



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 this fall and winter, see page 23.



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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 be 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 austere tall, tan 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-rise 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 Kiely and probably to the Registrar, 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 Roller



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



1. Finding the location of the Buildings A, B, C, D, E & Jefferson Hall and the Library.
2. Meeting my teachers of the required courses—English Composition, Contemporary Civilization, German Language, Mathematics (Algebra), Music, and Art. I remember Dr. Durling, Dr. Banesh Hoffman, 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.

PHOTOS: Lee Weissman 2; Nancy Bareis 4, 5, 6 (Brumberg), 9 (Wolfe), 13, 26, 28, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39 (alumni group), back cover; Barry Brown 7 (Chartered); Mohamed Tabrani 7 (Abroad); Audrey Tiernan 10, 11; Getty Images, New York 14-15 top; Thomas Waring 14-15 (students); Nancy Sing-Bock 16 (l); Dale Kaplowitz 16 (r), 17; Nancy Rudolph 32.
COVER: Michael Forbes Wilcox.

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

Queens College has been named by the 2008 Kaplan/Newsweek *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.” The “Hottest” list also recognizes the colleges’ growing reputations and “popularity among top students within a booming college-bound population.”

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 Ivies 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 Muyskens: “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. As we in the Queens College community know, the college was established 70 years ago in response to the needs of the growing borough’s population, made up in large part of newly arrived immigrant families. Today’s students may hail from different countries than in 1937, but they have in common with our first graduates the same talent, passion, and dedication.”



Ads proclaiming the college’s “hot” status are now appearing on city buses.

Hillel Highlights

The Jewish campus organization Hillel has lots of developments to report. First on the list: the arrival of the latest Israel Fellow, Yehudit Kikayon. D.T.—as she is known to friends—will spend a year, possibly two on campus, promoting cultural, educational, and arts 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, movies, 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, which will be eligible for as much as \$14,000 in grants. The money will be earmarked for the presentation of concerts, films, plays, and exhibitions.

Of course, music is already emphasized at Hillel. Tizmoret, the resident a cappella choir, auditioned personnel for its twelfth year, and is preparing to record its fourth CD. “The last three sold out,” says the rabbi, who recently released his own CD, *A 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



Rabbi Shur

larger fabric of the U.S. Jewish community,” says the chaplain. “We’ll use technical devices to track their development.” The pilot has been 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 isn’t 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.

returning war vets can register for courses in real estate, foreign languages, computers and technology, health care, yoga, stress management, music, insurance licensing, and many more subjects.

According to CEP Director Thomas Cracovia, “Through this program we hope to show how much we honor, support, and appreciate the wonderful men and women who so bravely risked their lives overseas in the name of this country.”

Vets Offered Free Continuing Ed Courses

Some people express their gratitude with letters, plaques, and medals. Queens College has found another way to say thank you to U.S. servicemen and -women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a gesture of appreciation, the Continuing Education Program (CEP) is offering veterans who have served in those countries free tuition for courses that are not currently covered by the Veterans Administration. As part of CEP’s Veterans Appreciation Program,

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.

Much of the money came in the form of big checks from individual or corporate donors. “We received more than 16 gifts of \$1 million and above,” reports Mario DellaPina, executive director of the Queens College Foundation and director of development for the school. Collectively, foundation board members anted up \$30 million, including \$4.3 million from Virginia Frese Palmer ’42, which she earmarked 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 longtime supporters of the arts on campus, the couple chose 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 Charlop,



Max and Selma Kupferberg

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

Her plans are ambitious. For example, the

lobbies 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 Americans with Disabilities Act, is underutilized. Properly upgraded, it might get more use.

Studio A, the architectural design department of Manhattan-based Wank Adams Slavin 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 came up 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.



Sharing the Spirit

Masks, figures, and ritual and practical objects from three centuries and 14 countries are on display through December 15 at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, which is presenting *Spirit and Power in African Art*.

Guest curated by William Siegmann—Curator Emeritus of African and Pacific Art at the Brooklyn Museum—the exhibition features more than 100 items made of wood, copper, iron, brass, bronze, and ivory, as well as textiles. Field photographs and documentary films illustrate their use and context. The oldest piece is a cast-copper neck ring dating from the 11th–15th centuries; among the newest are two ritual masks of wood and fiber, crafted in the early to mid-20th century.

The exhibition draws on the permanent collections of the Godwin-Ternbach and the Queensborough Community College Art Gallery, which is staging a concurrent exhibition, *A Cameroon World: Art and Artifacts from the Marshall and Caroline Mount Collection*, through February 28, 2008 (www.qccartgallery.org).

“*Spirit and Power* extends the museum’s ongoing commitment to the diverse Queens community,” says Godwin-Ternbach Director Amy Winter. “Previous exhibitions have explored Asian, Latin American, and Middle Eastern cultures, as well as the histories of Jews, Italians, and other immigrant groups. Now, with the help of donors and generous loans from the Queensborough Community College Art Gallery, we are presenting the extraordinary art of Africa.”

For more information on *Spirit and Power in African Art*, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/godwin_ternbach/. (Left: *House of the Head*, Yoruba, Nigeria; leather, cowry shells.)



The Swede Sound of Success

In the year since her triumphant debut at the Met in the role of Lenore in *Fidelio* (the *New York Times* called her performance “powerful and “virtuosic”), Erika Sunnegårdh ’99 has been making the rounds of opera houses all over the world. But she also accepts bookings in Queens. On November 6, 2007, the Swedish-born soprano shared the LeFrak Concert Hall stage with conductor and fellow alum Tito Munoz 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).

Research Published in *Journal of Neuroscience*



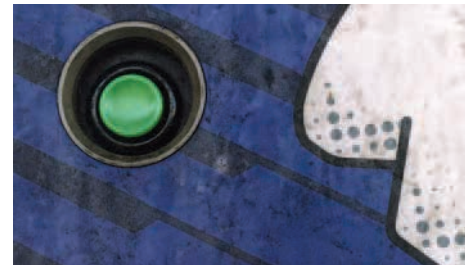
Joshua Brumberg (Psychology), head of the neuropsychology doctoral subprogram, and Mary Rocco-Donovan, a CUNY PhD student based at the college, share credit on a paper published in a recent issue of the prestigious *Journal of Neuroscience*.

The article, which shows that trimming the whiskers of a newborn mouse affects the animal's neural development, was not only printed in full in the May 16 edition of the weekly, but also summarized on the front page, where editors highlight particularly notable projects.

Brumberg and a colleague launched the

experiment in 2004 to test what sensory deprivation does to the mouse brain. "Mice receive input from their whiskers," explains Brumberg. The researchers discovered that continuously trimming the right-side whiskers of mice during the animals' first 30 days of life decreased the amount of a specific protein in the brain tissue surrounding a specific subset of nerve cells in the cortex, which handles sensory information. Trimming whiskers after the mice were a month old had no such impact.

"This work provides critical insight into the mechanism by which experience affects brain structure and function," Brumberg notes. "Our results suggest potential novel strategies for reactivating these mechanisms in the mature nervous system to treat neural disorders or injuries."



