

QUEENS

THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE



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President Frank H. Wu



Benvenuto

Meeting and Greeting President Frank H. Wu



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Visit <https://give.classy.org/QCCriticalNeeds>, email qcdevalumni@qc.cuny.edu or call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 718-997-3920 to learn more!



Our financial support is needed more than ever. Our students need scholarships to reduce or eliminate debt hanging over their heads and our faculty need resources to continue to provide a superior level of education.

—Mark Rose '85



Giving back, whether it is financial contribution or my time, supports the next generation of students and alumni. Gifts received address the most pressing needs of Queens College and my belief is that we will put those dollars where they are most needed.

—Paulette Mullings Bradnock '84



The academic, social, and athletic experiences were truly formational for me. State funding and tuition alone are not enough to support the college experience I had. I give back to help insure that generations to come can have these same experiences and benefits.

—Lee Fensterstock '68

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From the President



Like you, I have had to make significant adjustments in response to the coronavirus pandemic. For example, I'm writing you not from my office in Kiely Hall, which I have yet to occupy, but from my home. This was not the situation I envisioned when I had the honor of being appointed president of Queens College, my dream job.

Working remotely, as I have for several months, has only deepened my admiration for this storied institution, which has been transforming students' lives for 83 years. In the pages of this magazine, you will learn about the remarkable ways in which faculty, staff, and students rapidly switched to a remote education model and thrived. Our summer session was tremendously successful, offering 640 courses in four sessions and reaching the highest registration in a decade—a better than 30 percent increase over the figures for 2019. You'll also read about our Critical Needs Fund, which will help the college and its students cope with the significant financial challenges that await us. I'm deeply grateful to all the alumni who have contributed to this important initiative.

On a more personal note, I hope that you will gain insight into my reasons for coming to Queens College from the interview on page 15.

Because of the continuing threat of COVID-19, 99 percent of QC's operations remain remote for the fall semester. I have started a strategic planning process involving students, faculty, staff, and alumni in helping to identify priority and goals for the future. Under the circumstances, I can't encourage you to visit for all the events, from sports and performances to Homecoming, that are customary at this time of year. But I hope you'll participate in online Alumni activities, listed at <https://qccommunity.qc.cuny.edu/pages/alumni-pages/alumni-upcoming-events>.

While you're at it, keep in touch. Queens College wants to hear from you. I encourage you to share news of what you're doing in these challenging times. Please write us at qmag@qc.cuny.edu.

Be careful and stay safe!

Sincerely,

FRANK H. WU
President Frank H. Wu

Cover: Showcasing the linguistic diversity of Queens College, students welcome President Frank H. Wu in nine languages.

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Saluting the Class of 2020

In a fitting conclusion to a semester when classes moved online, Queens College used virtual methods to mark Commencement on Thursday, May 28, when it was originally scheduled.

“Celebration 2020,” a digital Commencement booklet, was posted to the college’s website that morning, when diplomas were awarded to 9,904 students. Designed to be a keepsake, the photo-filled booklet listed the year’s graduates and featured congratulatory messages from Interim President William A. Tramontano, CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, United States Senator for New York Charles Schumer, U.S. Congressman Adriano Espaillat, and New York State Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul. The same day, the alumni office held its annual Senior Toast on its Instagram account and encouraged graduates to share their favorite QC memories.

Some departments arranged their own events.

The Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK) Department hosted a Facebook Live Celebration on June 4 for all 194 graduates of the program. SEEK Director Norka Blackman-Richards, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Retention Richard Alvarez, and Associate Provost for Innovation and Student Success Eva Fernandez gave opening remarks.

Graduates were acknowledged and had a chance to express gratitude for their time at QC.

The English Department set up a wix.com website, which included messages from members of the English faculty as well as a video student commencement address from Emily Shih. Also included was a complete list of graduates and award winners.

The History Department combined many of the aforementioned features with its virtual graduation. Faculty wrote or posted video messages of congratulations and invited students who graduated with various prizes and honors to do the same.

The Aaron Copland School of Music held an elaborate virtual ceremony for its graduates and award winners, with musical performances from many of its students.

Finally, Biology and the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences posted prerecorded videos as well, with congratulatory messages from several of its faculty and staff.

Because local high schools could not hold their customary graduations on the QC campus, the Kupferberg Center stepped in, showcasing outstanding students through the Valedictorian Project <http://kupferbergcenter.org/the-valedictorian-project/>.



Future Doctorate in the House

Without a Commencement ceremony, Vallaire Wallace '20, was unable to serve as the student speaker. But she’s sure to be heard from in the future: She was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Virginia’s doctoral program in English. Wallace, who majored in English with a minor in drama and theatre, received her BA summa cum laude and was selected as a recipient of the Queens College Paul Klapper Scholarship. Her time at QC was marked by multiple distinctions. She was

a Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow, a Queens College Scholar, Presidential Scholar, Freshman Honors Program participant, member of the Dean’s List, Freshman Year Initiative Program mentor, and an associate for the highly competitive Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers at the Phillips Academy Andover. She was also editor-in-chief of the *Knight News*, the college’s student newspaper. Wallace made her first alumna appearance at QC as a guest speaker at Ubuntu, an introductory resource fair and networking opportunity focused on the Black student experience, which the college offered for the first time on Monday, August 25.

IN MEMORIAM



Harvey Alter '52

Environmental chemist Harvey Alter died on June 27, 2020 at the age of 87. His career encompassed positions at the Bakelite Company, Gillette Company, National Center for Resource Recovery, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where he managed environmental and natural resource public policy issues. ASTM (formerly known as the American Society for Testing and Materials) gave Alter its Award of Merit for his efforts to set standards for recycling. Serving over the years as an adjunct at American University, the University of Maryland Global Campus, and Frederick Community College, he remained grateful to QC, where he met his wife. She predeceased him; he established the Corey E. Alter Scholarship in Music Education in her memory.



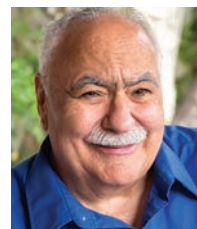
Carol Lang Brock '44

A champion for women in the culinary arts, Carol Brock began her career as an assistant food editor at *Good Housekeeping* and later wrote for *Parents* and *The New York Daily News*. To combat gender discrimination in the food industry, she launched Les Dames d’Escoffier New York, an offshoot of the mostly male Les Amis d’Escoffier Society. By the time Brock died on July 27, 2020, at 96, the organization she founded, renamed Les Dames d’Escoffier International, had 45 chapters in the United States, Canada, Mexico, United Kingdom and France. Its membership, by invitation only, works toward advancing women in the food, beverage, and hospitality industries.



Joseph Brostek '55

Queens College lost a devoted alumnus on March 25, 2020, when coronavirus claimed the life of Joseph Brostek '55. After a career in sales, marketing, and more, Brostek returned to campus in 1986 as a consultant, eventually becoming director of special events. His influence seemingly extended to the weather: It never rained on a single Commencement that he managed. Upon retiring in 2010, he remained connected to his alma mater, acting as an unofficial historian, attending sessions of the QC retirees club, and meeting the students who benefited from the scholarship he established with his wife—nee Carol Heiser, of the class of '54—who passed away in 2012.



Martin Cohen '75

Martin Cohen’s Hollywood career took him from production assistant to head of post-production at Amblin Entertainment, DreamWorks Pictures, and finally Paramount Pictures. He worked on such famous movies as *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*, *Schindler’s List*, *Saving Private Ryan*, and Best Picture winners *American Beauty* and *Gladiator*. In recognition of his contributions to film and enthusiastic guidance of others, Cohen was awarded the Motion Picture Editors Guild’s Fellowship and Service Award. After

he died on May 17, 2020, his family established the Martin Cohen Memorial Scholarship Fund at Queens College.



Michael Cogswell

Michael Cogswell, who passed away on April 20, 2020, will be forever remembered for converting a jazz legend’s unoccupied home into the Louis Armstrong House Museum. An alto saxophonist, Cogswell spent nearly two decades performing with bands before completing a bachelor’s degree in music and a master’s in musicology. Hired to organize the Louis Armstrong Archives at Queens College, he earned a Master of Library Science at QC and assumed responsibility for making Satchmo’s house into an international cultural landmark. “When Louis came into Michael’s life, he came into my life, and all of a sudden there were three people in this marriage,” observed Dale Van Dyke, Cogswell’s widow. “That was fine with me.”



Warren DeBoer

In four decades of teaching anthropology at Queens College, Warren DeBoer mentored students and faculty alike. He was known for his ethnoarchaeological and ethnohistorical work in South America, studying modern behaviors of indigenous peoples; he also conducted archaeological research on the ancient populations in North America. DeBoer, who died on May 24, 2020, is survived by his wife, fellow anthropologist Sara Stinson, whom he met in the department. The Warren DeBoer Memorial Scholarship Fund, established in his honor, offers an annual award to promising undergraduate students who may one day follow his footsteps.



Lisa Gabow '64

Lisa Gabow took classes while raising a family and helping her husband, Jack, build his typography company. In a remarkable coincidence, she graduated from Queens College on the same day that her sons received their respective diplomas from high school and middle school. Passionate about education, she tutored adults in preparation for their GED Exams and on the topics of nutrition and money management; with her husband, she established the Shulamit Lisa Gabow Endowment Fund for students of Jewish Studies at QC. She was 95 when she passed away on April 3, 2020.



Edgar Gregersen '57

Social scientist Edgar Gregersen received a PhD from Yale and taught linguistics at Columbia University before coming back to QC, his undergraduate alma mater, as a member of the anthropology department. He was also on the faculty of The Graduate Center, CUNY. Gregersen’s interests were wide ranging; he wrote grammars of several African languages and conducted pioneering work in the study of human sexuality around the world. He was 82 when he suffered a fatal coronary arrest on March 29, 2020.



William Helmreich

Distinguished CUNY Professor of Sociology William Helmreich, former director of the Center for Jewish Studies at Queens College, achieved fame by writing *The New York Nobody Knows: Walking 6,000 Miles in the City*, and borough-specific editions devoted to the Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens.

He was working on the Staten Island volume when he died on Saturday, March 28, 2020, of coronavirus at the age of 74. Educated at Yeshiva University and Washington University in St. Louis, Helmreich spent his entire career with City College. *The New York Nobody Knows* took its inspiration from childhood excursions with his father: They would ride a subway line to its last stop and wander around its neighborhood.



Florence Howe

Literary scholar and historian Florence Howe, internationally recognized as a leader of the modern feminist movement, passed away on Friday, September 11, at the age of 91. Howe, a Hunter College alumna who taught briefly at QC and later at CCNY, founded the Feminist Press, housed at The City University of New York since the 1980s. By printing or reprinting works by writers as varied as Willa Cather, Barbara Ehrenreich, Zora Neale Hurston, Alice Walker, and members of Pussy Riot—a Russian punk rock performance art group—the Feminist Press provided more opportunities for female authors than any other publisher. Howe was also the first female president of the Modern Language Association, which promotes the study of language and literature.



Nettie Mayersohn '78

Queens-born community activist turned legislator Nettie Mayersohn was in her fifties when she graduated from QC. Five years later, she began representing Assembly District 27—which includes Flushing, Kew Gardens, and other Central Queens neighborhoods—in Albany. Serving until her retirement in 2011, she was best known for initiating legislation concerning HIV and AIDS, particularly a bill that required doctors to notify parents when a baby was born seropositive.



Drora Barkai Pershing '55

Drora Barkai Pershing, who played an integral part in Queens College's music programs for more than 40 years, died in January 2020. An accomplished pianist, Pershing returned to school as a widow with three young children, earning a doctorate in musicology at CUNY and a tenured position on the QC music

faculty. She was deeply involved in the department's transformation into the Aaron Copland School of Music. A gift from Pershing and her second husband, harpsichordist and organist Paul Maynard—a QC colleague who passed away in 1998—helps support the upkeep of the Maynard-Walker Memorial Organ in LeFrak Concert Hall. She also established a scholarship in the name of her mother, Anna Barkai.



Thelma Randby Serenbetz '45

Thelma Serenbetz, who died in August 2019 at the age of 95, led a life marked by community service. She began volunteering with the Women's Club of Larchmont and the United Hospital Twigs while raising four sons. In 1997, she co-founded the Serenbetz Family Foundation with her husband, Warren, to

advance organizations that enrich the lives of children and young adults; its beneficiaries include schools, a social service agency, and Hudson River Community Sailing—the Serenbetzes were active boaters into their eighties. She was also a steadfast and long-time supporter of her alma mater and an Angel Investor.



Raymond Taylor '54

Raymond Taylor, a pioneer in the insurance business, passed away in September 2019. Taylor began his career by selling life insurance as an agent for Equitable of Iowa. In 1956, he formed a property and casualty brokerage known as Shepherd-Taylor Associates, Inc., which would eventually

merge into Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. Over time he grew the company to insure more than 5,000 businesses and individuals around the world. Crediting his success to his alma mater, he was a Queens College Angel Investor year after year and established the Raymond Taylor QC Scholars Endowment Fund to support students in need.



