-8274, or visit www.KupferbergCenterArts.org.

QUEENS COLLEGE ART CENTER
Rosenthal Library, 6th Floor
The Queens College Art Center welcomes both emerging and established artists in a variety of exhibitions of modern and contemporary art, digital art, and photography. The exhibition will include 10 artists working in landscape while using modern language and directed by students also occur throughout the season. For information, call 718-997-3770, or visit www.KupferbergCenterArts.org.

QUEENS COLLEGE EVENING READINGS
Queens College Evening Readings celebrates its 32nd Anniversary Season of readings and interviews with some of the greatest living writers in the world. For information, call 718-997-4646, or visit www.qc.cuny.edu/readings.

July 14-September 15
MEDITATION IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE LANDSCAPE
Curator: Lucia M. H. Lee
Godwin-Ternbach Museum
It is notable that just as Chinese landscapes are meant to be true to nature, but not pictorial, they are also meant to engage the viewer in a way that would give the painting an experiential value. In the contemporary context of this exhibition, artists will try to capture the spirit of the Chinese landscape while using modern language and idioms to express their ideas. This exhibition will include 10 artists working in contemporary Chinese painting, installation art, digital art, and photography. The exhibition has been planned not only to showcase the selected artists, but also to create an environment through judicious installation of the art. The space will allow viewers to profoundly appreciate and contemplate the art in totality.

10 SAT
IN THE MOOD
Colden Auditorium, 8 PM
$28; $34 seniors, students, alumni, QCID
In the Mood is a dazzling 1940s musical revue of the Swing Era—a time when up-tempo, big band instrumentals and intimate, romantic ballads moved the nation’s spirit. Enjoy the music of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman, the Andrews Sisters, Frank Sinatra, and more, performed by the fabulous Swing Band from the sensational Queen’s College Choral Society, conducted by music director James John. Tickets available through the Kupferberg Center for the Arts box office at 718-793-8080.

17 SAT
VERDI’S REQUIEM
Colden Auditorium, 8 PM
$20, $18; $5 Students
Godwin-Ternbach Museum
Curator: Luchia M. H. Lee
88th Annual Spring Concert of the Queens College Choral Society, conducted by music director James John. Tickets available through the Kupferberg Center for the Arts box office at 718-793-8080.

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Keep the Arts alive at Queens College by making a tax-deductible gift. Go to KupferbergCenterArts.org. When making a donation, ask your company if it has a matching-gift program or is interested in a corporate sponsorship.

This calendar is only a partial list of events. For complete listings, see individual department contact information or visit www.qc.cuny.edu.

For directions visit www.qc.cuny.edu/directions. Programs are subject to change. Call ahead for confirmation of artists, dates, and times.

The Lady Knights Women’s tennis team captured its sixth consecutive conference championship in a deciding fall season for Queens College Athletics.

QC won the East Coast Conference Women’s Tennis Championship by beating Concordia College in October. The victory not only gives the Lady Knights their sixth straight conference championship, but it also earns them an automatic bid to the 2008 NCAA Division II Women’s Tennis Championships, which will be played in May 2008. Five members of the team were selected to the ECC all-conference teams, as voted upon by the league’s head coaches.

Alyssa Mora and Laura Macdonald (l) were chosen for the first team, while Jessie Franklin, Kirby Reiss, and Jennifer Merideth were tabbed as second-teamers. Also, Head Coach Alan Nagel won the conference’s Coach of the Year award.

In other news, completion of the new outdoor track comes just in time for the new Men’s and Women’s Track teams to start training for their indoor and outdoor seasons. Progress is also being made on a new softball field, a new soccer field, and a new baseball infield, with work expected to be completed shortly.

On the heels of fall comes an event-filled winter season. New recruits like Amanda Bartlett of the Women’s Basketball team, as well as returnees like Men’s Basketball’s Khaleef Allicito, should provide many exciting moments for the QC faithful. Bartlett comes to Queens as the captain of the Arizona State High School Champions, while Allicito proved to be one of the rising stars in the East Coast Conference last season.

Neal Kaufer
QC Sports Information Director
Melbourne in 1956, is breaking academic records these days: at age 70, she has just received an MA in human rights from Ma- hajana University in Thailand, becoming the oldest student to do so. Her thesis, “Protecting the Human Rights of LGBT American Secondary School Students: A Legal and Political Struggle of Denial, Engagement, and Abandonment,” is posted online at www.acaciabooks.com/muthesis/CON- TENTS.htm.

In 1959: Les Aaron Friedlieb, a marketing and communications consultant who has worked with environmental groups and the John Kerry campaign, has published his ninth book, A Blueprint for Winning.