A Generous Gesture

Sid Kerner will maintain his presence on campus even though his QC Art Center show, *Face-to-Face: From See to Shining See*, closed on October 31. 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 richly personal gallery talk. (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.

Since its launch in the fall of 2005, the QC Business Forum has regularly presented leaders in a number of fields who address issues vital to the Queens business community. Under the forum's guiding theme, "Queens: A Catalyst for Success," FreshDirect CEO Dean Furbush explained how Queens has been a vital element of the online grocer's business strategy. And longtime activist and community board member Wellington Chen touted Flushing's renaissance with the observation: "This is a very vibrant part of this borough."

The next forum, Feb. 29, will feature Bruce Bendell '75, president of Major Automotive in Long Island City. Joshua Muss, whose Forest Hills firm Muss 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 NearWear Networks, the center will bring together students, faculty, alumni, and established entrepreneurs for the purpose of creating new business ventures.

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



Loren

Corporation. And the number of objectives should be kept to a minimum. "Some of us can't remember all of the Ten Commandments, and they've been around for thousands of years," Loren continues. "It's better to focus on doing a relatively few things very well."

A solid strategic plan enables an organization to shape its future. "You need goals that are specific, measurable, actionable, repeatable, and time-bound," explains Allan Loren '60, former chairman and chief executive officer of the Dun & Bradstreet

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 Programs*, commits the school to recruiting, developing, and retaining world-class faculty—professors who can continue Queens's tradition of offering an exceptional education 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 staffers' 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, re-engineering 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.

Education Abroad Attracting More Students

When asked how they spent their summer vacation, a growing number of QC undergraduates can say they studied overseas. "Although this was only the second year that we offered summer programs, we saw a 40% increase in enrollment," says Education Abroad Director Gary Braglia. The college's menu of one-month courses attracted 111 CUNY students, the majority from the Queens campus.

The curriculum was certainly appealing, encompassing French language and culture, King Arthur, Italian fashion, and more topics—a total of 15 classes held in major western European cities and taught by QC professors or their counterparts at host institutions. Sessions cost \$3,000 to \$4,000 and were worth three to six credits. As with all Education Abroad programs, some of which venture to Asia (r), the courses were open to anyone who had completed at least one freshman semester and had a GPA of 2.8 or better.

Braglia hopes that eventually half of QC's undergraduate body will participate in some kind of foreign study. "Nowadays, kids have to have global competency, and experiencing another culture is a great way to achieve it," he explains.

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."



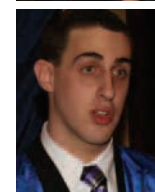
A rare pair of red-tailed hawks includes the campus in their afternoon flight pattern. Landing on the roof of Kiely Hall, one raptor became photographic prey for a worker installing the new communications system.

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.

No public funds will be used to finance this project, which is estimated to cost \$63 million and is expected to accommodate 450–550 students, with parking spaces added for 200 cars. Students will live in four-person suites that will include two two-person bedrooms and a living and dining area with a refrigerator, microwave, and stovetop. Some single bedrooms within suites will also be available. The costs per student for the suites are estimated to run from \$900 to \$1400 a month.

Chartered Territory for Alpha Epsilon Pi



Weisblum

QC has rejoined the Alpha Epsilon Pi frat pack. Students who dedicated themselves to reviving the college's chapter of the North American Jewish fraternity saw their efforts rewarded in the spring, when they received their charter.

AEPi has a distinguished past. Founded at New York University in 1913, it spread in 1949 to Queens, where the Kappa Chi chapter at its peak claimed more than 400 members. Civil rights activist and martyr Andrew Goodman pledged Kappa Chi; so did musician Paul Simon, who wrote a song about his murdered friend. In subsequent

decades, the brothers struggled at QC, disbanding and rechartering before calling it quits in the late 1990s.

The chapter's history was among the factors that inspired students to rebuild Kappa Chi. "AEPi had been the longest-running frat on campus," says Eli Weisblum, who served as refounding president and president last year of the reborn chapter, which now has more than 20 men on its roster. "We'd heard about its legacy."

Another big draw was the fraternity's emphasis on community service. "Each pledge class has to hold three events: a social event, a sports event, and a philanthropic event," explains Weisblum. In 2006–2007, AEPi brothers at QC led a drive to get people to register for the Gift of Life Foundation's bone marrow bank, and helped KaBOOM, a nonprofit group, build a playground in Astoria. They also collaborated on projects and parties with Hillel.

Looking at the season's new recruits, Kappa Chi's leaders have reason to expect that their chapter and their work will continue on campus after they graduate. "We're hoping that this time, we stay around longer," says Weisblum.

Diane Patrick: Lessons to Share



By Bob Suter

Deval 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 Harvard and became an attorney. While working for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education 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 offices of Ropes & Gray, where she is a partner. "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 feelings about the profession changed 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 it. I enjoyed being around people who valued 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,

Experiences as an educator and in a difficult first marriage inspire her evolving role as the new First Lady of Massachusetts

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 governor's campaign, but is now in the office full-time. To avoid any conflict of interest between her activities as attorney and as wife of the state's chief executive, she says, "I don't represent any public entities and I will not appear before any state agencies on behalf of clients. We have taken steps to assure that my work doesn't interfere with Deval's and vice versa."

The Patricks have also taken care that the demands of their political life not interfere with the lives of their two daughters, who chose not to participate in the campaign. "It made the campaign easier because I didn't have to worry about the day-to-day impact on them," Patrick says. Sarah, who hopes to work in film production, is a senior at NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study. Their youngest daughter, Katharine, just graduated from St. Andrew's, a boarding school in Delaware and soon leaves for Brazil where she will spend part of her gap year before attending college.

Her husband's election was not Diane's first experience with political life. She spent her early childhood in Brooklyn where her maternal grandfather, Bertram L. Baker, was the first African-American elected to public office in the borough. Baker represented Bedford-Stuyvesant for 22 years in the New York State Assembly. But the one-time teacher demurs at any suggestion that she might run for office: "I am a great cheerleader and a supporter, but I'm not going to be a politician."

She then says, however, "I am learning that I have a voice that people are interested in hearing, whether it's by virtue of the fact that I have been all over the state speaking, or the fact that I now have this title 'First Lady.' What I want to lend my voice to are concerns of early childhood

education—again, going back to my original love—and issues of domestic violence." Of the latter issue, she will only say, "Yes, I had a [first] marriage from hell, and I was quite fearful for a time."

She has dramatically affirmed her commitment, despite an unexpected personal 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 says was 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 revisited her first "marriage from hell," delivering an inspirational keynote address on May 3 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 Guidance Center, Inc., an advocacy group that includes early childhood education and domestic violence among its major areas of concern.

Wearing cap and gown, Patrick emphasized the importance of teachers in shaping the lives of children when she offered the commencement address on June 11 to the 170 inner-city graduates of the Urban College of Boston, most of whom earned certificates and associate degrees in education-related subjects. "You are not the typical college graduates getting ready for the real world," she told them. "You, my friends, are the real world. You are the ones with wisdom that can give us a lesson on living."