Wilma Winnick '44

One of CUNY's longest-serving professors, Wilma Winnick passed away on May 12, 2020, at the age of 96. Winnick began working as an adjunct in Queens College's Psychology Department in 1946 while pursuing doctoral studies at Brown University; five years later, she joined QC's professorial faculty. She

served at least three terms as deputy chair as well as two three-year terms as chair. Winnick was in her eighties when she retired. The room PSY 213W (SB A337) is named after her. The Psychology Department also established the Wilma A. Winnick Award in her honor; the prize is given to a graduating senior who has made substantive contributions to the department.



First-Year Athlete Records Net Gains

Although the spring season was abbreviated due to COVID-19, freshman Maja Makal still came out ahead: The Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) named her to the Division II Women All-Americans team. Twenty-three female athletes were chosen across the country for their skill in singles; she was the only one from the Northeast. In fall 2019, Makal won the ITA's East Region singles tournament, a performance that prompted the East Coast Conference to declare her Rookie of the Year.

Alumni Win Top Fellowships

Three outstanding QC graduates—Samantha Chiu '17, Jacqueline Kim '20, and Netanel Sapir '19—were awarded prestigious fellowships this year.

Chiu, a former Macaulay honors student who holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, was accepted into the National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Program, following a national competition among incoming and first-year graduate students in eleven scientific fields. She plans to study psycholinguistics, concentrating on speech processing and speech production—in particular, therapies for recovery from aphasia, the loss of speech after a stroke. She is entering a PhD program in cognition (psychological and brain sciences) at the University of Iowa. As an NSF Graduate Research Fellow, she will receive a stipend of \$34,000 per year for three years, opportunities for international research and professional development, and the freedom to pursue her own research; in addition, her university will receive \$12,000 per year.

Kim was chosen by the U.S. State Department to be a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in South Korea. As part of the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, she will be placed in a Korean school to assist English teachers while also serving as a cultural ambassador by living and working with members of the local community. Kim, a Macaulay honors student graduating in linguistics and communication disorders, plans to become a speech-language pathologist. Committed to bilingual education and passionate about working in underserved communities, she believes that her



(l-r) Samantha Chiu, Netanel Sapir, and Jacqueline Kim

Fulbright award will help her learn to better serve culturally diverse New York City neighborhoods upon her return.

Sapir was named a Jonas E. Salk Scholar by the City University of New York, which presents these awards in honor of the City College alumnus who developed the first polio vaccine. The Salk awards recognize students who produce original research under the mentorship of prominent scientists. At QC, Sapir majored in neuroscience and biology and minored in chemistry and psychology. He conducted research in organic chemistry under the direction of Yu Chen (Chemistry and Biochemistry). Inspired by several years' experience as a volunteer firefighter and advanced EMT in his home community of Plainview, Long Island, and as an Emergency Department ambassador at North Shore University Hospital, Sapir aims to become a physician. The Salk Scholarship will provide him with \$8,000 toward attendance at the Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University.



QC Collects National Accolades

For the 29th year in a row, Queens College has been included in Princeton Review's *Best Colleges* guide. The 2021 edition <https://www.princetonreview.com/college-rankings/best-colleges> lists 386 institutions, based on interviews with more than 140,000 students across the country. In addition to its best college status, QC continues to appear on the following lists: "Got Milk?" (campuses where beer is scarce) and "Scotch and Soda, Hold the Scotch" (no hard liquor). As reported in QNS.com <https://qns.com/story/2020/08/28/queens-college-in-flushing-voted-best-college-in-the-princeton-review-2021-edition/>, the school was also recognized in the categories of Best Value College and Green College.

Attesting to the long-term value of a Queens College diploma, Business Insider <https://www.businessinsider.com/colleges-with-the-best-return-on-investment-2020-6#4-cuny-queens-college-has-a-return-on-investment-of-844-21> rated QC among the 24 U.S. colleges it identified for offering the best return on investment. Queens College came in fourth, with an ROI of 84.4 percent, just edging out Hunter College; the only CUNY school to outperform QC was the first-place finisher, Baruch. Meanwhile, the latest report from LendEDU <https://lendedu.com/student-loan-debt-by-school-by-state-2020/> ranked QC 26th nationally and fourth in New York City in terms of the comparatively low debt burdens carried by students in the class of 2019, with an average debt per borrower of \$14,738. QC also made *Money's* annual Best Colleges list <https://money.com/best-colleges/>.

Watson Fellows Sprung into Action

Three QC undergraduates won Jeanette K. Watson Fellowships this spring and were placed in remote internships corresponding to their interests. Yvonne Scorcia, a climate activist, worked in food safety with the Pittsburgh Department of City Planning. Christy Suquitana, who has a deep commitment to justice, inclusion, and cultural

exchange, was assigned to the English language learning program We Speak NYC, run by the NYC Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs. Rene Yaroshevsky, a leader in the Model United Nations Organization, was involved with research at the West Africa Centre for Counter-Extremism, based in Accra, Ghana.

Godwin-Ternbach Prevails in Virtual Challenge from Upstate

Faced with a MuseumFromHomeChallenge from the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York, QC’s Godwin-Ternbach came out on top.

In a contest held on Twitter from April 10 at noon to 11 am the next morning, each museum posted an image of an item in its collection and asked followers to vote for their favorite. The GTM’s Huari Mummy Bundle Mask outpolled Albright-Knox’s entry, Constantin Brancusi’s “Mademoiselle Pogany II.”

“Many museums and cultural institutions have been grappling with how to connect with audiences while we social distance from home,” said Maria Pio, co-director of the Godwin-Ternbach. “Hashtags like #MuseumFromHome and #CultureFromHome have been used to describe various experiences audiences can be a part of while museums have their doors closed.” The Albright-Knox started doing friendly institutional match-ups after achieving success several years ago with a similar program inspired by the NCAA’s March Madness.

“We hope that by participating in the MuseumFromHomeChallenge, audiences who were not previously familiar with the GTM got a little glimpse into our collection,” added Pio, who encourages art lovers to follow the museum on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. “We also have been posting weekly, highlighting objects from GTM and engaging audiences the best we can from home.”



QC Team Triumphs in Cybersecurity Competition



Richard Balram



Paras Kumar

QC accounted for first place as well as fourth place in the Student Cybersecurity Case Study Competition, held online this spring by the New York Metropolitan Chapter of ISACA (an acronym that stands for the organization’s former name, the Information Systems Audit and Control Association).

A total of eleven teams—from eight colleges—participated in the event, which challenged them to analyze and propose solutions for a hypothetical cybersecurity case. Each team had to submit a written PowerPoint response and a video presentation involving all its members. Teams chosen for the last round fielded questions from a panel in a live remote session. Cash prizes were awarded for first, second, and third place.

When judging was completed, the winner was QC’s Team P.R.A.N.C.S., made up of graduate accounting students

Richard Balram and Paras Kumar; Andrew Hana, an undergraduate majoring in accounting and minoring in economics; and Nana Yaw, an undergraduate double major in accounting and economics.



Andrew Hana



Nana Yaw

Each of them received \$600 and a diploma recognizing their achievement. Balram founded QC’s ISACA IT Audit & Cybersecurity Club, which invited students of all majors to enter the contest.

Finishing fourth, just out of the money, was FB Consultants, comprising Nathaniel Samuels and Joshua Hwang, undergraduate accounting majors; Mathew Panzenbeck, a math major; and Moses Parente and Peter Sideris, computer science majors. The judges congratulated both teams on the quality of their analysis and the answers they provided in the interview portion of the competition.

“Special thanks and mention should go to the mentors for the two QC teams,” said Steven Solieri (Accounting and Information Systems), faculty advisor of the ISACA club, who arranged for the students to prepare for the contest by working with Walter Cook and

Brian Mohr of D3 Intelligence, and Mark Northrup, associate partner of Digital Energy & Utilities at IBM.



QC’s highly successful distance learning model received close-up coverage on August 9, 2020, when the CBS show “Sunday Morning” ran a feature on higher education during a pandemic. Jill Schlesinger, a business analyst with CBS News, interviewed QC President Frank H. Wu, graduate student and former Student Association President Carmine Couloute, and rising sophomore Shabbos Kestenbaum. Observing that studying online enables her to advance her education while holding down two jobs and engaging in activism, Couloute described the campus as “empty, serene, beautiful, but ready to be packed again in the future.”

Calling an End to Divisions on Campus

Over the past year, QC replaced its divisional nomenclature with a school structure, in keeping with widespread practice at institutions of higher education. The college’s academic organization remains the same—departments are grouped as previously under Arts and Humanities, Education, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and Social Sciences. Aaron Copland School of Music, the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, and the School of Earth and Environmental Studies are schools within their respective schools.

Deanship Developments

Over the summer, a national search concluded in the appointment of Daniel Weinstein as dean of the School of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Weinstein had been serving as interim since fall 2019; previously he chaired the biology department.

Dana Fusco was named interim dean of the School of Education. Fusco came to QC after more than 20 years as a professor of education and youth studies at CUNY’s York College. As chair of teacher education—a title she held from 2014—she led York to a successful CAEP Accreditation and created several student-focused initiatives to improve retention and completion rates. She succeeds Craig Michaels, who will rejoin the faculty of Education and Community Programs after taking a sabbatical this fall.

Serving Students and the Community

While pivoting to remote operations (see page 24), QC joined the battle against the coronavirus pandemic and the hardship it has caused.

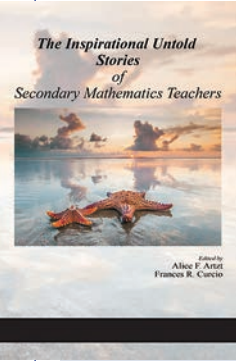
The college’s School of Mathematics and Sciences donated a large quantity of N-95 masks, gloves, lab coats and isopropyl alcohol to city health care workers on Sunday, March 22. Professors, faculty and college lab technicians searched their teaching labs for equipment and supplies after urgent requests from Governor Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Bill de Blasio for medical supplies to fight COVID-19. Materials were picked up by New York City Emergency Management for distribution; WPIX 11, WINS, and *Queens Chronicle*, among other outlets, covered the effort.

The Knights Table, Queens College’s food pantry, began offering pre-plated meals at least once a week not only to QC students, but also to students at any CUNY school. *QView*, the college’s electronic newsletter, regularly provided links to New York City’s free food hubs, as well as other operations that give away food to people in need. The Tech Incubator released an upgraded version of the Hungry4Halal app built and launched by students in 2018. Hungry4Halal Ramadan enabled users to find



locations that distributed halal food for free. The app is free and can be downloaded at the Apple iOS App Store.)

Recognizing the tremendous economic damage wreaked by COVID-19, the Tech Incubator partnered with the Small Business Administration and the LaGuardia Community College Small Business Development Center to present programs for small companies and nonprofits affected by the coronavirus.



TIME 2000 Alumni Recount Classroom Stories

The experiences of committed educators add up to great reading in *The Inspirational Untold Stories of Secondary Mathematics Teachers* (Information Age Publishing), edited by Alice Artzt (SEYS) and Frances Curcio (SEYS, retired). The book comprises a dozen first-person narratives, all written by graduates of TIME 2000, QC’s signature four-year secondary math teacher preparation program, which grew out of a National Science Foundation grant Artzt wrote with SEYS colleague Eleanor Armour-Thomas.

Untold Stories features contributions from TIME’s diverse pool of alumni, employed at schools in New York City, Long Island, and even Pennsylvania.

“These poignant stories are powerful because they are so honest,” says Randolph Philipp, professor of Mathematics Education at San Diego State University School of Teacher Education and immediate past president of the Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators. “I wish I’d read these stories before I experienced some of the joys and challenges of my early years of teaching because they would have prepared me for the roller coaster of emotion associated with entering this complex but beautiful profession. I think these stories will be helpful when working with prospective and early career teachers.”



Alice Artzt



Frances Curcio

Documenting the Pandemic Experience



In a groundbreaking effort to document residents’ lived experience of the pandemic as it unfolds in the borough, the Queens Memory Project—an initiative supported by QC and the Queens Public Library (QPL)—launched the COVID-19 Project. Casting a wide net, the project seeks submissions of videos, photographs, oral testimony, ephemera, and other evidence of the texture of this crisis. The collection will become a permanent archive open to researchers.

“What we’re all feeling right now are the first impressions and first emotions of adjusting in the here and now,” explained Lori Wallach (Special Collections and Archives), Queens Memory Outreach Coordinator at the college. “Those impressions will be invaluable pieces of evidence for future researchers and historians. How were people actually experiencing the pandemic as it happened?”

With Queens in lockdown mode for much of the spring, the COVID-19 History Project reached out in new ways, using social media, setting up an 800 number, and working with community partners. “It’s very exciting,” Wallach noted. “We’re learning as we go along, and all of us doing it remotely adds another layer of challenge.”