In 1959: Les Aaron Friedlieb

In 2005; she and her husband dated some 45 years earlier before marrying other people. The not-so-newlyweds are retired and busier than ever in Denver. He earns his living from doing security at Ground Zero,” says Richie, a clarinetist. “It’s very relaxing,” he admits. His primary occupation at the moment is gardening; sometimes he exceeds 115 degrees.

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Manhattan’s Stuyvesant Cove . . . 1983: Linda Rehak-Swanson writes that she hopes to study graphic design at a university near the suburban New Jersey home she shares with her husband of 27 years, Andrew Swanson (MA ’78). Linda has worked as a CPA before being sidelined by illness . . . 1988: Katherine Styponias has become general manager of the media and entertainment group at Microsoft Corp., where she will lead the business development team working with major content suppliers. Formerly the senior cable, entertainment, and satellite equity analyst at Prudential Equity Group, Katherine is widely recognized for her expertise in media industry trends: the Wall Street Journal’s “Best on the Street” poll cited her for earnings-estimate accuracy and stock picking in the entertainment category. She was also recognized in Institutional Investor’s America’s Best Research Team poll and was named the No. 1 earnings estimator for the media sector in the Forbes.com/StarMine Analysts Awards for 2004 . . . 1990: Rise Armel has switched careers. Formerly a clinical laboratory technologist, she has become a physician’s assistant in interventional radiology for a hospital-based private radiology practice . . . Wojciech Siemaskiewicz, a librarian in the Slavic and Baltic division of the New York Public Library, is the co-curator of Graphic Modernism from the Baltic to the Balkans, 1910–1935, an exhibition of books, book jackets, posters, and other printed material. The show will run at The New York Public Library on 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue, through January 27, 2008 . . . 1991: Richard Wilde, a New York City firefighter who works with the mayor’s Office of Emergency Management, was one of 25 elite swimmers to participate in the Manhattan Island Marathon Swim on June 16. Richard completed the 28.5 mile course in nine hours, ten minutes; in the process, he raised funds for the New York Firefighters Burn Center Foundation . . . 1994: Mahalia Desruisseaux, M.D., a research fellow at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is the recipient of a five-year Burroughs-Wellcome Fund Career Award for Medical Scientists. The prestigious award will support studies Mahalia is conducting at Einstein on cerebral malaria . . . José Peralta, a legislator who represents Queens’ 39th assembly district, is winning attention for his performance in Albany: City Hall profited him in “40 Under 40,” the magazine’s annual list of rising political stars. José launched his career at QC, where he was the first Latino to serve as president of the student body . . . 1997: Laura Smith retired from the MTA Long Island Railroad in 2005 as director of safety and security, she developed plans for the East Side Access Project, which will bring LIRR trains into Grand Central Terminal in 2027. Now Laura spends her time playing golf, painting, doing volunteer work, and enjoying the company of family and friends. . . . 1998: Ferentz Lafargue was an assistant professor of literature at Eugene Lang College, the New School for Liberal Arts, writes that his first book, Songs in the Key of My Life: A Memoir (Harlem Moon/ Random House), was published in May. That same month, he received a career enhancement fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. Ferentz puts in regular appearances at QC to speak with the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows on postgraduate opportunities and most recently worked with Vice Provost June Bobb to organize a leadership symposium . . . 2004: Avid Williams produced the opening ceremony of the National Opera Association’s annual convention, held in January at the Schomburg Center in Harlem. In July he headed to Italy as tenor soloist with the Pacific Boys Choir . . . 2005: G.C. Morrell (MBA) has released a video of her career stories, In the Pin: A Baseball Collection. When he isn’t writing, G.C. teaches English and participates in America’s favorite pastime.

WE REMEMBER
Elke Anita Toivonen Bracco, ’45
Claire Chase, ’45
Yvonne McCune Nearing, ’45
Eileen Phyllis Phlyyers-Dohrlein, ’46
Wendell W. Wvelopment, ’46
Howard H. Haber, ’48
William J. Raguin, ’52
Jerome Alan Bauman, ’53
Marylnn Jassy Bushchaft, ’57
Lillian Sklarie Stephens, ’61
Zachary Finkelberg ’62
Harold D. Juli, ’69
Elaine Thomas, ’69
Arthur Lind ’75

SEND US YOUR NEWS!
We want to hear from our graduates—especially our recent graduates. Tell us where you are and what you are doing, and enclose a photo. Be sure to let us know when you move.
Email: alumni@qc.cuny.edu
Mail: Alumni News, Office of Alumni Affairs, Queens College, 65-30 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, NY 11367
Phone: 718-997-3930
Fax: 718-997-3602
Q Mailbag: John.Cassidy@qc.cuny.edu

Look for us on the Web as we are always adding news about the college and upcoming events: www.qc.cuny.edu/alumni_affairs

MISSING ALUMNI
We have lost touch with many of our alumni. Usually they did not let us know when they moved. Sometimes we can be updated at www.qc.cuny.edu/QC_Foundation. If you know alumni who do not hear from the college, please let us know.