A Special Queens College Teacher



Wolfe

One teacher in particular made a difference for Diane Patrick during her time at Queens College: Deborah Wolfe, QC's first African-American professor and

chair of the Elementary and Early Childhood Education Department. Wolfe, who died in 2004, taught at QC for 35 years and was a strong advocate for early childhood education, particularly for those in the underclass.

In 1962, Wolfe was appointed Education Chief of the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and Labor and had a role in the passage of some 35 major laws. She served on many government and educational bodies and was the first African-American woman to be ordained a Baptist minister. She taught at the Tuskegee Institute, Grambling State University, NYU, Fordham, and Columbia. In 2007, New Jersey City University named its College of Education in her honor.

"She was so committed to teaching, to showing us how to care and focus beyond the academics to what children bring to the classroom from home—whether hurts or joys," says Patrick. "She was just an amazing and inspirational woman."

Patrick herself had an opportunity to inspire a change in QC's elementary education curriculum. "We never went to schools that had a minority population," she recalls. She mentioned this to one of her professors, who said, "You need to help me find my way into those schools.' So, I said to him, 'Well, I'll call my mother.'"

Patrick's mother, public school teacher Lilian T. Bemus, opened a few doors. "We spent a day at P.S. 256 in 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 mom's school; he took his students there for years after."



PUTTIN' ON THE BLITZ

By Leslie Jay

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, alewife, 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 Cities, 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 Eckert, 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 1951 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 Riepe; 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 staffers 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 corralled in a petri dish, to neatly labeled fungi arranged in an impromptu 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 skimmers and herring gulls; other calls were traced to Bernick, a skilled mimic.

Activities extended through the night, as 10 or 11 stalwarts attempted to monitor birds



Gillian Stewart catches up on fieldwork.

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 staffers 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 Muyskens and Barry Sullivan, 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.

Writing the Record

Ann Birstein's gift of books and papers portrays the post-immigrant experience



By Leslie Jay

Entering Ann Birstein's apartment on Manhattan's Upper Eastside is like walking into a toy store for culturally literate adults. Among the tchotchkes are finger puppets of Frida Kahlo, Albert Einstein, and Mahatma Gandhi; a left-handed Jane Austen Action Figure; and a framed image of Emily Dickinson that has been altered, rendering the Belle of Amherst topless. Next to the poet's picture stands another prized possession: a decades-old personalized get-well drawing by cartoonist Jules Feiffer.

Author of novels, memoirs, and numerous essays and articles, Ann Birstein '48 has plenty of collectibles left after presenting boxes of manuscripts and letters to the QC Library. Included in this treasure trove are greeting cards and notes she traded with her husband, the great literary critic Alfred Kazin, as well as letters from such friends and notables as Saul Bellow, Elie Wiesel, Ralph Ellison, and Erica Jong. She is also

donating the dress she wore to Truman Capote's legendary Black and White Ball in 1966. In at least one way, giving is better than receiving; thanks to her donation, she has regained some living space. "I was thinking about renting a room and letting all the papers take over," she says with a laugh.

Those papers, and her published works, document a momentous journey. Born in low-rent Hell's Kitchen, the future writer was the fifth and youngest child of Rabbi Bernard Birstein and his wife, Clara, also an Eastern European immigrant. "Yiddish was my first language," says Birstein, who answered to Chana at home but lost the guttural "ch" and became Honey when neighbors couldn't pronounce the sound properly. Far from being offended, she and her siblings envied classmates who came from English-speaking households.

In this polyglot environment, Ann's flair for words emerged early. Soon she was serving as her father's uncredited literary assistant. She polished the invocations and benedictions he delivered in English at the Actors' Temple, his West Forty-seventh Street shul, where celebrities like Eddie Cantor, Milton Berle, and two of the Three Stooges put in appearances. A stellar student, she was valedictorian of her primary school and later of Julia Richman High School, both of them girls-only institutions.

Next stop was co-ed Queens College, a subway ride and a world away. Inspired by professors like Karol Rathaus and Frances Godwin—"I like to say that a lot of my teachers became buildings," Birstein says—she frequented concert halls and museums. For her senior honors project, she wrote a novel under the supervision of Phyllis Bartlett, who required her to produce a chapter a week for 13 weeks, reserving the last week in the term for revision. "I said

okay because kids are stupid," Birstein explains. With the endorsement of the English department, she entered her manuscript in an undergraduate writing contest held by the Dodd Mead publishing house, and won the top prize—a book contract.

The release of *Star of Glass* two years later launched her career and, in a sense, her marriage: To get attention for the title, her editor introduced her to writer and critic Alfred Kazin, who was about to publish his second book, *A Walker in the City*. The two became an item, and the fledgling novelist entered her beau's impressive intellectual circle, a crowd that included Saul Bellow, Richard Hofstadter, and Ralph Ellison. "We were so young," she recalls. "We didn't know they'd become famous."

Upon tying the knot with Kazin in 1952, Birstein—who never changed her frequently misspelled surname—spent several years trundling from one college town to another as her husband held appointments at Harvard, Smith, and Amherst. Then they moved back to New York, the twosome having become three with the birth of their daughter, Cathrael. "The relationship between writing and publishing is like that between making love and having a baby—there is none," Birstein observes. A working mom before the term was common, she juggled child care and household responsibilities, taught at local colleges, and found time to write six more novels, as well as a biography of her father, *The Rabbi on 47th Street*. Along the way, she battled the condescension of people who didn't think a wife and mother should pursue a career.

After about three decades together, Birstein and Kazin called it quits. As a middle-aged woman who had never signed a lease or held a credit card in her own name, she adapted to her single status, and grew to enjoy it. And, of course, she kept writing; her bittersweet memoir of life among the literati, *What I Saw at the Fair*, was published in 2003 to good reviews. Now Birstein is revising a novel. "If I'm depressed, all I have to do is turn on that computer," she says, pointing to the laptop on her living room desk.

Reviewing her many accomplishments, this QC grad takes the greatest pride in how far she has come from Hell's Kitchen, with the help of her education. "America's the most amazing place," she concludes.

A Creative Take on Creative Writing

Unique MFA program welcomes its first students



MFA director Nicole Cooley (l) and Distinguished Professor Kimiko Hahn

By Bob Suter

What a difference a letter makes.

Queens 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 Queens offered.

But this fall, thanks in large part 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 Cooley explains that this is a program with a number of differences, including an emphasis on community. "Studying for an MFA," she says, "should be a unique time to focus on your writing and to meet people who can be your lifelong readers, people you can be in contact with forever. I know students are hungry for that."

Unlike many other MFA programs, QC's is in the English Department. "In my own experience in grad school," Cooley notes, "creative writing was moved to the Art Department to get it as far away from English as possible. We don't want that. Our MFA students are required to take literature classes and we want to introduce them to our col-

leagues in English so there is no division between literary studies and creative writing. We want everyone to come together as part of one community."