As Meral Agish, Queens Memory Community Coordinator at QPL, observed, “Some people may want to contribute a photo or a video; some people may want to write about their experience or talk about it. Because we have the ability to capture all these stories—to collect and archive them and share them right now, *and* to catalogue them for the future—it seemed like an incredible opportunity to open the floodgates and let all the new material in.”

QPL has more than 60 branch libraries throughout the borough, which give it a wide reach. “The goal is to capture as many stories about life during the pandemic as we can get,” said Agish. “There

are more than 2 million people who interact with the Queens Library system every year, and we’re imagining that every one of those people—and every person who lives, works, goes to school, has loved ones in Queens—has a story to contribute. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, even grateful in some ways that there’s a project paying attention to what is happening right now.”

In June, Annie Tummino (Special Collections and Archives) and Wallach held an event on Zoom to tell QC alumni about the Queens Memory COVID-19 project. The next month saw the release of *The COVID-19 Project: Navigating a Pandemic*, a two-part documentary that was livestreamed on Queens Memory’s Facebook page and aired on Queens Public Television.

The Queens Memory Project—headed by Natalie Milbrodt, an alumna of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies—is best known for its oral histories of the borough. It conducts interviews and gathers historical materials that both institutions archive for public and scholarly use.

For more information about the Covid-19 Project, go to <https://queenslib.org/covid>. Online submissions can be found at www.instagram.com/queensmemory/.



Photo by: Geo Marin



Photo by: Linda Dutan

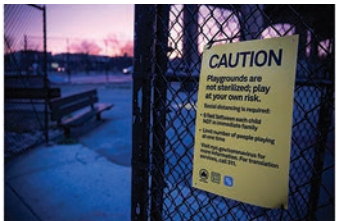


Photo by: Megan Green



Sir Paul McCartney playing an instrument he gave up at 14 was a memorable experience. On August 4, he tweeted, “Happy Birthday Louis Armstrong. Thanks for lending me your trumpet.”



Courtesy of Preservation Hall.

Sir Paul Toots Satchmo’s Horn and Other News from LAHM

After borrowing one of Satchmo’s trumpets from the Louis Armstrong House Museum (LAHM), Paul McCartney joined the Preservation Hall Jazz Band remotely in a rendition of “When the Saints Go Marching In.” The New Orleans standard was the closing number in a June 22 fundraiser for the Preservation Hall Foundation’s Legacy Relief Fund, created to help musicians who are underemployed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

Keeping in tune with the times, LAHM opened itself to armchair tourism with *That’s My Home*, an online exhibition curated by Research Collections Director Ricky Riccardi. The exhibition enables jazz fans from all over the world to explore museum

holdings at their own pace. Newly accessible materials range from vintage film clips and photographs to conversations and practice sessions Armstrong taped on his reel-to-reel recorder. *That’s My Home* received enthusiastic coverage in New York area outlets, in the *Washington Post*, and even the *London Times*.

On the evening of September 17, under the leadership of newly named Executive Director Regina Bain, LAHM held a virtual gala. The lineup starred Riccardi, who made a presentation on Armstrong’s social activism, as well as jazz artists Wynton Marsalis and Jason Moran.

Quantifying the College’s Impact

QC doesn’t merely change students’ lives; it boosts the overall economy of metropolitan New York by \$1.8 billion. That’s the conclusion of an economic impact study conducted by labor analytics firm Emsi and released in February 2020. Expressed another way, there’s an impressive \$4.80 return for every tax dollar spent on the college. Working with data from fiscal year 2017-2018, Emsi credits most of the college’s economic impact to alumni, who—thanks to their education—lead longer, healthier, and more productive lives and generate about 83 percent, or \$1.5 billion, of the figure attributed to QC. The complete report and summaries of it are posted to the Queens College website at https://www.qc.cuny.edu/about/MajorReports/Pages/Economic_Impact_Analysis.aspx.



Economic Impact Study of Queens College

Emsi, a labor markets analytics firm, studied the economic impact of Queens College in the New York City Metropolitan Area based on an analysis of fiscal year (FY) 2017-18.	Return on investment over course of students' working lives	\$236.6 million savings in benefits to communities and citizens of New York due to reduced healthcare, crime, and social services costs over the course of students' working lives.
	\$4.90 return for every \$1 of taxpayer funding	
	\$5.50 return for every \$1 invested by students	
\$1.8 billion in income added to NYC Metropolitan area, a value approximately equal to 0.1% of the total gross regional product.	\$9.90 return for every \$1 invested by society	Other sources of QC-related economic impact
		\$276.1 million Operations spending
		\$35.8 million Start-up and spin-off companies
		\$23.1 million Students spending
		\$11 million Research spending
		\$3 million Capital spending
		\$1.8 million Visitor spending
\$1.5 billion of income generated from alumni.	Nearly 85% of graduates stay in the Metropolitan area after graduating	
16,862 jobs supported by QC's annual impact	\$1.5 million the average additional amount graduates earn over a working lifetime compared to those with a high school diploma.	



The report studies the New York City Metropolitan Area as being composed of the six following counties: Bronx, Kings, Queens, Richmond, Rensselaer, and Westchester. The report studies the college's economic impact on the New York City Metropolitan Area. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the state of New York. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the United States. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the world. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the future. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the past. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the present. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the universe. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the multiverse. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the omniverse. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the universe. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the multiverse. The report does not include the college's economic impact on the omniverse.



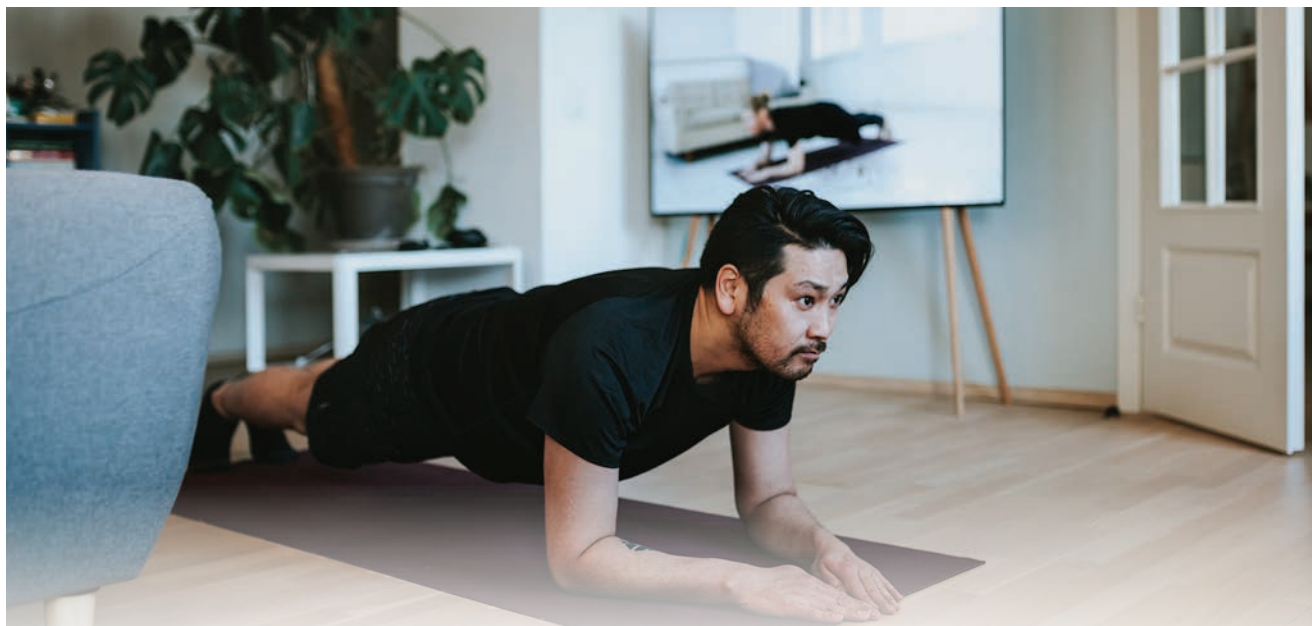
Claire Shulman, 1926–2020

The entire Queens College community mourned the loss of former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, who died on Sunday, August 16, at the age of 94.

A passionate and persistent supporter of all the colleges in Queens, Shulman advocated particularly strongly for CUNY campuses. After all, she began her higher education within CUNY—at Brooklyn College—before transferring to Adelphi. She would meet with college presidents individually, learn their campus priorities, and advocate at the highest city and state levels for capital and operational funding. Her phone calls to government officials were legendary; she wouldn't take no for an answer.

Health care was another one of Shulman's top priorities. A registered nurse who met her husband when both were employed at Queens Hospital Center, she worked vigorously within the county to create linkages between colleges and hospitals and bring students into the allied health sciences.

Shulman was predeceased by her husband Melvin Shulman, a psychiatrist and World War II and Korean War veteran, and their son Kim, an assistant director in the film and television industry. She is survived by her daughter, astronaut Ellen Baker, her son Lawrence Shulman, an oncologist, and their families.



Athletics Holds Virtual Fitness Classes

Looking for a low-cost way to stay in shape? Get moving online with guidance from the QC Athletics Department. Fitness and recreation staff are leading virtual sessions five days a week (Monday through Friday), with live classes on Zoom and pre-recorded instructional videos on QC Athletics' YouTube channel (QCKnights). Classes include a variety of workouts such as cardio, yoga, high-intensity interval training (HIIT), strength training, stretching, and recovery, as well as nutrition.

"Due to COVID and classes being online, we were thinking outside of the box on ways to serve our students," said Director of Athletics and Recreation Rob Twible. "Without being open, we had to come up with some new ideas."

QC Athletics has also started a running club. To join, download the Nike Run Club app on your phone (available for

iOS and Android). Then go visit the Runner's Club page on QC Athletics' website for further instructions. With the Run Club app, participants can track progress, take part in challenges, compare and compete with friends, and encourage each other to stay motivated.

"We will track mileage and have a leaderboard [on the Run Club App]. We hope that will get some people's competitive juices flowing," added Twible.

For the class schedule and Zoom access information, go to www.queensknight.com/recreationfitness. For any additional questions on virtual fitness, please email Jason Posser at Jason.Posser@qc.cuny.edu.

From QC to a Career

How an internship at Schneps Media worked to advance Toni Cimino '03



"Seeing her work ethic is what made me decide that when an opening occurred in our newsroom, she'd be the first one I consider for hiring."

—Vicki Schneps, publisher and president of Schneps Media

publications, websites, and annual events. That internship led to employment at Schneps, where Cimino has been a staffer for a total of 17 years.

"It was a very impressive internship, having Toni work side-by-side with my editorial team," says Vicki Schneps, publisher and president of her eponymous company. "She was the first one in and the last one to leave. There was no assignment that she didn't do and complete! Seeing her work ethic is what made me decide that when an opening occurred in our newsroom, she'd be the first one I consider for hiring."

In 2014, Cimino left for a position with the New York Family for Autistic Children, an agency that serves adults and children with autism and other developmental disabilities. "I knew its president through the *Queens Courier*," she explains, referring to a Schneps paper, now part of QNS.com. Cimino's experience at NYFAC, which involved grant writing, gave her insight into the nonprofit world.

After two years at NYFAC, she returned to Schneps' Bayside headquarters in a new capacity: director of corporate events. "It was like going home," says Cimino. "Everyone was familiar to me. It was an easy commute from Nassau County, where I live." Apart from the fact that all the events she has been planning are now virtual, her job hasn't changed much in response to the coronavirus pandemic. "I prefer going to the office," she notes. On the side, she teaches Zumba.

Reflecting on her career, Cimino tells today's students, "Never pass by an opportunity. Hard work pays off."

Hard-working interns pay off for her employer, too. As a matter of fact, two QC students interned this past summer with Schneps Media, which owns a total of 74 media outlets in the New York City area—including Long Island and Westchester—and Philadelphia. "I love the internships, because I get to see the caliber of the people coming through," says Schneps. "We tend to hire about 60 to 70 percent of our interns."

Toni Cimino might have been expected to gravitate toward the health care field. Her mother is a microbiologist and phlebotomist; her sister is a medical biller studying to be a doctor. But Cimino was more interested in journalism. "I watched Barbara Walters and '20/20' as a kid," she recalls. So at Queens College—which she chose for its excellent programs and its accessibility to her Bayside home—she focused on English and business courses.

Although she was juggling her studies with a full-time job teaching pre-kindergarten at a private school, she jumped at the opportunity to take an unpaid internship at Schneps Media, a company that produces newspapers, magazines, specialty



Meet Frank H. Wu

The new Queens College president fields questions about his life and career

Photo courtesy of Jim Black.

Like generations of Queens College students, you come from an immigrant family. Where did your parents come from? What brought them to the United States? Why did they stay?

My parents were born in China and grew up in Taiwan. They came to the United States—where they met—in the early 1960s to go to graduate school. My father earned a doctorate as a mechanical engineer; my mother earned a master’s degree in library science.