Starting a New Tradition
President James Muyskens (ctt) displays the Chain-of-Office that will be worn by QC presidents at future commencements. The chain, which records the names and tenures of all nine QC presidents, was the result of a collaboration between Jared Ritchie (Blotologie, l), who is working as a freelance-lance writer—he had an editorial published in the Daily News in June—Robert is thrashing personally as well as professionally, he got married in 2003 and
Help Beautify the Queens College Campus and Support Our Students

Queens College has set aside areas along the newly landscaped quad where alumni can have their name or that of a parent or friend commemorated. Offerings include a plaque placed beneath a newly planted tree, or upon a park bench where students sit and study.

Naming opportunities are also available in two of the Kupferberg Center’s performance facilities: the 479-seat Goldstein Theatre and the 2,124-seat Golden Audtorium. A seating plaque commemorating a friend, loved one, or yourself will be placed on the armrest of a seat in the theatre of your choice.

Our new Alumni Plaza in front of historic Jefferson Hall provides the opportunity to celebrate a graduation, highlight a special occasion, or remember a loved one with an inscribed commemorative brick.

Trees (14-foot high): $800
Benches, outdoor and indoor: $1600
Named seats in Kupferberg Center (Golden Auditorium and Goldstein Theatre): $3000
Donation of books to the library with bookplates placed in each book: $500
Small bricks: 4-inch x 8-inch (three lines of text): $130
Large bricks: 8-inch x 8-inch (six lines of text): $250

The easiest way to place an order is by visiting www.qc.cuny.edu/QCF. You may also fill out the form below and return it with your payment in the prepaid envelope in this magazine. For other naming opportunities of $2000 and above, please call the Office of Development at 718-997-3920.

I would like to purchase standard brick(s) at $130, ______ large brick(s) at $250, ______ trees at $800, ______ bench(es) at $1600, ______ seats at $300 or books at $500. I prefer to pay the total of $_____________ with a check payable to Queens College Foundation.

I will pay via credit card
____ Visa ____ MasterCard
____ American Express ____ Discover

Card # __________________________
Signature ________________________
Date ______________________________

Expiration Date

Credit card orders may also be faxed to 718-997-3924.

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of Development by email (OD.Foundation@qc.cuny.edu), telephone (718-997-3925, or mail (Queens College Foundation, 65-30 Kissena Boulevard, Flushing, New York 11367).

To Steve Roberts from the Alumni Society of 1960
May 2006

By Leslie Jay

Karen Leon ’79 never enlisted in the armed services. But Private King and Company, her new cartoon about Marine life, has entered active rotation:
The characters are featured in a morale-boosting movie that’s screened at hospitals, USO centers, ships at sea, and bases in Iraq and Afghanistan. “It’s important to bring humor to a difficult situation,” says the artist.

Her graphic skills first saw military deployment shortly after she graduated with a degree in fine arts and went to work for the advertising firm N.W. Ayer. One of the company’s clients was the United States Army. “I started doing a cartoon for Army Magazine,” recalls Leon. “I spoofed contemporary issues, setting them in the Roman era.”

By the mid 1980s she had traded the corporate track for free-lancing. Her outlets ranged from the weekly newspaper Crain’s New York Business, which published her single-frame political cartoons, to Kentucky Fried Chicken, which chose her Colonel Sanders design for its international corporate track for free-lancing. Her outlets ranged from the weekly newspaper Crain’s New York Business, which published her single-frame political cartoons, to Kentucky Fried Chicken, which chose her Colonel Sanders design for its international campaign.

“The vets said the strip was funny,” notes its creator. “That’s what resonated for me.” Leon expects the animation project so rewarding that she got her sister involved, too. In the film, composer Nina Leon ’81 can be seen performing “Saving Freedom, Precious Freedom,” a song she wrote in response to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

Thank You for Serving has been screened for military audiences, who appreciate the inside perspective of Private King. “The vets said the strip was funny,” notes its creator. “That’s what resonated for me.” Leon expects her cartoon Marines to see further action in the future. Life-size replicas were stationed on floats for this year’s Veterans Day Parade on November 11; soon the characters will be reporting to their own Web site.