The MFA's track in literary translation, notes award-winning poet Kimiko Hahn (English), also sets it apart from programs at other schools. Alluding to the cultural and linguistic diversity

of Queens, Hahn notes, "We decided to offer the translation program because of Queens 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 wherever their lives may lead them."

Visiting professor Rigoberto Gonzalez, who teaches nonfiction and literary translation, has been impressed with the caliber of the students. "This is an exciting time to be here. This is the start of a journey, and it's wonderful to watch faculty and students generate positive energy and set high goals."

"Many programs say if you're in poetry, you can never take a fiction workshop," says Cooley. "To counteract 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 appeals to Astoria resident John Currie, who rejected other MFA programs before finding the right fit at Queens. Currie, who holds a degree in speech pathology from NYU, signs for the deaf and has taught in New York City public schools. Much of his career has been devoted to working with people with communication issues and disorders, often employing his skills as an artist who makes paper by hand. "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 piloted a number of things when I was a teacher, so I'm

always interested in exploring new ground."

Currie hopes to produce a collection of poems and possibly a book of topical essays.

LaForrest Cope already has a work in progress: a novel, *Soul Shakers*, which she began in Eric Lehman's creative writing class when she was an undergraduate at QC. "That was the first time that anyone ever told me that as a writer I had a strong voice," she says.

Cope has a strong voice in the literal sense as well, having enjoyed success as an R&B vocalist and Grammy Award-nominated songwriter (she remains a private vocal coach) before enrolling at QC as an English major, graduating cum laude in January 2005. "I call that 'my first career,'" she says. "So this is a career change for me."

An adjunct instructor at York College, Cope had nearly completed her MA at Queens when the MFA in creative writing was announced. She reapplied and was accepted into the new program, where she is currently taking a memoir workshop.

She also hopes to publish her novel, which now stands at about 100 pages. It has some autobiographical elements from her first career and incorporates some prose poetry. "I've studied already with Prof. Cooley and Prof. Jeffery Allen, and they've both acted somewhat as mentors for me," Cope says. "I guess what I'll be doing is honing that craft of being able to combine those two genres into one."

Along with Cooley, Hahn, and Gonzalez the MFA faculty includes Jeffery Renard Allen, who has published poetry and fiction; playwright Richard Schotter; and novelist John Weir. The program has its own Web site (www.qc.cuny.edu/Creative_Writing) and blog (www.queenscollegemfa.blogspot.com).

Hahn has been busy coordinating the various CUNY MFA programs for a January event that will help put QC's new program on the map, the annual conference of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs (AWP). "This year it's in New York and it's going to be huge," notes Hahn. "This is the first time that CUNY MFA programs will be represented upfront as a major sponsor."

Says Cooley, "AWP is three days of constant readings, panels, events, meetings, networking, chatting—the biggest poetry and fiction event of the year. It's fantastic timing for us that it's being held here and our students can be part of it."

The never-ending party in New Orleans ended with Hurricane Katrina. Inset: Celine Traylor (third row from bottom, bending over, arm extended) and her contingent of QC students devoted their spring break to helping out wherever they could. Below: Volunteers clear away debris.

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 Task-force, whose goal is to clear out thousands of Katrina-damaged houses.

The QC effort, explains 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 Association. “I helped them with the proposal,” Traylor says, “but I didn’t expect

the president to say, ‘Well, they can’t do this unless you go along with them.’”

Traylor and Connie Capobianco, director of the college’s Health Service Center, chaperoned 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.

Last January Kaplowitz, a special education teacher, and Sing-Bock, an elementary school principal, spent winter break on another scientific adventure, reuniting with Loret to explore one of the world's most mysterious places, Easter Island. The remote Pacific island and its enigmatic stone statues entered public awareness with the 1958 publication of *Aku-Aku: The Secret of Easter*

Island, Norwegian adventurer Thor Heyerdahl's account of his expedition to the world's most isolated populated landmass, more than 2,200 miles from the coast of Chile. Loret was a member of that expedition, working as both a biologist and skin diver.

Now, as director of the Science Museum of Long Island, Loret is a frequent visitor to Easter Island, conducting trips on which participants often engage in both archaeological and environmental studies—the island's nearly barren landscape is as much a subject of speculation as its famous statues, known as *moai*. On the January trip, Loret carried the flag of the famed Explorers' Club, of which he is a past president.

Sing-Bock, who earned her master's in environmental education from QC, says the 1974 Yucatan trip was her first course toward that degree. "John was something of a pioneer in offering environmental education for educators; the only other programs at the time were at City College, and they were in environmental science. I took many courses with John, and they were all in the field."

As an example, she describes learning to build a log cabin on the site of a former mis-

sile base on Long Island. She also learned scuba diving with Loret, and did seining (fishing with a large net) aboard the Hudson River sloop *Clearwater*, while studying the salinity and oxygen content of the water.

"We studied the ecology of Long Island Sound, taking water samples to determine the impact of a nearby LILCO power plant on microorganisms," recalls Kaplowitz. "We took a wilderness survival course on a farm in Connecticut, during which we learned map and compass skills and did rock climbing, which was not my thing at all. I always gravitated toward John's courses because you were actually doing things instead of just sitting in a classroom."

That, in fact, was the mission with which he was charged when he first arrived at QC in 1967, says Loret, recalling the beginning of his 28-year tenure. "They wanted to start a program in outdoor studies," he says, explaining how he came to be hired by the Physical Education Department.

As Loret holds degrees in biology and oceanography, science inevitably became an element in his curriculum. "We had advanced wilderness courses," he says. "We did

one where we would ski in to the Catskills in mid-winter, toting everything behind us on toboggans. We would drill holes in the lakes, pump the water up, and study the plankton, because plankton is an indicator of the condition of the lake."

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 P.S. 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."

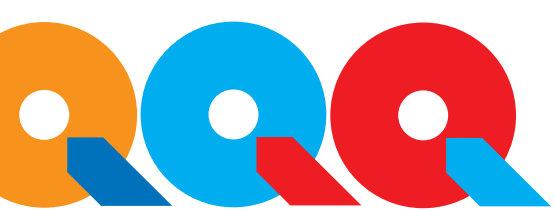
A Teacher for the Ages

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."

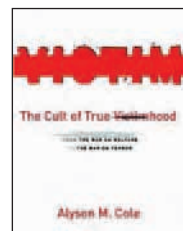
Mindful of the lessons future generations of students might learn from Loret, who turns 80 this fall, Sing-Bock and Kaplowitz are hoping to get him to commit some of his stories to paper or tape recordings.

"He's affected many people in such positive ways," says Sing-Bock. "He is the most inspirational teacher I ever had."

Above (l-r): John Loret and Dale Kaplowitz pose near a row of Easter Island's iconic stone *moai*; petroglyphs overlook the Easter Island shore; Nancy Sing-Bock plants a mimosa tree; a pair of statues stand watch over the surrounding landscape.