My father told me that when he was growing up, at dinner you’d have a bowl of rice, a stalk of vegetable, and meat as a condiment. Usually you’d have tofu; once a week, you’d have a little meat. He didn’t go hungry at night, but the portions were meager. He came to the United States and realized that without being wealthy, he could go out and eat an eight-ounce steak once a month. That was unimaginable where he had come from. So, there was no doubt that if you had the opportunity to study in the United States, you had to seize that opportunity.

My father got a job with Ford Motor Company. At that time, to work at Ford was the best job you could have. The auto industry represented American might; it was the Silicon Valley of its era. You could expect to have your job at Ford for life.

Where did you grow up? How was your childhood affected by the fact that you’re a first-generation Asian American?

I grew up in the Detroit suburbs in the 1970s. We were the only Oriental family in the neighborhood—that term was still in use then, suggesting that we belonged halfway around the world. I’m ashamed to admit it, but I was embarrassed of my parents. Every kid is embarrassed of their parents at some point. But when you’re the child of newcomers, the embarrassment is more acute, because you’re aware that you’re different. In the Midwest, you had to fit in. You’d be teased and taunted and subject to the common cruelty

of the playground: being asked if I ate dogs, if my parents were Communists, if I could see with eyes like that.

My mother spent every afternoon cooking. She would make a steamed whole fish with its head and tail still on, just like her mother had made. My brothers and I would turn our noses up at it and demand what neighbor kids were eating: hamburgers and hot dogs, pizza and meat loaf and spaghetti. My mother sent us to school with a thermos with fried rice and chopsticks. During lunch hour, people would always look at what I had packed and say, “Eww, what’s that?”

My parents spoke to my brothers and me in Chinese and we spoke to them in English. So, my brothers and I spoke a language that to my parents was a foreign language, and vice versa. Whenever I visit China, I realize my mother was right: I should have paid attention in Chinese school.

My parents always wanted me to do extra math homework and play the piano. I just wanted to be a kid and ride my bicycle around the block and hang out. My parents wanted my brothers and me to study a STEM field. They didn’t understand liberal arts; they thought you couldn’t possibly have a job if you were a liberal arts major. The very same arguments that I had in the 1980s, our students have with their immigrant parents and grandparents. I’m sympathetic to both sides.

What was school like for you?

I had skipped a grade and was born in late August, just before the school year started, so I was two years younger than everyone else. I had attention deficit disorder. I don’t mean that just as hyperbole; I was diagnosed.

In junior high, I was inattentive and a bad student, but I knew all the material. My social science teacher persuaded the principal to buy me a fetal pig to dissect, so I wouldn’t disrupt the rest of the class. I was in this little room breathing in formaldehyde while the class read *Grapes of Wrath*. I had finished the book already. But I have realized it’s better to be accurate than fast.



With the campus operating in remote mode, Wu visited several summer courses via Zoom. He also held a series of town halls to address questions from members of the QC community. This fall, 99% of courses are online.

Another issue is that I stuttered. Even now, people don't quite understand how to cure stuttering. Back then, speech therapists thought that giving speeches was a way to fix that problem. So, I gave speeches and took part in debates—forensics, it was called. I did that in junior high and high school and was a collegiate debater.

I am a classic underachiever. It wasn't until law school that I was challenged.

What inspired you to become a lawyer?

As a teenager, I was very much affected by the murder of Vincent Chin, an infamous hate crime before hate crime was even accepted as a concept. Two white autoworkers—a man and his stepson—bludgeoned Chin to death in Detroit in 1982 at his bachelor party.

In the 1970s and '80s, Japanese cars had started to take market share from American automakers. Chin's killers saw him as a stand-in for Tokyo and Toyota. One of the men said, "It was because of you little m*****f***** that we're out of work." Chin was Chinese, not Japanese; a U.S. citizen, not a foreigner. Of course, it wouldn't have been right if they had found a Japanese foreign national and killed him.

At their trial, the assailants admitted killing Chin, saying it was a bar brawl that got out of hand. The judge sentenced them to probation for three years and a fine of \$3,000 each. Then you saw something that world had never seen before: angry Asian Americans marching and protesting. The case brought together people of Japanese and Chinese descent. The local NAACP chapter, the largest in America, joined in the protest. There were Jewish groups and Catholic groups.

This case made me see the power of words: not just fighting words, ugly racial slurs, but also the ability people have to reach out and persuade people who don't look like them that something is wrong. You don't have to be Chinese American or Japanese American to say that it's not right to bludgeon someone who doesn't look like you to death with a baseball bat, admit it, and not go to prison.

What prompted you to move into legal education?

I practiced law for two years in San Francisco. I wanted to change the world and I still do. But I found that the better lawyer I was, the worse human being I was. Some people can compartmentalize. When you're a lawyer, typically you're renting out your brain. You're putting your skills to work for your client, not a cause. At some point I decided I didn't want to do that anymore. I'm glad I practiced law. It made me a better thinker.

I train people for a profession I left, knowing that some would do exactly what I did and some would be on the opposite side of the sorts of cases I was on. I don't judge people who decide to do that.

As a faculty member or board member, you've worked with a broad range of institutions, such as Howard University and Gallaudet University. What did you learn from them?

I went to historically Black Howard University because I believe in civil rights and bridge building. My experience as the first Asian American on the law faculty revealed to me prejudices I didn't know I had and privileges I didn't know I enjoyed. At Howard I was *sui generis*—one of a kind. That set me on a path. Every time I stepped

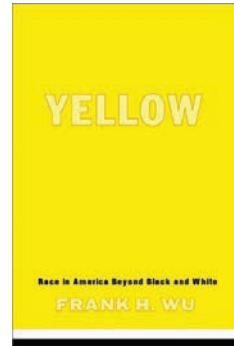
Bridge Builder

Queens College President Frank H. Wu has been involved with civil rights for his entire career. The author of *Yellow: Race in America Beyond Black and White*, he has published on diversity issues in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Daily Journal* (the legal newspaper of California), *Inside Higher Ed*, the *New York Times*, and the *Washington Post*.

In the summer of 1994, Wu worked as a pro bono lawyer against a California ballot initiative depriving undocumented immigrants of public services. Seven years later, he chaired the DC Human Rights Commission when it recognized the right of gay adults to lead Boy Scout troops, before the courts extended such equality. He testified about the importance of diversity in the University of Michigan affirmative action litigation—eventually decided by the Supreme Court—and before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the House of Representatives.

In 2011, Wu was a member of the federal Military Leadership Diversity Commission, which recommended abolition of the combat exclusion for women, a policy later enacted. Similarly, as a trustee of Deep Springs College—a full-scholarship, all-male school—he supported its transition to co-education.

This year, Wu worked with Asian Americans Advancing Justice—DC to establish a project to address racial profiling of Chinese immigrants. In recognition of these activities as well as his six years of service on the board of the Leadership Conference for Civil Rights Education Fund—an umbrella for civil rights organizations in Washington, DC—*Diverse: Issues in Higher Education* gave him its John Hope Franklin Award.



on the campus of Gallaudet University, I realized I was disabled. I'm not fluent in American sign language. The interpreters were there to help me! Everyone else was perfectly capable of carrying on casual conversation or discussion of academics or business in sign language or bilingually. I could only follow along with an interpreter. Seeing the legendary president there, I. King Jordan, who served for 18 years, I realized you can do something institutionally to change so many lives. I'd like to try to do that.

Why did you want to lead Queens College?

I had previously been dean and chancellor of Hastings Law School at the University of California. I was dean of the law school and chancellor of the campus. University of California uses the opposite naming that CUNY does—you have a president of the whole system and chancellors at each campus. UC Hastings has its own board, so I didn't report to a president.



Online, when it's done well, it really works. Our summer enrollment jumped 30% to record levels because so many people are interested in the online option.

The pandemic changes everything for us This is a crisis. But it's a crisis that we need to respond to and turn to our advantage.



—CBS Sunday Morning, August 9, 2020

Since I'd already headed a campus, I wasn't interested in pursuing something like that generically. I pursued the opportunity at Queens College because of its diversity. One of the great aspects of Queens College and Queens as a borough is that you can still maintain your heritage—this sense of identity can flourish in a way that just isn't supported in other places. What attracted me wasn't the goal of being a college president, but being the Queens College president.

When did you take up running, and why?

My cousin came to visit in 2013 with her then-husband, who was going to run the San Francisco marathon. He said, "If I can do it, you can do it." So, I signed up for a half-marathon. I finished it in just under 3 hours—not a good time. I was stiff and sore for the next three days, but I was hooked. It just became part of who I was. Once I started being a run commuter, it became the best part of my day, something that clears your head, gets the blood flowing. I'm not very fast, but I'm quite persistent. Before the pandemic, I was running a half-marathon at least every other week.

Have to ask about your motorcycle.

When did you start riding one, and why?

Where in Queens do you hope to ride?

When I was a teenager, our next-door neighbor had a motorcycle. So of course, I wanted one. My parents were rational human beings and they said no, you may not have one. When I was an adult I went out and bought a motorcycle. I haven't ridden much in the past two years because I had a rare, serious autoimmune disease—pemphigus vulgaris, now in remission—and couldn't ride.

I want to explore every part of Queens by riding a motorcycle, by running, by mass transit once it's safe, by every means possible. I want to see the borough and walk around. I believe in cities, I believe in public transportation, I believe in public education—that's what I'm about.



After completing a half-marathon, Wu celebrated with his dog, Beatrice.

More QC Legacies

The third installment of a regular feature on families with a proud history of studying at Queens College

Katz Family

Barry Katz '75 is a proud alumnus of Queens College who serves on the Business Advisory Board. Ask him why he's so invested in the college and it quickly becomes clear that, for him, it represents family, community, and professional fulfillment.

Katz's more than 40 years of experience in the broadcast and cable television industry span promotion, sales, production, management, and the creative side. He is senior vice president and general manager of NEP Studios, which he describes as "the largest provider of broadcast services in the world"—the company assists shows and networks with studio space, technical equipment, lighting, even production staff. His clients range from "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah" to "Chopped," and include a steady clientele of sports and award shows. "Over the years I've had the good fortune of meeting President Bill Clinton, Paul McCartney, Walter Cronkite. There is fun to this business," says Katz. "And it's exciting to shake hands with a president."

At QC, he double-majored in communications and political science, trying to please his concerned parents who urged him to go to law school. "I even took the LSAT, but I said, 'I don't want to be a lawyer. That doesn't fit with my personality!'" I wanted to be in the television industry. It just energized me," recalls Katz. While in school, he became a DJ with his own two-hour music show on WQMC, the college radio station. He got his start on air by reading the news for legendary sportscaster Howie Rose '77, whom he knew from Benjamin N. Cardozo High School in Bayside, where they grew up. As a senior, he also secured a coveted job as a part-time page at ABC. "Queens College gave me that opportunity," says Katz. "I could go to school and still be a page because it was in Manhattan. I worked weekends, I worked nights. That part-time position opened the door to a full-time position which was the start of my career."

And, says Katz, "My wife is wonderful, and we met here." He was a junior when he began dating Marilyn Citrynell Katz '76, a gifted sophomore from the Bronx. As a math and education graduate, she started work in the private sector, but decided to follow her passion for teaching. For the past 20 years she has been a lecturer in the business department at Queensborough College.

In fact, for the Katzes, Queens College is a field of family dreams as well as an alma mater. "My mother Esther Katz was a

school secretary for the New York City Board of Education, and I remember when I was a little kid that she was taking night classes at Queens College." The baton later passed to the younger generation: Barry and Marilyn's daughter Amy Katz '17 completed her MSEd at Queens College, while their older daughter Lisa brought talented singer Gilad Paz '11 into the family by marrying him. (Proving that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, Amy married Gabe Hitner, a broadcasting professional.)

Katz is an engaged advisor to the college, but what he most relishes is the chance to meet and help students. Working in an industry where freelancing is common, he is keenly aware of students' many economic struggles and the pressure on them to find lucrative careers. Yet he has advised young students not to be too quick to follow what may only *look* like a safe path. "I told one young woman studying accounting when she really wanted to be a teacher, 'If this isn't what you love, you may not be as successful as you would be in another field where you're really doing what you enjoy.'"



Katz confesses that he never would have guessed 40 years ago that he would end up in the position he holds today. "Both Marilyn and I feel you have to give back, you have to pay it forward. We owe so much to Queens College. We met at Queens College. Our careers were built because of the education we got at Queens College."

He takes pride in being a lifelong New Yorker. "Our parents lived here. As they got older, we had a responsibility to take care of them. It's generations. It was important to our families—to my mother, Marilyn's mother, to our kids—to stay rooted in New York and to support one another. If we can help students get jobs and stay in the New York area, it's self-perpetuating."

—Jacquelyn Southern

Zita Dresner and Her Mother, Violet Zatzkin

There have been some unexpected silver linings to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Zita Dresner '64 experienced one. With the Aaron Copland School of Music's graduation ceremony forced to take place entirely online, Dresner, who lives in Lewes, Delaware, had the opportunity to watch it.

"It's the first time that I've ever seen my parents' scholarship being awarded to somebody," she says. She is referring to the Violet and George Zatzkin Scholarship for Opera Performance, which this year was awarded to Thomas Laskowski and Frank Weiderhold. "My mother set up the scholarship," Dresner reports, "and I continue to contribute to it."