Saluting the Marines with Cartoons

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Queens College
is celebrating!

WE HAVE EXCEEDED OUR
$100 MILLION CAMPAIGN GOAL.

JOIN US AT THE Q AWARD GALA ON JUNE 21 AT THE
MARRIOTT MARQUIS
when we honor two distinguished
graduates:
David S. Slackman ’70,
Founding President,
Commerce Bank, and
Marvin Hamlisch ’68,
Pulitzer Prize
and Oscar-winning composer.

Audiences the world over have enjoyed Marvin Hamlisch’s music, and at the Q Gala, emceed by renowned journalist Herb Kaplow ’48, we will also salute the achievements of other Queens College alumni in the media and entertainment fields:
Joy Behar, Adrien Brody, Danny Burstein, Fran Drescher, Jon Favreau, Carole King, Richard Klein, Ray Romano, Jerry Seinfeld, and Paul Simon; Metropolitan Opera star Erika Sunnegårdh; novelist Susan Isaacs; screenwriter Jay Wolpert; sportscaster Howie Rose; and many more.

THANK YOU
to the hundreds of generous supporters who will be attending the Q Gala, and to the 14,000 friends who helped us meet our campaign goal. Funds from the Q Gala provide scholarship support to new generations of artists, scientists, teachers, and entrepreneurs. To be part of the celebration, order your tickets at 212-614-0400.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU JUNE 21.

Exceeding our $100 million fund-raising goal was news we were only too happy to share with the world. What better way to do that than a full-page ad in the New York Times. The ad, which appeared in June 8 editions, thanked the 14,000 individuals who made contributions and announced that we would be celebrating the achievement of our goal at the June 21 Q Gala honoring distinguished QC graduates David S. Slackman ’70, founding president of Commerce Bank, and Pulitzer Prize and Oscar-winning composer Marvin Hamlisch ’68.

A group of QC students who had the opportunity to study music in Italy performed their original composition before an audience of QC alumni from Nassau and Suffolk counties at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City. The event was organized in hopes of forming a Long Island QC Alumni chapter.

Siri Howard, who played the title role in last spring’s QC production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical Cinderella, had a real-life Cinderella moment performing “The Way We Were” at the Q Gala accompanied by the song’s writer and one of the evening’s honorees, Marvin Hamlisch ’68.

Superstar songwriter and musician Paul Simon ’63 has a new honor to add to the many received in his storied career, as recipient of the first Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song (named for brothers George and Ira). “I am grateful to be the recipient of the Gershwin Prize and doubly honored to be the first,” said Simon at a May 23 ceremony in Washington, D.C., where he was presented the award by Librarian of Congress James H. Billington and feted at an all-star musical gala.

Richard Wall, a longtime member of the Library faculty (seen here, circa 1975), passed away in July, but not before receiving a special honor from his colleagues in February: the creation of the Richard Wall Film Studies Collection. In addition to teaching, Wall had served as Humanities Librarian and Bibliographer in Comparative Literature, Drama, Theatre, Dance, English and American Literature, Journalism, American Studies, and Film Studies. A Richard Wall Film Studies Fund has been established to continue development of the collection.

Alumni sporting bright red sashes emblazoned with the decade they attended QC joined President James Muyskens and current students at Commencement 2007. Standing (l to r): Arnold Franco, Don Blauweiss, Dr. Joel Wolf, Steven L. Ostoby, President Muyskens, James V. Werner, Joshua Frankel, student Eden Kasaev. Seated (l to r): Dina Foglia, Renée Zarin, Anita Rapp Saunders, Jaid Miller Ostoby, Dorothy Weiman, student Jennifer Wang, Jessica M. Ruperto. Missing from the photo are: Alan Frankel, representing the 1980s, and Dickie Sylves, representing the 1990s.
First Class Returns to Celebrate College’s 70th Anniversary

Despite threatening weather, more than a dozen members of Queens College’s first incoming class returned to participate in an October 11 ceremony marking 70 years since classes began on the Flushing campus. Standing: (l to r) John W. Kinder, John W. Marshall, Guy J. Riccio, Haskel Kase, Bernice Gross Atarac, Edith Francullo Ortola, Annette Henkin Landau. Seated: Helen Breitwieser Wittko, Lorraine Molkentin Tierney, Helen Picozzi Gentile, Ruth Vopelak Barry, Betty Freedman Steinhorn, Mary Hickey Endres, Joan Sanders O’Leary. For their reminiscences of that opening day at Queens College, see page 3.