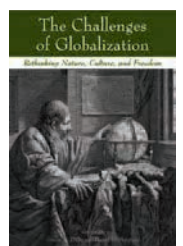
Bookshelf



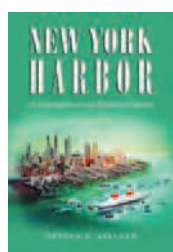
Victims get a certain amount of sympathy in contemporary American culture—unless they seek compensation for the crimes, injuries, or discrimination they have suffered. Then they're

at the risk of becoming vilified. So argues political science professor **Alyson Cole** in her most recent book, *The Cult of True Victimhood: From the War on Welfare to the War on Terror* (Stanford University Press). Cole documents this trend with evidence from across the political spectrum. In an almost Orwellian example, she reports that social workers cited in a *National Law Journal* study thought shelters for battered women and other victims' services should be referred to as survivors' agencies, a phrase deemed "less passive, negative, and disempowering."

In analyzing the growing body of "anti-victimist" literature, Cole explores the distinctions it draws between true and false victims. "The criteria . . . have less to do with the veracity of claims or the facts of injury, than with the sufferer's personal qualities, her character and purity," she noted in an editorial published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* shortly after the book's publication.



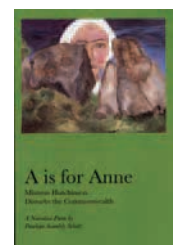
The Sixth World Conference of the International Society for Universal Dialogue drew 150 participants to Helsinki, Finland, in 2005. Now some of the most compelling papers from that conference are available in a single volume, *The Challenges of Globalization: Rethinking Nature, Culture, and Freedom* (Blackwell Publishing), edited by philosophy professor **Steven Hicks** and his DePauw University colleague, Daniel Shannon. Hicks, a former president of the ISUD, 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 reconnected with his piers: He began researching and writing *New York Harbor: A Geographical and Historical Survey* (McFarland & 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 slouching 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 Moffat** '62 sets out a program for combating age-related changes. Many of her recommended techniques—stretching 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 exerciser, to add moderate resistance to certain movements.



Poet **Penelope Schott** (MA '69) writes long narrative works on challenging topics. *The Pest Maiden: A Story of Lobotomy*, tells about a relative who had the controversial brain surgery in 1954; *Penelope: The Story of the Half-Scalped Woman*, commemorates a 17th-century shipwreck survivor who eventually joined the Indian tribe that attacked her. Schott's latest poem cycle, *A is for Anne: Mistress Hutchinson Disturbs the Commonwealth*, celebrates a religious thinker and speaker whom Puritan clergymen expelled from Boston in 1638. "Yet, having no gun, no sword, no masculine

organ, I still have words. Imagine if I'd been pretty," muses the fictional Anne. The actual one spent the last years of her life in New Amsterdam; the Hutchinson River Parkway was named in her honor.



Urban Studies professor **Stephen Steinberg** visits controversial territory in his latest title, *Race Relations: A Critique* (Stanford University Press). While he faults conservatives for disregarding the rights of minorities, he is more critical of liberal sociologists like Nathan Glazer and William Julius Wilson, saying they have unintentionally perpetuated racist assumptions and blamed the groups harmed by those assumptions. When Steinberg compares the experiences of Latino, Asian, and black communities, he concludes, distressingly, that the first two assimilate much faster than the third. The result? A dual melting pot that creates distinct disadvantages for people of African descent. "The book makes clear that we still have much to learn, not only about the structural foundations of racism, but also about how careerism can subtly twist our perspectives so that we fail to rise to the intellectual and moral challenges of the sociological project," says Frances Fox Piven, president of the American Sociological Association. "Steinberg has done us a great service."



The characters in *Leap* (Knopf) have all the trappings of contemporary American teens. They own cell phones and iPods; they post schoolwork on class blogs and communicate with each other by Instant Messenger. But at heart, this young adult book, the seventh novel by **Jane Breskin Zalben** '71, is a timeless coming-of-age story set in Flushing and Whitestone, neighborhoods the author knows intimately from her own childhood. Told in the alternating voices of former buddies Krista and Daniel, *Leap* lets its narrators experience the usual adolescent crushes and misunderstandings while they wrestle with something more serious—Daniel's efforts to recover from a devastating injury caused, inadvertently, by his best friend's father.



Your Guide to the Best of the Arts in Queens

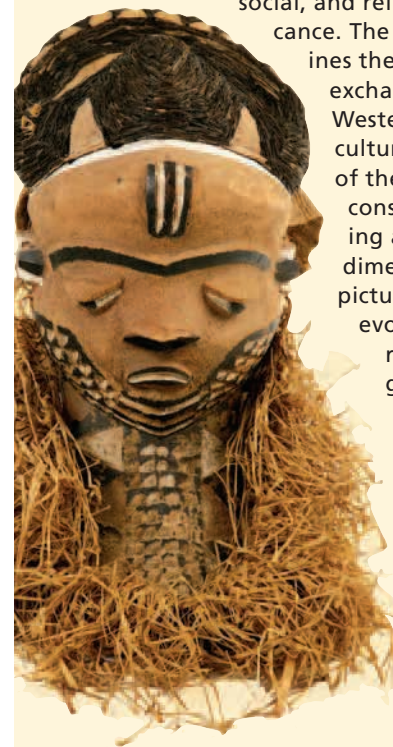
THROUGH DECEMBER 15

SPIRIT AND POWER IN AFRICAN ART

Godwin-Ternbach Museum

Funded by Milton & Sally Avery Arts Fdn., the Solow Art and Architecture Fdn., and NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs, *Spirit and Power in African Art* is guest-curated by William Siegmann, 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

Queens College Art Center



Barbara Roux, *Transit of the Moon*, 2007

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 employs symbolism 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 the Nation* initiative.

DECEMBER

15SAT

QC CHORAL SOCIETY 67TH ANNUAL WINTER CONCERT

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

The Queens College Choral Society, joined by an orchestra, presents a holiday program including J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio (Part I), Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G Major, and G.F. Handel's Hallelujah Chorus from *Messiah*.



Photography by Warren Lehrer

FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 4–JUNE 28

CROSSING THE BLVD.: STRANGERS, NEIGHBORS, ALIENS IN A NEW AMERICA

Godwin-Ternbach Museum
Opening reception:
Wednesday, February 6, 6–8 PM

This ground-breaking multimedia exhibition documents the lives of recent immigrants—those who came here with support and sponsorship, those who attained refugee status, and those who remain displaced and undocumented. Using audio interviews, still photography, and innovative installation design, artists Warren Lehrer and Judith Sloan conduct a global journey through the streets of Queens, with stories of ocean and border crossings, wars, economic hardship, dreams, and cultural divides. An interactive booth integrated into the display allows individuals to write their own stories and add their own pictures.

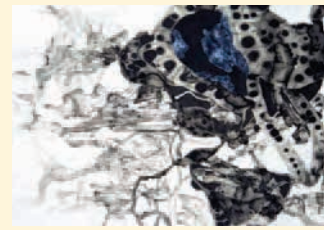
Gallery talks, performances, readings, and lectures by the artists and others will be held in conjunction with the exhibition.