Since high school Dresner has been a passionate opera fan, so much so it factored into her scheduling choices as a Comparative Literature major at QC: "I used to arrange my classes around when I had to be at the Met to get my standing room tickets." She remembers seeing Joan Sutherland in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Birgit Nilsson in *Die Walküre*, Maria Callas in *Tosca*, and Renata Tebaldi in *La Forza del Destino*. "I heard some incredible singers both male and female: Richard Tucker, Franco Corelli, Pavarotti," she recalls.

Dresner grew up in Forest Hills, which was conveniently close when her mother, at what might today be considered late in life, decided to go to QC, earning a BA and MA in Early Childhood Education. She subsequently taught kindergarten and first grade at a local elementary school.

Dresner would also go on to teach. Following graduation from QC, she received a master's and PhD from the University of Maryland and became an English professor at the University of the District of Columbia. Somewhat late in life, like her mother, she made a dramatic change, deciding at age 46 to study law and receiving her degree at age 50.

"I began volunteering for the D.C. Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program . . . and became passionate about the problems that nursing home residents were facing," she explains. "You really couldn't do much as a volunteer."

Taking a year's leave of absence from teaching, Dresner enrolled in the DC School of Law with the objective of becoming an elder



law attorney. When her leave ended, she continued her law studies at night and during the summer and interned with the D.C. Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. "I eventually got my degree and worked various jobs hoping to one day become the attorney for the D.C. Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, and that happened," she says. She held that position for 10 years.

In 2007, Dresner retired and moved to Delaware. She pursues her interest in issues pertaining to the elderly by volunteering for the Elder Law Program of the Community Legal Aid Society of Delaware.

"What I mostly do for them is wills, powers of attorney, and health care directives," she says. "Of course, I haven't been able to do much because they have to be signed and witnessed and notarized and our offices are closed because of COVID-19." She was, however, able to participate in one hearing concerning an assisted living facility that was trying to get rid of a resident: "We did a Zoom hearing and got the notice dismissed." She also volunteers with the Community Resource Center, a group in Rehoboth, Delaware, that helps people with issues related to rent, utilities, and other expenses, and is a member of the legislative committee of the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice.

In 2018, Dresner returned to DC to attend a retrospective at the American University Museum of works by artists who had been affiliated with the Washington Women's Art Center, an organization that was an important part of her early years in the DC area. From 1975 to 1987, the nonprofit provided professional support and opportunities for local women in the arts.

A video in which Dresner describes her time at the center was shown at the exhibition and can be found online at <https://voicesandmore.com/work#/zita-dresner/>. In it she recalls how upon her first visit, she learned that the center was in desperate need of money. With no previous experience, she took on the task of writing the center's first grant, which was awarded and led to other grants that would significantly expand the breadth of the center's offerings.

You could say her success at the center augured the experiences she would continue to have in close to five decades of volunteering her expertise, talent, and enthusiasm to worthy organizations that have greatly benefited from her interest.

—Bob Suter

Critical Needs Fund establishes a path forward

None of us could have imagined how our lives would change this year. The global pandemic has impacted every individual and family in such a profound way. Your Queens College family is no exception.



For the last 40 years, the Queens College Foundation, through your charitable donations, has offered substantial scholarship support to talented students and has provided funds to enrich the fine programs and offerings at QC. To counter the impact of the pandemic, the Queens College Foundation established a

Critical Needs Fund. The fund is helping to support the entire college community through this crisis and beyond by ensuring that the integrity of our programs, the breadth of our offerings, and the many student resources typically available on campus continue to thrive during this critical moment in history and for many years to come.

At this challenging time, we respectfully ask every member of our Queens College family to consider contributing to the Critical Needs Fund to the best of their ability. Queens College needs you now more than ever!

If you wish to make your donation online, please visit www.qcdonates.com/CNF or text your pledge to **646-846-5420**.

Queens College, in conjunction with the East Coast Conference, made the extremely difficult decision to postpone all intercollegiate athletics competition for the Fall 2020 semester due to health and safety concerns stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic. Two of our student-athletes reflect on their challenges during this time and how they are more ready than ever to get back in the game.

What I Know Now



Dani D'Angelo '21

You truly don't appreciate this sport until it's out of your hands.

The sport where you stay committed and dedicated until your hard work shows.

The ambition to take those extra swings off the tee, have non-stop balls drilled at you, constantly throwing a pitch until it hits the right spot.

It's a sport of putting in extra work in order to achieve your goals.

Softball is a rollercoaster . . . it's a game of failure and success.

From the highest point of success to the lowest point of a slump.

You have to fight for the wins and take the losses as a learning experience.

Although the goal is to make the journey last as long as possible, the goal is also to make the best of each moment and opportunity.

Putting your heart and all into the game is what bonds the team to be a family.

It's not an individual sport, it's a team sport.

You work your hardest to impact the success of the team.

When sitting back thinking at this time, you realize how much it is dearly missed.

The appreciation can get lost in the mix of the moments during the season.

The memories cherished during that time don't seem so influential till it's over.

Making up cheers as a team, doing handshakes during the game, singing songs to and from games are all the little things that bring us together.

What we would do to put on those metal cleats and get dirty in that dirt again . . .

Listening to the sound of your team cheering you on up at bat.

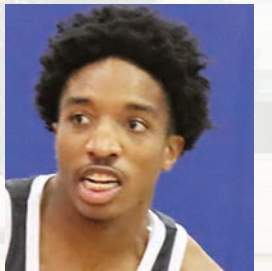
Hearing the sweet spot of the bat hit the ball. Or the glove pop from a fire throw for out 3.

Those are the sounds that thrill excitement.

It's an honor to share this game with people all over the world.

Make each time you step on the field count because one day these will be the "good old days."

David Grady III '22



Dear Basketball

We miss you

For one, this entire year has been weird

With the deaths of heroes and the introduction of a new unexplainable virus

The world is in a fragile state and in a sort of limbo

In the midst of that confusion and of these dire times

You've been taken away from the ones that love you and which has hit just as hard

From the high school games, to the NCAA, all the way up to the NBA

You stretch your arms around the world and squeeze it with an amazing energy

From humble beginnings in the mind of Naismith to becoming a global phenomenon you've become a staple in the daily lives of many

As a result some of us may take you for granted and not realize just how special you truly are

You give people opportunity

A hope that is unmatched

You are global peace

You create families between complete strangers

You make friendships that can last a lifetime

You motivate the masses

Creating the greatest stories of triumph and overcoming the odds

You give the tall man a place to belong and the small man a place to show he belongs

Basketball you are the rival of a pandemic

The greatest fear of social distancing because you are what brings the most unlikely of people together

Basketball you are my greatest friend and I can't wait 'til we meet again

Yours truly,
The people



Professionals campus

Each academic year, the Office of Institutional Advancement brings Queens College students and distinguished alumni and friends together through a special lecture series called *Professionals on/off Campus*.

Hosted on campus, online, or off campus at alumni offices, these events provide students with the opportunity to learn from and interact with seasoned professionals representing multiple industries and sectors. Our renowned speakers are considered experts in their fields and role models for career success. Notably, most got their start at Queens College.

Professionals on/off Campus is proud to recognize the exceptional speakers for the 2019–2020 academic year.

Kim Bodden '81 | Senior Vice President and Editorial and Brand Director, Hearst Magazines International

Judi Bosworth '68 | Town Supervisor, Town of North Hempstead

Ellis Ende '76 | CPA and Managing Partner, Raich Ende Malter and Company LLP

Michael Feldman '66 | Arbitrator; Former Partner, Proskauer Rose LLP

Daniel Fromm '04 | Senior Managing Director, Newmark Knight Frank

Gary Garson '67 | Former General Counsel, Loews Corporation

Reri Grist '54 | Teacher; Retired Concert and Operatic Singer

Amber Guth '79 | Specialist in Surgical Oncology and Breast Surgery, NYU Langone Health

Barbara Hochhauser '65 | Licensed Associate Real Estate Broker and Senior Global Advisor, The Corcoran Group

Gary Katz '81 | Former President and Chief Executive Officer, International Securities Exchange

Andrew Kimler '74 | Partner, Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP

Susheel Kirpalani '91 | Partner, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart and Sullivan, LLP

Joseph Milizio | Managing Partner, Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP

Michael Minikes '65 | Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Prime Brokerage, J.P. Morgan

Mary Murphy '81 | Journalist, CW11/WPIX-TV


Christopher Porter | Partner, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart and Sullivan, LLP

John Roche '84 | Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer, ShopOne Centers REIT

David Rosen '80 | Chief Executive Officer, Dash Pharmaceuticals LLC

Howard Sipzner '83 | Managing Member and Founder, Dunes Capital LLC

Joseph Trotti '80 | Partner, Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP



AT HOME WITH Queens College


PRESENTS

The Start-up Journey: A Career Spanning Rags to Niches


WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020 • 4 PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Yifat Anteri at 718-997-2920 or rsvp.dev@qc.cuny.edu


Professionals campus



DAVID ROSEN



YIFAT ANTERI





Achieving Virtual Success

QC Makes a Rapid Shift to Remote Operations

By John Scarinci and Jacquelyn Southern

The spring semester was well under way when Queens College—like the rest of CUNY—responded to the coronavirus pandemic by moving to distance learning. Faculty adapted courses with the help of colleagues and the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). The Academic Advising Center and the Office of Special Services (OSS) continued to support students; librarians offered extensive services. Students attended classes via interactive electronic platforms. This collective transition established a model as the college maintained remote operations in summer and fall 2020.

LEARNING A NEW WAY TO TEACH

The COVID-19 crisis required CTL to rethink its strategy for helping faculty members move courses online—a tall order, given instructors’ differing levels of proficiency with digital tools, as well as varied access to devices and the Internet. CTL created and presented live workshops and set up a Keep Teaching website with tutorials, recorded workshops, and collections of helpful resources. One-on-one assistance was available through email, video conferencing, online drop-in hours, and phone.

“The level of support CTL has been able to provide is due to the collaborative efforts of our entire team,” said Michelle Fraboni, CTL director. “Encouraging community exchange among the faculty, and a commitment to the wide-ranging needs of the students, is a priority for us.”

Fraboni, CTL Associate Director Nathalia Holtzman, and the center’s three full-time instructional technologists—Jean Kelly,

Rachel Stern, and Rob Garfield—were all instrumental in providing the needed support, as were part-time CTL tech mentors and members of the HSI-STEM Bridges Across Eastern Queens team (directed by Associate Provost for Innovation and Student Success Eva Fernández).

Drawing on digital skills acquired through CTL, Saima Cheema (Biology) prepared two lab courses to go fully online, using Blackboard to collect and grade assignments, and Google Meet and Screencast-O-Matic for video lectures. Because she could not expect students to perform dissections at home, she developed a rigorous combination of virtual demonstrations, simulated lab results, and analytical exercises for them to work through instead. “This replaced some hands-on activity, but it’s really walking students through every step from prep to the end,” explained Cheema, who trained her lab instructors for online teaching and recruited them to help her quickly track down the best available digital lab resources.

Lenwood Gibson (ECP) had already incorporated different technologies—Blackboard, Google Meet, Zoom, even an interactive app called Nearpod—into his in-person graduate courses. Consequently, Gibson was able to build on his knowledge base, some of it gleaned from students. “I’ve learned from them over the years about things that might work better than what I’m trying,” he observed.

Vanessa Perez (Political Science) redesigned a hybrid and a traditional undergraduate course of her own. Then, responding to CTL’s call for help, she consulted over the phone and created video tutorials and written guides. Her efforts included “How to Transition Your In-Person Class to Online during a Pandemic in 24 Hours or Less,” a crash course that was attended by faculty from QC and



“I’m hanging on and trying to enjoy my last year,” says **Briana Galimi**, who finds herself using both old technology—a pen—and new.

across CUNY. To accommodate students who might not have computers or internet access, she devised assignments that students could complete on their phones, using the Blackboard app. As a backup, Perez said, “We can email the lecture and the assignment, and worst-case scenario, use the mail.”

PROVIDING STUDENT SUPPORT

Although physically closed, the Academic Advising Center has maintained its regular hours, which include evening and Saturday availability. Advisors have been using CUNYfirst, DegreeWorks, and Navigate—a new technological tool that facilitates communication with students—to provide advising services via phone, email, and video-conferencing platforms. “Words cannot describe my level of gratitude and appreciation to the AAC team as we navigate (no pun intended—really!) these uncertain times that are affecting all aspects of our lives,” said Academic Advising Director Laura Silverman.

Similarly, OSS ramped up efforts to ensure that all QC students with disabilities can learn effectively with the shift to remote learning. Staff has been working with professors to help them understand and use the available systems and apps. Special software is available to students who need it to be successful in their classes. “The Office of Special Services has stepped up to address our students’ needs remotely,” said Mirian Detres-Hickey, OSS director. “We are fortunate to have staff that is dedicated and willing to go the extra mile.”