For information on all programs and schedules, please call the Museum at 718-997-4747, or visit www.KupferbergCenterArts.org and click on Godwin-Ternbach Museum.

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 undiscovered 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

LeFrak Concert Hall, 2 PM, \$12

Introduce your children to musical classics like Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf* and Saint-Saëns' *Carnival of the Animals*. Then expand 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 LeFrak Concert Hall is sure to make this a fun and entertaining experience for everyone.

MARCH

1 SAT

MOSCOW CIRCUS: A RUSSIAN FOLK FAIR

Colden Auditorium, 3 PM, \$12



A Russian Folk Fair combines drama, cultural history, and, most of 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, human 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

LeFrak 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 groundbreaking 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.

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 Decembers*, *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."

14–16 FRI–SUN

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

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.

16 SUN

ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA WITH JONATHAN BISS, PIANO

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

One of the world's great orchestras, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra has been thrilling music lovers on four continents for 35 years. Joining Grammy Award-winning Orpheus is the young American pianist Jonathan Biss. Known for his intriguing programs, artistic maturity, and versatility, Biss has already proved himself an accomplished and exceptional musician with a flourishing international reputation and a clutch of prestigious awards.

25 TUES

DAVID GROSSMAN

In addition to reading from his work, Mr. Grossman will be interviewed by Leonard Lopate.

Music Building, 7 PM, \$15 at door

David Grossman is widely regarded as Israel's greatest novelist. He is the author of the novels *See Under: Love*, *The Book of Intimate Grammar*, *Be My Knife*, *Someone To Run With*, and *Her Body Knows*. *The New York Times Book Review* has described Mr. Grossman as "a writer who has been, for nearly two decades, one of the most original and talented not only in his own country but anywhere."

APRIL

8 TUES

CLAIRE MESSUD & CARYL PHILLIPS

In addition to reading from their work, Ms. Messud and Mr. Phillips will be interviewed by Leonard Lopate.

Music Building, 7 PM, \$15 at door

Claire Messud is the author of the novels *When the World Was Steady*, *The Last Life*, and *The Emperor's Children*. *The Washington Post Book World* has said: "The most remarkable quality of Messud's writing may be its uncanny blend of maturity and mirth. Somehow, she can stand in that chilly wind blowing on us all and laugh." Caryl Phillips is the author of the novels *Cambridge*, *Crossing the River*, *A Distant Shore*, *Dancing in the Dark*, and, most recently, *Foreigners*. *The New York Times Book Review* has said that Caryl Phillips has taken "a firm step toward joining the company of the literary giants of our time."



APRIL 9–JULY 10

ANNA MATOUŠKOVÁ: PLACES: ABSTRACT PAINTINGS, DRAWINGS, AND GLASS SCULPTURE HOMAGE TO LEO KRAFT

Queens College Art Center
Gallery talk: Wednesday April 9,
5–6 PM; Reception: 6–8 PM



Anna Matoušková,
XX II, 2002

Anna Matoušková'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 as distillations of a conceptual, structural aesthetic. A pupil of the renowned artist and teacher Stanislav Libenský, 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.

12 SAT

BLACK CULTURAL ARTS THE O'JAYS IN CONCERT

Colden Auditorium, 8 PM
\$48 orch./\$44 seniors, students, alumni,
QCID, QTIP; \$42 mezz./\$38 seniors, stu-
dents, 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've 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.

Co-presented with Queens Theatre in the Park.

TIME WARNER
CABLE
LEAD SPONSOR

13 SUN

THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES

Plaza Theatrical Productions

Colden 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 retold with music, mischief, and merriment.

27 SUN

STEPHEN HOUGH PIANO

LeFrak 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

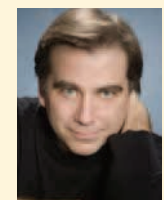
integrates the imagination and pianistic color of the past with the scholarship and intellectual rigor of the present, illuminating the very essence of the music he plays.

MAY

4 SUN

ROBERT MCDUFFIE

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



Robert McDuffie—whose recordings span 150 years of music—has appeared as soloist with many of the major orchestras of the world. McDuffie's acclaimed recordings include the violin concertos of

Mendelssohn, Bruch, Adams, Glass, Barber, and Rozsa, as well as Viennese favorites. McDuffie has been profiled on NBC's "Today," "CBS Sunday Morning," PBS's "Charlie Rose," A&E's "Breakfast with the Arts," and in *The New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal*.



Order Online at www.KupferbergCenterArts.org or call 718-793-8080

10SAT

IN THE MOOD

Colden Auditorium, 8 PM

\$38; \$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 *In the Mood* singers and dancers with the sensational **String of Pearls Big Band Orchestra.**

17SAT

VERDI'S REQUIEM

Colden Auditorium, 8 PM

\$20, \$18; \$5 Students

68th 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.

JULY 14–SEPTEMBER 15

MEDITATION IN CONTEMPORARY CHINESE LANDSCAPE

**Curator: Luchia 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.

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 not-for-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 haven from the road is where Louis entertained friends and neighbors, and created a remarkable record of his life through his writings, collages, and home recordings. The Louis Armstrong House Museum offers hourly tours, interpretive exhibits, a gift shop, and special events in the Armstrong garden. Hours: Tues.–Fri., 10 am–5 pm; Sat. & Sun., 12 noon–5 pm; closed some holidays. Admission: Adults: \$8; seniors, students, and 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 you to its twentieth season in the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library. The program features a variety of exhibitions of modern and contemporary art, presenting the works of both emerging and established artists in diverse media. Hours: Mon.–Thurs., 9 am–8 pm; Fri., 9 am–5 pm. Closed weekends and holidays. **For information, please call 718-997-3770, or visit www.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.**

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.



Lady Knights Light Up the Fall Season

The Lady Knights Women's tennis team captured its sixth consecutive conference championship to highlight a very busy 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 Morra and Laura Mocodeanu (I) 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 Allicott, should provide many exciting moments for the QC faithful. Bartlett comes to Queens as the captain of the Arizona State High School Champions, while Allicott proved to be one of the rising stars in the East Coast Conference last season.

*Neal Kaufer
QC Sports Information Director*

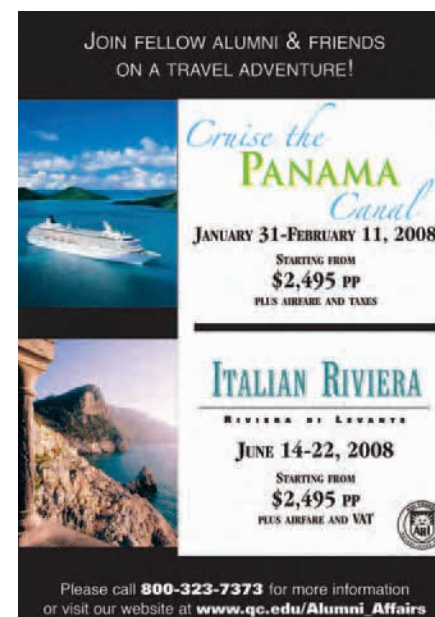
1941: Sonia Handelman Meyer was the star of a solo photography show at the Hodges Taylor Gallery in Charlotte, NC, where she now lives. *Into the Light* revisited images that Sonia shot some 60 years ago, when she was a member of the Photo League . . . **1947: Mary Pat Dwyer**, a Cathedral High School grad, was among the military veterans inducted into Cathedral's Hall of Fame in January. Mary Pat reached the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army . . . **1950s: Marjorie Lea Larney**, an Olympian who threw the javelin in Helsinki in 1952 and

Melbourne in 1956, is breaking academic records these days: at age 70, she has just received an MA in human rights from Mahidol 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/CONTENTS.htm . . . **1954: Leonard Levine** and **Marilyn Gordon Levine** read "Cupid on Campus" and report that they, too, were

love-struck at school. Leonard, a physics major, met Marilyn, a math major, at a required social dancing course, and the reaction was chemical. He joined the engineering faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he taught computer science; she raised their son and then earned a PhD in education . . . **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*. Proceeds from its sale benefit the Committee for Positive Change, an organization Les chairs . . . **Jim Riesenfeld** got married again in August, with many family members in attendance. Jim retired from Johnson & Johnson's law department six years ago . . . **Marian Kaplun Shapiro** began submitting her poetry for publication six years ago, ending a four-decade hiatus. She's had considerable success. Her first book of poems, *Players In the Dream, Dreamers in the Play*, was released in April by Plain View Press; Finishing Line Press will publish her chapbook, *Your Third Wish*, later this year . . . **1960: Jerome Rozenzweig**, who points out that he is one of the first students to graduate from QC with a physical education major, had a 30-year career with the New York City public school system, which promoted him to director of health and physical education, the top position in his field. Leaving that job in 1991, he spent another 10 years in the private school sector before retiring to Boynton Beach, FL, where he enjoys the good life at Aberdeen Golf and Country Club . . . **1962: Barbara Browner Gilman** made a second trip down the aisle 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 Dunwoody, GA . . . **1965: Florence Feldman-Wood** is spinning her wheels—and writing about it. She publishes



Gilman and husband



a newsletter, *The Spinning Wheel Sleuth*, the only publication devoted to spinning wheels and related tools. She also serves as the dean, or president, of the Weavers' Guild of Boston, the nation's oldest hand-weavers group, which celebrated its 85th anniversary in May . . . **Eugene R. Fidell** reports that he and two colleagues wrote a law school textbook, *Military Justice: Cases and Materials*, that was recently published by LexisNexis. A partner at Feldesman Tucker Leifer Fidell LLP and head of the nonprofit National Institute of Military Justice, Eugene is teaching this semester as an adjunct at Yale Law School. He hasn't forgotten his alma mater; in early October he visited the campus to lead a roundtable discussion for business and pre-law students . . . **1966: Doris Cohen** is celebrating her 25th year as cantor of Temple Emanu-El in Canarsie, Brooklyn. She notes that the Women Cantors' Network, an organization she helped to found, is also observing its silver anniversary. In addition to her cantorial duties, Doris oversees the musical archives of Sholom Secunda, the composer responsible for "Bay Mir Bist Du Shayn"; to learn about the collection, housed at New York University, visit www.nyu.edu/library/bobst/research/fales, click on "Collection Descriptions & Finding Aids," and scroll down to "The Sholom Secunda Papers" . . . **1968: Noel Hankin** has been elected chairman of the New York chapter of the Urban League. A long-term board member of the organization, Noel is senior vice president of multicultural relations for Moët Hennessy USA . . . **1969: Howard Elson, DMD**, a pediatric dentist married to **Robin Sosis Elson** '71, a CPA, can attest that practice makes perfect. After performing his

comic musical material at dental conventions for more than 20 years, he has released *Dr. Howard Elson, a Dentist's Life*, a CD with tracks like "TMJ," "HIPAA Hooray," and "The Perfect Receptionist" . . . **Leo Horowitz** always wanted to tell the story of his father, a Polish Jew who jumped out of a train bound for Treblinka. Recently, Leo published *REFUGE—Surviving the Nazi Occupation of Poland: The Memoirs of Kalman Horowitz* . . . **Richard Schecter** held a House of Bamboo reunion in Las Vegas last spring, drawing 32 alums for a week of activities that included watching The Beatles Love Cirque du Soleil at the Mirage, hiking in Valley of Fire State Park, and dining at Fremont Street. "The whole experience was heartwarming, and we plan on having another one in a few years either in New York or Florida," reports Richie, a retired teacher who maintains an online home for the house at www.houseofbamboo.org . . . **1970: Naomi Klayman** is specializing in qualitative research for pharmaceuticals and health care as principal of Naomi Klayman Research & Consulting, LLC, in Philadelphia. Prior to founding her company in 2005, she held executive positions at Synovate Qualitative in New Jersey and the Qualitative Institute at GfK Strategic Marketing in Pennsylvania . . . **Alan Landes** has served his last semester as QC men's tennis coach, concluding 27 years on the courts. Alan's teams won 342 matches and earned six NCAA bids, reaching the round of 32 in both 2005 and 2006. His teams picked up six conference titles before QC joined the NYCAC in 1993. That season, the Knights captured the NYCAC's inaugural men's tennis crown, and Alan was named the conference's Coach of the Year. He also won Coach of the Year awards in 2003 (Eastern Tennis Association) and 2004 and 2006 (Intercollegiate Tennis Association—East) . . . **1971: Garrett McAuliffe** has released his fifth book, *Culturally Alert Counseling* (Sage Publications), along with his second training video, *Key Practices in Culturally Alert Counseling*. Garrett has been professor of counseling at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA, for 19 years, after a career as a college counselor in western Massachusetts . . . **1974: Mike Maggio** announces the release of his third volume of poems, *deMOCKracy*, published by Plain View Press. Mike is active in poetry and political circles in the Washington, D.C., area . . . **Robert Melli** has worked in several fields since his graduation. After teaching at

Aviation High School, he moved into real estate, launching Mortgage Options, a brokerage firm. In 1989 Citibank named Robert the mortgage broker of the year for Queens; he was subsequently given seats on the advisory boards of Chemical Bank (now Chase Bank) and GreenPoint Savings Bank. His latest endeavor—prompted, sadly, by the death of his wife—was to write and research the book *Cancer Cures, Causes and Prevention*, available on his Web site, www.mycancerbook.com . . . **Welton "Tony" Sawyer** has moved back to New York to become superintendent of the Mount Vernon City School District. Previously, Tony served in the same capacity in Topeka, KS . . . **Bonnie L. Schachter** has been putting her communications degree to good use as president and publisher of Pocket Reference Journals. *My Pocket Doctor, Diabetic Reference Guide and Journal*, a best-selling guide produced by Bonnie's company, won a bronze medal in this year's National Health Information Awards . . . **Noel Zahler** has been named dean of Carnegie Mellon University's School of Music. A composer and computer music expert who serves as vice president of the American Composers Alliance, Noel was formerly the director of the music school at the University of Minnesota . . . **1975: Richard Hyman** was chosen Queens Music Teacher of the Year, an award launched this spring by the Queens Center mall, the Steinway Corporation, and the Fund for Public Schools. Richard got a Steinway piano for his classroom at Francis Lewis High School, where he directs the orchestra and the chorus; the school also received \$29,000 for its music programs . . . **1982: Joseph Rutkowski**, director of instrumental music for Great Neck North Secondary Schools on Long Island, led two high school ensembles in a concert at Carnegie Hall in March. About four months later, he swapped his baton for his clarinet, joining a combo of his sons and other musicians in a jazz concert at the Solar One festival in