Library faculty and staff began working remotely, too. They field questions via email and chat, upload and check new electronic resources, and share news through social media and updates to the library website. “The good news is that more reference materials are available than ever before,” comments Chief Librarian Kristin Hart. “Many academic publishers are providing free or enhanced access to their content for a limited time.”

As always, students, faculty and staff have remote access to databases, journals, and streaming video sites. Virtual reference

help is available seven days a week. It’s also possible to make an appointment for one-on-one help with a subject specialist or connect to the library’s chat service, with a nationwide network of librarians available around the clock.

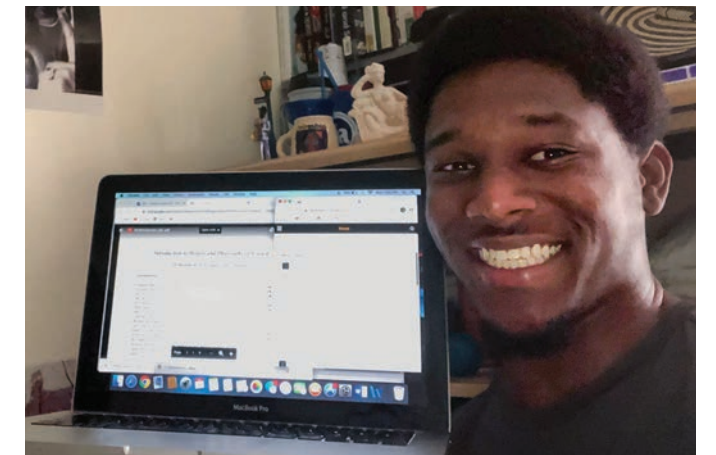
GOING ONLINE FOR CLASS

Adjusting rapidly to all online classes, students tackled issues that ranged from learning to use unfamiliar course software to the more layered context of trying to live, work, and study when ordinary life has been upended. Many students were inexperienced with the course platforms. Others were stressed by distance education itself.

“Not everyone focuses well at home,” observed Briana Galimi ’19, a master’s candidate in counseling in the ECP program. “People definitely do prefer being at school and able to go study elsewhere.”

Time management is an additional challenge. Accustomed to scheduled classes, students have to juggle synchronous and asynchronous classes, new syllabi, and new deadlines. “It can be so easy to get lost between emails and what’s going on on Blackboard and Google Classroom and Zoom,” said Student Association President Zaire Couloute. Her strategy is to view uploaded lectures when her class was originally scheduled “so I don’t get confused about what my class is doing.”

Schedules can be harder to rearrange if students hold jobs. “A lot of students are essential workers,” reported Joseph Cobourne, SEEK student and former SA president. “My dad owns his own taxi service, so I work under him. I have to go out in the morning and drive my car.” Another complication is that he’s a member of a large household in which everyone is on the Internet, slowing down the system.



Joseph Cobourne established a study corner at home; here he’s taking a break from readings for Philosophy 225, the History and Philosophy of Science.

As members of a diverse community, QC students are aware of the big picture. Galimi thinks the pandemic is giving people an opportunity for reflection. “When this first happened, everyone kind of wished, ‘Oh, I don’t want to go to work and school,’ with very negative attributions to schoolwork and other responsibilities,” she said. “Now, when everyone’s forced to be home and not work and not go to school, I’ve seen a huge shift in motivation, the way that people view life—in a positive way.”



Rediscover your alma mater

Lenwood Gibson, associate professor and the program coordinator of the Graduate Programs in Special Education in the School of Education, meets with students to discuss issues in special education today.

Enhance your career prospects at Queens College

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- Affordable tuition
- Flexible class schedules

www.qc.cuny.edu/exploregrad



Four Alumni Get on Board

The Queens College Foundation is delighted to announce its newest members: Donald Brownstein '65, Jamie Klein '79, Max Rodriguez '07, and David Weiner '76.



BROWNSTEIN is executive chairman of Structured Portfolio Management, which he founded in 1997. Previously, he managed CDC Servicing, Inc., a specialized investment subsidiary of the Caisse des Depots et Consignations, and worked in portfolio management at Franklin Savings Association, a leader in the development of quantitative methods for the management of mortgage-backed securities. For the first 20 years of his career, Brownstein was a professor in the philosophy departments of the University of Kansas and the University of Texas. He holds a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Minnesota, a BA from Queens College, and was a visiting scholar at the Center for the Study of Language and Information at Stanford University.



KLEIN retired from KPMG in 2018 after more than three decades at the company. For the last 27 years, she has served as an audit partner across a wide range of sectors, working with private and public businesses as well as not-for-profit organizations. Her clients have included Bloomberg Philanthropies Health Management Systems, Infinity Broadcasting Corporation, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and the New York Public Library. Klein has held leadership roles with the Dalton School, Harlem School of the Arts, and KPMG initiatives, including its New York Fund, its Partnership Council, and the New York Chapter of its Network of Women. She has been honored by INCLUDEnyc and the American Jewish Congress, and was inducted into the YWCA's Academy of Women Achievers. She graduated magna cum laude from Queens College with a BA in Accounting and Economics.



RODRIGUEZ is the program manager for Deloitte's Global Tax and Legal Chief Technology Officer Network, where he helps oversee global tax technology strategy. In his prior position at Deloitte, he served on the Global Tax and Legal Communications team, supporting internal communications for senior leadership. Earlier in his career, Rodriguez worked as the public outreach coordinator for the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law and the technology and communications coordinator for the Campaign for Better Health Care. He completed an MA in Communication from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a BA in Media Studies and a minor in Business and Liberal Arts from Queens College, where he was the general manager of WQMC Queens College Radio and managing editor of the *Knight News*.



WEINER is a managing director and senior portfolio manager at employee-owned asset manager Neuberger Berman, which he joined in 1994 after working at EM Warburg Pincus & Co., Delafield Asset Management, and First Manhattan Company. A general partner at Neuberger for 24 years, he invests several billion dollars for individuals and institutional clients, primarily in domestic equities, as part of a group that includes Marvin and Charlie Schwartz, Richard and Taylor Glasebrook, and Queens College alumna and Queens College Foundation trustee Stephanie Stiefel. Weiner graduated from Queens College with a BA in Economics and attended the Columbia University Business School. He is a trustee of the Jewish Foundation for the Education of Women (JFEW), which provides educational grants to help women attend college. JFEW also funds programming at Queens College.



QC hits a home run thanks to the generosity of Fred and Judy Wilpon



The **Kessler Presidential Scholars Program** is a new, visionary honors program at Queens College that provides four years of academic, financial, and social support to first-generation college students. Fred Wilpon, principal owner of the New York Mets, founded the Kessler Scholars Program with his wife, Judy Kessler Wilpon. It seemed only fitting that the Wilpons would make a philanthropic investment in QC, long-time neighbor of the Mets in Flushing, Queens, since approximately 40% of the undergraduate student body is composed of first-generation students.



Fred Wilpon visited the QC campus during the spring of 2019 to talk to students through the Professionals on Campus program.

“We are very grateful for the generosity of Fred and Judy Wilpon,” says Laurie Dorf, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations. “Our first generation students will truly benefit from their philanthropy.”

The Wilpons launched the program 12 years ago at their alma mater, the University of Michigan. The positive outcomes, including a four-year graduation rate of 81% amongst Kessler Scholars, have paved the way for the program’s expansion. Queens College joins a select group of prestigious schools -- Johns Hopkins University, St. Francis College, Syracuse University, Cornell University and the University of Michigan – that are home to the Kessler Scholars Program. Collectively, the schools form the Kessler Scholars Collaborative, a one-of-a-kind partnership for the support of first-generation students.

The Kessler Scholars Program is about much more than just funding—it is about transforming the first-generation experience. The program places significant priority on building a community for student success. Students participate in peer mentoring programs, unique service and leadership initiatives, as well as professional development and internship opportunities. Students are part of small, discussion-based classes with dedicated faculty and guidance from professional program directors.

As a former first-generation student himself, Fred Wilpon understands the impact a strong support system can have. The transition from high school to college is a monumental shift and not having the familial experience to lean on for guidance can be overwhelming. “By building community and connecting students with one another and with staff dedicated to their success, students in the Kessler Scholars Program are empowered to be leaders and, in turn, give back to their communities and the students who follow behind them,” says Wilpon.

Queens College will welcome the first cohort of Kessler Scholars in Fall 2020. “We are very grateful for the generosity of Fred and Judy Wilpon,” says Laurie Dorf, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Alumni Relations. “Our first generation students will truly benefit from their philanthropy. The programs offered, including internship opportunities and mentoring, will help ensure student success.”



Celebrating Alexander Kouguell’s 100th Birthday

To recognize an institution within an institution, the Aaron Copland School of Music had planned to hold a concert in LeFrak Hall on March 27 to mark the birthday of Professor Emeritus Alexander Kouguell, an acclaimed cellist who spent 68 of his 100 years teaching at QC. Due to the coronavirus, the party moved online, featuring performances by ACSM faculty Konstantza Chernov, Arbie Orenstein, Daniel Phillips, Donald Pirone, Morey Ritt, and Edward Smaldone, who sang “You Make Me Feel So Young” with lyrics adapted for the occasion. Friends and former students from all over the world Zoomed into the event. Raymond Erickson reported on the extensive newspaper coverage Kouguell accumulated over his career, and ACSM Director Michael Lipsey shared his admiration for Kouguell’s success as both a performer and an educator. Then the honoree himself took the virtual podium to comment on the path that led him to a position at QC. “How happy I was to spend 68 years of my life with this wonderful department, wonderful students, and the dearest of colleagues,” concluded Kouguell, who gave all his cellos, bows, music, and memorabilia to ACSM, accompanied by a generous donation. Previously, with his late wife, he established the Alexander and Florence Kouguell Cello Scholarship for a talented cello soloist at QC who excels academically and also participates in chamber music and the Queens College Orchestra.



The Band of Brotherhood

How one fraternity is “pledging” to make a difference

by Jennifer Beiner and Sara Kahan

In November 2018, Robert Jacobs ‘70 had an epiphany. By chance, he read a newspaper article about former Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s generous donation to Johns Hopkins University—a gift ensuring that no accepted student would be unable to attend because of financial circumstances. In that moment, Jacobs knew that his time had come to make a difference at his alma mater, Queens College. Within a month, he established a scholarship to benefit students of academic merit who need financial assistance.

Born in the Bronx and raised in Queens, Jacobs boasts that he received an outstanding education at QC for close to no cost. His QC degree allowed him to launch his career and later become a partner at Ernst & Young. Today, he is the president of Health/ROI, a company he founded that provides revenue enhancement services for hospitals and health care facilities in the tristate area. After a 30-year absence from QC, he gave back to the institution that did so much for him.

But that was just the beginning. After receiving touching letters of appreciation from his scholarship recipients, Jacobs shared the notes with his Phi Epsilon Pi brothers and planted the idea of doing something greater. During a biannual fraternity dinner, he proposed starting an endowment at QC. This was the fraternity’s chance to leave a legacy and to assist students for many years to come.

“All of us have forgotten whatever we learned in Contemporary Civilization, but we have not forgotten the opportunity that Queens College provided a bunch of poor, hardworking, smart kids from the five boroughs and Nassau and Suffolk Counties,” Jacobs says. “Queens College gave us a chance to succeed in ways that our parents, as products of the Depression and as second-generation Americans, could only dream about.”

With the help of 22 fraternity brothers and more, including first-time donors to Queens College, joining the effort monthly,



Members of Phi Epsilon Pi at a biannual gathering.

the **Phi Epsilon Pi Endowed Fund** has raised over \$130,000 and continues to grow with consistent gifts throughout the year. Working alongside Jacobs, Ron Frank ‘68 and Jay Neuschatz ‘69 have established monthly email chains that provide the brothers with scholarship updates and additional ways to grow the endowment to serve more students. Thanks to the band of brotherhood, the endowment has funded seven student scholarships over the past year and a half. Further, it has inspired a fellow fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau, to establish its own fund in support of student scholarships. As in the good old days, a little friendly fraternity competition never hurt anyone; now it is helping everyone.

Fifty years after his graduation from QC, Jacobs has enabled his Phi Epsilon Pi brothers to rekindle friendships while cultivating a stronger connection to their alma mater. They are also paying it forward by forming a mentoring network and offering job and internship opportunities to current students. These fraternity brothers are “pledging” in a way they never envisioned decades ago, and QC could not be more grateful for their support.

QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

1953: Irene Butter, a Holocaust survivor, discussed her experiences at a visit to the Sturges-Young Center in Sturgis, Michigan, in October. The author of *Shores Beyond Shores: From Holocaust to Hope*, Butter has spoken to thousands of students in America over the years ... **1958: Anna Prager** published her memoir, *I Remember*, which details her harrowing journey as a child living in Poland during World War II. She was arrested by the Russians at the age of three along with her mother; the two escaped a packed cattle car on the way to a gulag in Siberia. After years on the run, they finally arrived in America when Prager was 16

... **1962: Carolann Najarian** was honored by the Armenian Women’s Welfare Association, Inc. (AWWA) at its annual Thanks-for-Giving Luncheon on November 9 in Belmont, Massachusetts. She received the inaugural AWWA Founders Humanitarian Award for her unfailing devotion and commitment to numerous humanitarian causes throughout a lifetime of dedicated service. Najarian was particularly instrumental in helping AWWA recognize the vision of helping elders in Nagorno-Karabakh, a disputed territory between Armenia and Azerbaijan ... **Richard Reif** was credited by local news media for helping to reopen his community’s polling place, which had been closed for seven years. Via letters to the editors of local newspapers and interviews with reporters, he generated pressure on New York City’s Board of Elections to install a wheelchair ramp and chair lift at P.S. 164 in Kew Gardens Hills in order to restore a voting site that closed in 2012 because it was deemed noncompliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The voting place reopened in time for the Queens County district attorney primary election in June 2019

... **1968: Judi Bosworth** was re-elected for a fourth two-year term as the North Hempstead town supervisor, defeating Republican challenger David Redmond. As town supervisor, she acts as presiding officer over meetings of the town board and voting on matters before the panel, carries out decisions made

by the board, fields concerns from residents, acts as the treasurer of the town, and represents the town in its financial affairs. The Town of North Hempstead encompasses the Northwest part of Nassau County, Long Island ... **Ron Kuznetz** was recently honored by AMSkier Insurance with its national “Caring for Children” award for his nearly 50-year dedication to his role as owner and director of Driftwood Day Camp in Melville, NY, where he provided a safe and welcoming environment for children ... **1971: Naomi Grossman (MA ’90)** had five of her life-size wire sculptures displayed at the AM Skier Plaxall Gallery in Long Island City in January and February of 2020. She says she uses wire as a medium to create tension, while also conveying both strength and fragility ... **1972: Stephen Capozzoli** had his retro exhibit featured at the East End Gallery in Riverhead last September and October. The exhibit, titled *Frankie Says...*, displayed photos and videos of New York City during the Punk Rock Era of the 1970s and 80s

... **1973: Barbara Bonner** published *Inspiring Forgiveness: Poems, Quotations, and True Stories to Help with Forgiving Yourself and Others*. The book is described as an encouraging guide for the angry or heartbroken soul in the form of uplifting stories and quotations...Renowned artist **Barbara Rosenthal** had her photo-based work on display earlier this year at the Denise Bibro Gallery in New York and was interviewed by Paul DeRienzo on the TV show “Let Them Talk” in February about her work ... **1974: Mike Maggio** released his ninth book, *Letters from Inside*, a collection of short fiction he wrote over a period of 30 years ... **Harry Ofgang** released his new book with Penguin Random House, *The Good Vices*. In the book, he tears down decades of myth and prejudice to reveal how some of our guilty pleasures are not only okay but actually good for our health ... **Marlene Wiedenbaum** is having her pastel paintings displayed at an exhibit at the Mark Gruber Gallery in New Paltz, NY, from September 5 to October 17, 2020 ... **1975: Barry Katz** was the inaugural recipient of the Glen

Robert Gary Corporate Excellence Award at the Giulio Gari Foundation Gala Winners’ Concert and Dinner, held Sunday, October 20, 2019, at New York Athletic Club. Katz was honored for his “consummate professionalism, passion, and compassion to his career in television,” which spans more than 40 years ... **Samuel Kohn** joined the international law firm Dorsey & Whitney LLP in its New York office as a partner in its Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Practice. Kohn has a strong background in finance and accounting that gives him unique insight into the cases and transactions in which he is involved ... **Misagh Parsa** published his latest book, *Democracy in Iran: Why It Failed and How it Might Succeed*. Beginning with the Iranian Revolution of 1979, Parsa traces the evolution of Iran’s theocratic regime, examining the challenges the Islamic Republic has overcome as well as those that remain: inequalities in wealth and income, corruption and cronyism, and a “brain drain” of highly

educated professionals eager to escape Iran’s repressive confines ... **Sheila Richards** was honored by The National Council of Negro Women North Shore-Staten Island Section with its Special Recognition Award. The non-profit organization, whose mission is to “advance the opportunities and the quality of life for African-American women, their families and their communities,” hosts the event to recognize phenomenal women, men, and young adults who have distinguished themselves and given of themselves unselfishly through their dedication, devotion, and commitment to humanity and their communities. This year’s event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the honorees were still named ... **1976: Michael Mell**, founder of Theater Design Inc., recently formed an alliance with his company and Robert Lorelli Associates, a theater consulting firm. Lorelli will transfer all its projects to Theater Design and provide expertise as a special consultant ... **Cathy Ostuw** was

educated professionals eager to escape Iran’s repressive confines ... **Sheila Richards** was honored by The National Council of Negro Women North Shore-Staten Island Section with its Special Recognition Award. The non-profit organization, whose mission is to “advance the opportunities and the quality of life for African-American women, their families and their communities,” hosts the event to recognize phenomenal women, men, and young adults who have distinguished themselves and given of themselves unselfishly through their dedication, devotion, and commitment to humanity and their communities. This year’s event was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the honorees were still named ... **1976: Michael Mell**, founder of Theater Design Inc., recently formed an alliance with his company and Robert Lorelli Associates, a theater consulting firm. Lorelli will transfer all its projects to Theater Design and provide expertise as a special consultant ... **Cathy Ostuw** was

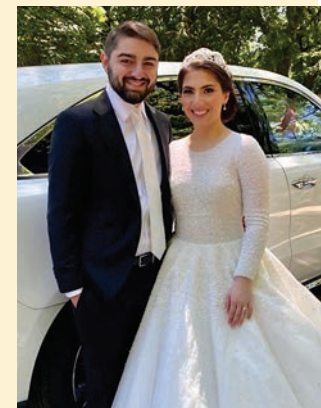
Recent Alumni Tie the Knot

The coronavirus pandemic has forced families to cancel reunions, vacations, and holiday get-togethers. But Joseph Jacobs and Malka Davidov—who met at QC, graduated in January 2020, and got engaged the next month—married on June 8, as they originally planned.

Adjusting to circumstances, the couple booked an outdoor location on Long Island and pared down their guest list. “It was hard to wrap my head around the idea that I was going to have a small gathering,” observes Malka, who had imagined a large wedding, in keeping with her Bukharian heritage. Joey’s family, which is Ashkenazi, also reduced its contingent. “My grandmother had wanted to invite her brother-in-law and sister-in-law,” he says. “My siblings wanted to invite their friends.”

The resulting event, with a hybrid ritual honoring the traditions of both sides, “was stripped down to the core of what a wedding is,” notes Rabbi Shaul Wertheimer of Chabad of Queens College, who mentored the couple with his wife and presided over the ceremony. “It was a great privilege to be able to officiate at this wedding, which was so special. The joy was palpable.”

The newlyweds, who agree on most issues apart from who said “Hi” first, are happily settled in a studio apartment that offers them an easy commute to Hofstra University, where Joey is in law school and Malka has started a doctoral program in school community psychology.



chosen to be the City of Stamford's 2019 Citizen of the Year. Ostuw has been widely involved in the non-profit community for the past twenty years. She is the co-founder and current board member of Building One Community-The Center for Immigrant Opportunity, which brings passionate people together to help immigrants and their families succeed. She also serves as the treasurer for Impact Fairfield County, an organization dedicated to collective philanthropy, and treasurer of St. Francis Episcopal Church, where she helps deliver in-kind services and monies raised by parishioners to support local and international service organizations ... **1977: Howie Rose**, the long-time New York Mets radio broadcaster, was inducted into the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame last November. Rose has called Mets games on either radio or television since 1995 and was previously a broadcaster for both the New York Rangers and Islanders. "I'm really trying to embrace the tremendous honor that it's been for me to represent the organization that I grew up in love with," said Rose in his induction speech ... **1978: Pat Odell** was elected a councilwoman to the Gallatin Town Board in Gallatin, NY. She said her goals are to improve communications in the sparsely populated area and to support senior citizens ... **Andrea Ogle** was honored with a plaque from the King Manor Association of Long Island, a City of New York Citation from Barry S. Grodenchik of the 23rd District, and a Congressional Achievement Award, from Congressman Gregory M. Meeks, at the Constitution & Cocktails event on September 17, 2019 in recognition of her more than thirty-five years of public service and dedication to the justice system ... **1979: Francis Brancaleone (MA)** had her essay, "Wagnerian Influence and Motives in the Works of Edward MacDowell," published recently by Pendragon Press in the book *Very Good for an American: Essays on Edward MacDowell*. The book explores topics relevant to understanding the composer and his work ... **Arturo Casadevall** of the Bloomberg School of Public Health at

Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore has spearheaded a nationwide effort to develop a plasma treatment for COVID-19. Casadevall, along with his colleagues, created the National COVID-19 Convalescent Plasma Project, a consortium of 260 doctors and scientists from 57 institutions around the country. Members of their coalition have launched more than 50 laboratory studies and clinical trials, and as of July 30, 2019, 79,059 patients had been treated under the project's experimental "compassionate use" program... **1980: Donald Ende (BA, JD '83)** was hired as senior underwriting counsel and executive vice president of the Commercial Division at Kensington Vanguard National Land Services last October. In this role, he underwrites large and complex transactions for Kensington Vanguard's prestigious client base ... **1981: Fran Capo**, who holds the Guinness World Record for Fastest Talking Woman, delivered a TEDx talk in December entitled "How a world-record mindset can help you accomplish anything." She also performed in the one-woman show, *Love, Laughter, and Light* last summer at venues in New York, Long Island, and Putnam Valley ... **Mary Murphy**, a prominent broadcaster for WPIX and the recipient of 29 Emmy awards, was selected to be the moderator of the Irish-American Presidential Forum on April 25, 2020. Unfortunately, the event was cancelled as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. The forum was to take place just two days prior to the New York primary and would have focused on relevant foreign policy issues such as America's role in the Irish peace process, immigration policies between the United States and Ireland, and the aftermath of Brexit and its impact on U.S. trade deals ... **1984: Charles Leone (MS)** was named executive director for humanities at Seaford School District. He oversees social studies, English language arts, world languages, and English as a new language for all students, K-12 in the district. Leone will also be responsible for evaluating the staff within the four departments ... **Steve Lindeman (MA)**, an active jazz musician, composer, and keyboard

player, performed with his group, Lindeman & Friends, at the 2019 Utah Jazz and Roots Festival in September. Their performance was described as "nothing short of spectacular" by *The Daily Utah Chronicle* ... **1985: Ben Fruchtwieg** was appointed to the board of directors at Reliance Global Group, Inc., which operates as a holding company for several companies in the real estate, insurance brokerage, and potentially other sectors. Fruchtwieg will also serve on the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors ... **1986: Craig B. Fields** joined Blank Rome LLP as a partner in the firm's New York office in the Tax, Benefits, and Private Client group. The prominent group regularly litigates state and local tax matters and counsels clients on state and local tax planning throughout the country... **Lisa Forte** joined the music department at Scarsdale High School where she serves as both the performing arts instructor and chair, as well as K-12 district coordinator of music and performing arts ... **1987: Patricia K. Sadiq** is a member of an Institute of Defense Analysis (IDA) research team that was recognized with an Honorable Mention Award in the U.S. General Services Administration's and the Office of Management and Budget's Government Effectiveness Advanced Research (GEAR) Center Challenge. The competition challenged problem solvers from the public, academia, and industry to build cross-sector, multidisciplinary teams to demonstrate the GEAR Center's potential. The team proposed developing an innovative, secure, modern, mission-capable information technology solution hosted by the United States Postal Service to improve the customer experience of navigating the background check process and utilizing post offices as local, readily accessible identity verification and credentialing service hubs ... **1988: Lisa J. Friederwitzer** was reappointed as a Family Court judge by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. She has been serving in this role since February 2019 ... **1990: Alison Clark (MSD '94)** was recently selected as the 2020 New York State Elementary Principal of the Year by

the School Administrators Association of New York State and the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Clark was recognized for being committed to excellence, creating programs designed to meet the academic and social needs of all students, and having firm ties to parents and the community ... **Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa (MLS)** gave an intimate reading of her book, *Daughters of the Stone*, at the Caribbean Cultural Center African Diaspora Institute in November. The reading was a celebration of the 10th anniversary of the release of her book, which was a finalist for the PEN/Robert Bingham Fellowship for Writers. It is described as a lyrically powerful novel about a family of Afro-Puerto Rican women spanning five generations, detailing their physical and spiritual journey from the Old World to the New ... The late **Irene Morgan (MA)** had a highway marker dedicated in her honor in Gloucester County, Virginia. Morgan, an African-American woman, was known for her refusal to give up her seat on a bus to a white traveler while traveling from Virginia to Maryland on July 16, 1944—11 years before Rosa Park's refusal to move on a city bus. Morgan's stand led to a Supreme Court decision that segregation in interstate travel was illegal. She would later earn her master's degree at QC at the age of 73. She died in 2007 at the age of 90 ... **Laura Sherman** joined the faculty of the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami as a full-time lecturer in Harp and Music Theory. In addition, she was named the artistic director co-chair of the American Harp Society's National Conference in Orlando, Florida (June 2020). Her proposal to give a lecture-recital about Bach on the pedal harp was accepted at both the American Harp Society's National Conference in Orlando and the World Harp Congress in Cardiff, Wales (July 2020). She was also invited to be the guest artist for the Naples (Florida) Harp Festival in February of 2020 ... **1991: Steve Bellone** was re-elected as Suffolk County Executive for a third term. He defeated Republican Suffolk County Comptroller John Kennedy



Left to right, top row: Jedd Moskowitz (QC '73), Wendy Beckerman (Parsons School of Design '79), Richard F. Rothbard (QC '76), Cathy Loeb Rothbard (QC '76), Arthur Edelstein (QC '74), Philip Alfonso Berry (QC '73). Middle row: Steven Mayo (QC '75), Debra Kesner Mayo (Stony Brook '76), Lydia Grossfeld Rock (QC '77), Randy Rock (QC '74), Jay Hershenson (QC '76, '86), Mark Litwak (QC '73, '74). Bottom row: Ricky Orzick (QC '76), Robyn Perlman (QC '75, '82), Clarissa G. Weiss (QC '75), Larry Friedman (QC '73), Barry Mitchell (QC '74).