Schachter



Klayman



Hyman



Rutkowski

An Unexpected Turn in Iraq

When David George '73 joined the local National Guard band more than two decades ago, overseas deployments were rare—and pleasant. "One year they sent



us to France to commemorate the armistice," says David, who was pursuing a career as a clarinetist. "I signed up in innocent times." In the

late 1990s, after the band moved its headquarters from Manhattan to Long Island, saddling him with a long commute, he transferred to a support unit.

His military duties grew more intense in the period following September 11, 2001. "I spent three months doing security at Ground Zero," says David. Subsequently assigned to a homeland security team, he figured he didn't have to worry about getting sent overseas. But in 2004, he discovered that Uncle Sam had different plans for him: His name appeared on a list of personnel bound for Iraq. "I was approaching retirement age," David recalls. "I thought, 'They must be desperate.' And they were."

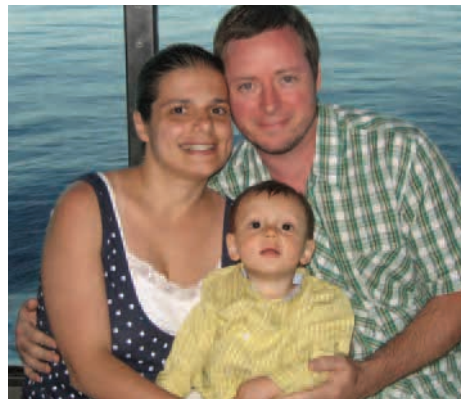
Early the next year, after two months of training at Fort Benning, Georgia, he landed in Iraq. As part of a maintenance company in charge of supplies at An Nasiriyah, he spent most of his working hours in a trailer, reorganizing and cata-

loguing tools for mechanics. Serving in southeast Iraq, David was near Kuwait and far from battle lines. "Every now and then we'd get alert signals: Someone was getting on base who shouldn't have been on base," he says. "There were blackouts."

Otherwise, his biggest complaint was the grueling heat; temperatures sometimes exceeded 115 degrees. Nonetheless, he found the stamina to pitch for one of the base's 30 softball teams. "Games lasted one hour or seven innings, whichever ended first," David explains. He also exercised his green thumb, creating an indoor garden in the chaplain's area and occasionally bringing plants into the dining hall. "Petunias did well," he notes. (Civilians of all political stripes donated the seeds—and his sports equipment—through soldier-support Web sites.) He returned home before Christmas 2005 and retired from military service the next year.

David is now happily ensconced in his upper Manhattan apartment, collecting his pension and weighing his employment options. "I'm a certified music teacher, but I'm not excited about that," he admits. His primary occupation at the moment is gardening; he grows cherry tomatoes, sunflowers, and dahlias in a community plot at Riverbank State Park, and he raises orchids in his home, the horticultural equivalent of a high-wire act. "Orchids don't like the New York winter," David observes. "I just try to keep my plants alive until spring."

Manhattan's Stuyvesant Cove . . . **1983: Linda Rehak-Swanson** writes that she hopes to study graphic design at a community college near the suburban New Jersey home she shares with her husband of 27 years, Andrew Swanson (MA '85). Linda had 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* All-America 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 Siemaszkiewicz**, 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: Philip Ewell** (MA) has joined the faculty of North Central College in Naperville, IL, where he is an assistant professor of music . . . **Rory Lancman**, in his first term representing Queens' 25th assembly district, has attracted notice in Albany and beyond. *City Hall*, which included him in "40 Under 40," the magazine's annual list of rising political stars, cited his alternative congestion pricing plan, which would promote telecommuting and establish car pool lanes, among other measures . . . **1992: Ted Alexandro** is pursuing a funny career; he gave up teaching to become a standup comic. To date, he has appeared on "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," opened for Jon Stewart, and completed two specials for Comedy Central. In June he co-starred in a show at the Queensborough Performing Arts Center . . . **1993: Robert Trotta** (MA '02) reports that he is teaching English at John Adams High School in Queens and, in his spare time, is working as a free-lance writer—he had an editorial published in the *Daily News* in June. Robert is thriving personally as well as professionally; he got married in 2003 and



The Trottas

last year became the father of a little boy . . . **1994: 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 . . . **1996: Mahalia Desruisseaux**, M.D., a research fellow at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is the



Desruisseaux

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* profiled 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 2003; 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 2012. Now Laura spends her time playing golf, painting, doing volunteer work, and enjoying the company of family and friends . . . **1998: Ferentz Lafargue**, 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



Starting a New Tradition

President James Muyskens (ctr.) 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 Rifkin (Biology, I.), who was chief marshal at the 2005 Commencement, and Joseph Brostek '55 (r.). Eighteen past chief marshals contributed to the purchase of the chain. Joe, who served as Alumni Affairs Director at QC for a number of years, is now Executive Director of Events at the college.

June Bobb to organize a leadership symposium . . . **2004: Avid Williams** produced the opening concert 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: C.G. Morelli** (MEd) has released a volume of short stories, *In the Pen: A Baseball Collection*. When he isn't writing, C.G. teaches English and participates in America's favorite pastime.

WE REMEMBER

Elsie Anita Toivonen Bracco, '45
 Claire Chase, '45
 Vivienne Wax Nearing, '45
 Eileen Phyllis Pypers Dobriner, '46
 Wendell W. Wenberg, '46
 Howard H. Haber, '48
 William J. Ragusin, '52
 Jerome Alan Bauman, '53
 Marilyn Janosy Bunshaft, '57
 Lillian Sklaire Stephens, '61
 Zachary Finkelberg '62
 Harold D. Juli, '69
 Elaine Thomas, '69
 Arthur Lind '75

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

We want to hear more from 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. Addresses 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.

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⌘ 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.



⌘ 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.

⌘ 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.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2007

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 alumni who create, direct, produce, and finance some of the nation's most exciting entertainment.

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 the next generation 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.

James L. Muyskens
James L. Muyskens
President



⌘ 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. Osdoby, President Muyskens, James V. Werner, Joshua Frankel, student Eden Kasaev. Seated (l to r): Dina Foglia, Renée Zarin, Anita Rapp Saunders, Jaci Miller Osdoby, Dorothy Weinman, student Jennifer Wang, Jessica M. Ruperto. Missing from the photo are: Alan Frankel, representing the 1980s, and Dickie Sykes, representing the 1990s.

⌘ 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.



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.



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