Zooming into the Present

Since the spring, a group of alumni and longstanding friends from New York, Florida, Texas, Massachusetts, California, and South Carolina has been holding Saturday night dinners over Zoom. Featured here are QC graduates from the 1970s and '80s—mostly, former student government and campus media leaders, including several who served as student body presidents and vice presidents—and in nearly half the images, their spouses. All the alumni enjoyed highly successful careers in their chosen pursuits; some are active professionally and some have retired but remain otherwise active.

If you or alumni you know are communicating virtually, please send group photos and a description to Jay.Hershenson@qc.cuny.edu.

COMPLEMENTS OF TWO HOUSES

Crown House held an on-campus reunion in November 2019, attended by (L to R, top row) Jeffrey Oberman '72, Michael Stromes '72, Jay Greenberg '72, Larry Roth '72; (middle row) Howard Feinberg '72, Norm Schwartz '73; (bottom row) Steven Horton '73, Michael Shevack '73, and Steven Malin '72.

House of Bamboo, founded in 1960, submitted this photo from its archive. Seen here are the house plan's first president, Bob Abrahams '63 (in the center of the middle row), with housemates (L to R, top row) Pete Weissman, Barry Lubart, Eddie Goldstein, Joel Berman, Danny Adelman, Dave Eizenman, Sidney Mitchell, Richie Schlossberg, Frank DeStefano, Steve Weiss, Alan Grossman, Gary Reinstein; (middle row) Larry Feld, Spencer Curtis, Herb Stein, Allen Hausman; (bottom row) Michael Ross, Barry Weiss, Richie Brown, and Norm Fagen.



Crown House



House of Bamboo

QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

by a margin of 55% to 43%. Bellone says the challenges facing the county are always evolving, and he is ready to keep fighting for better solutions ... **1992: Heather Fine Siegel** released her second book, *THE KING and THE QUIRKY: A Memoir of Love, Marriage, Domesticity, Feminism, and Self*. The book is described as a “charming, funny, true-life memoir, propelled by the vivacious, utterly engaging voice of our compulsively honest narrator. A real page-turner ... **1993: Julie Cohen (MLS)** was elected to the Copake, NY Town Board last fall. One of her main goals on the town board is providing affordable broadband access in Copake ... **1994: Mara Rae Neufeld-Rivera** was appointed head of people and culture at Chroma Technology Corp. of Bellows Falls, Vermont, a company that designs and manufactures optical filters. Neufeld-Rivera brings more than 20 years of HR experience to the role...**Valerie Oswalt** was tabbed as the executive vice president and president of Campbell’s Snack Company. Oswalt leads the company’s \$3.8 billion Snacks division, which includes brands such as Goldfish, Milano, Pepperidge Farm, Snyder’s of Hanover, Lance, Kettle Brand, Cape Cod, Snack Factory Pretzel Crisps, and Late July ... **1996: Dorit Basal** has been appointed associate director at American Friends of Sheba Medical Center in New York. Basal recently celebrated her one-year anniversary at the company and was instrumental in helping the company raise approximately \$1 million for its Coronavirus in Israel Emergency Fund ... **Dan Bongino (BA, MS ’02)** released his latest book, *Exonerated: The Failed Takedown of President Donald Trump by the Swamp*. The *New York Times* best-selling author’s book is billed as “an explosive, whistle-blowing exposé” ... **Jason Kushel (MSED)** was named the new general manager of the Hotel Erwin Rooftop Lounge in Venice Beach, California ... **Kim Petersen** was reappointed as a judge to criminal court by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio. She has been serving in this role since December 2016 ... **1997: Michael Gavalas (MSED ’03, AC ’09)** was

selected as the principal of Weldon E. Howitt Middle School in Farmingdale. Gavalas brings more than 20 years of experience to this position, having previously served as assistant principal at Sanford H. Calhoun High School in Merrick and at Hauppauge High School ... **Jackie Gordon (MSED, AC ’06)** overwhelmingly won the Democratic primary in the race for representative of New York’s second congressional district. The seat has been occupied by Peter King, who will be retiring this year. Gordon won the primary with 73 percent of the vote. The district includes southwestern Suffolk County and a small portion of southeastern Nassau County on the South Shore of Long Island, NY ... **John Lountzis** was hired as director of accounting at BEB Capital, a real estate investment firm. He brings more than 20 years of accounting experience in commercial and real estate to the new position ... **Leigh Harrison (MA)** recently published her fourth book, *From A to Zeus: Poems with Biblical and Mythological References*. The book represents the result of a lifetime of writing poetry, along with many decades of reading mythology and religious texts ... **Martin Kutnowski (MA)** traveled to South America to perform on tour with the Saint John String Quartet (SJSQ) last fall. He played piano alongside the award-winning SJSQ in 16 concerts across Argentina, Chile, and Peru, and also taught and performed with nine youth orchestras along the way ... **Lara McNicol** was named Executive of the Month by *New York State Real Estate Journal* last September. McNicol serves as the assistant director of the TSC Training Academy, LLC. She plays a key role in every aspect of the company’s safety training, assisting in designing the curriculum, advising instructors on the adult learning process, and developing classroom settings ... **1998: Seth Peacock** was appointed city court judge by the mayor of Ithaca last December. His appointment runs from January 1–December 31, 2020 ... **Roger Sedarat** created and starred in the *Sedarat Haji Show*, which had a short premiere run at Brooklyn Music School Playhouse on November 9

and 10, 2019. The show is an Iranian-American comedy designed to be a satirical take on the character Haji Baba from the 1954 American movie *The Adventures of Haji Baba*, starring John Derek and Elaine Stewart ... **1999: Amy Klein** had her first book published. *The Trying Game: Get Through Fertility Treatment and Get Pregnant without Losing Your Mind* features advice from medical experts, as well as real women, and outlines options every step of the way for women experiencing fertility issues ... **2000: Peter S. Giakoumis (MA)** authored his first book, *The Forgotten Heroes of The Balkan Wars: Greek Americans and Philhellenes 1912–1913*. The book tells the unique story of Greeks, Greek Americans, and Philhellenes of a bygone age ... **Danielle DeMicco Paisley (MLS)** was honored at the Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce’s annual networking event, Power in Heels. The event salutes women who have distinguished themselves in their profession and the Patchogue community by sharing their time and talent. Paisley is the director of Patchogue-Medford Library and also serves the community on the Greater Patchogue Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and as the secretary to the GP Foundation. She is also a Medford Chamber of Commerce trustee, a catechist, and a volunteer for her local church and an animal shelter ... **2001: Frank Battaglia** was featured in an article in the *Digital Journal* where he discussed his 20-year career as a baseball coach. Currently the assistant coach at New York Institute of Technology, Battaglia was head coach at QC from 2002–2009 ... **Desiree Karroll** was one of 97 teachers in New York State to earn national certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards through New York State United Teachers. To qualify, teachers must complete a rigorous performance-based, peer-reviewed assessment process that includes a review of teaching portfolios, student work samples, videos, and analysis of a candidate’s teaching and student learning. Karroll has taught at Cornwell Avenue Elementary School

in West Hempstead, NY for 33 years ... **Lastenia Penalzoa** was named coordinator for multicultural education for the Osceola County School District in Kissimmee, Florida ... **Ellen Poulsen** released her third book of true crime history, *Chasing Dillinger: Police Captain Matt Leach, J. Edgar Hoover and the Rivalry to Capture Public Enemy No. 1*. The book details Leach’s hunt for John Dillinger during the violent early 1930s ... **2002: Esther Slomnicki**, a biology teacher at Ma’ayanot Yeshiva High School for Girls, gave the keynote speech, “Knowledge and Privacy in Conflict: DNA Testing” at Ma’ayanot’s Day of Big Ideas on February 2. She explained the science behind DNA testing, including how companies such as Ancestry.com and 23andMe mathematically compute ancestry and place of origin. The Day of Big Ideas, an annual tradition at Ma’ayanot for the past 11 years, is a “celebration of the liberal arts and sciences” ... **2003: The late Mike Verdi (MS)**, who died suddenly last year at the age of 45, was honored during the seventh annual McVey 5K and Fun Run in East Meadow, NY. All race proceeds went to establish the Mike Verdi Memorial Fund, which will give a scholarship to a graduating senior at Division Avenue High School ... **2004: Ryan Weber (BA, MA ’06)** was the featured speaker at the Pike County Conservation District’s annual dinner in October. The event in Pennsylvania featured a performance and presentation exploring how nature has influenced composers and musicians. Weber, a musicologist specializing in 19th- and 20th-century Europe and America, gave a presentation titled, “Art and Space, Art and Place: Creative Landscapes and Conservationism” ... **2005: Maria Christina Gonzalez** had her short story collection, *La tritadora y otros cuentos*, published in Bogotá, Colombia, last year. The book has been well received by readers and the public ... **Salwa Gendy (MA)** was featured in an article in *The New York Times*, along with her husband, Maher Gendy, for their volunteer work in helping new immigrants in New York City find their way. They provide guidance and help immigrants get benefits, prepare

for citizenship tests, and get job training ... **Zeeshan Suhail** was featured in *Mashable* Pakistan’s “Success Stories” series. The article detailed his role at Nestle Pakistan where he manages the public affairs portfolio ... **2006: George Parpas** has joined William Parker as an associate in the Litigation practice. Parpas is a civil trial attorney with a focus on probate and trust litigation and business litigation ... **2007: Lauren Comito (MLS)** was named the 2019 Librarian of the Year by *Library Journal*. Comito founded Urban Libraries Unite (ULU)—an advocacy group that supports libraries and librarians in urban environments. She is also the neighborhood library supervisor at the Leonard Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library ... **Rafael Espinal** stepped down from his role as City Councilmember after being named executive director of the 500,000-member Freelancers Union. Espinal’s immediate tasks include bringing freelancers of all types into the conversation about proposed worker classification legislation in various states ... **Cristina Moreta Jimenez** was honored in November with the 13th Annual Robert Coles “Call of Service” Award at First Parish Church in Cambridge for

co-founding United We Dream, an advocacy group for young Americans. The organization is among the largest youth-led immigrant advocacy groups in the country, with more than 400,000 members ... **2008: Tamara Parks** was named co-principal of Essex High School in Vermont. Parks spent the last six years in New York City as a biology teacher and the chair of the Advisors’ Department at City-As-School, one of the oldest and most successful alternative high schools in New York City ... **2009: Anita Sonawane** was named a trustee for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum. Trustees are charged with ensuring FDR’s legacy is preserved and accessible to the public for generations to come. She founded the Roosevelt Network Chapter while at QC, where she participated in multiple Roosevelt activities and served as a lead strategist in the Network for Economic Development ... **2010: Alexander Mainetti** was honored, along with the rest of the law firm Mainetti & Mainetti, at the 3rd Annual Ulster Partners in Justice Reception. They were recognized as a “Champion for Justice.” Mainetti & Mainetti, P.C. was selected for this honor in recognition of outstanding

professional accomplishment, commendable service to the local communities, and philanthropy. The firm is a personal injury law firm focused on litigating motorcycle, commercial truck, and car accident cases ... **2012: Avi Berkowitz**, who serves as an assistant to President Donald Trump, was recently appointed special representative for international negotiations, in charge of the Israeli-Palestinian file. Berkowitz was instrumental in the negotiation of the recent peace agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates that could pave the way for full normalization of relations between the two nations ... **Victor Calise, (MA)** who serves as the New York City commissioner for the Office of People with Disabilities, was nominated to the MTA Board by Mayor Bill de Blasio. A former Paralympian, Calise is a fierce advocate for people with disabilities and is the MTA Board’s first member with a disability ... **Jonathan Lindenfeld** has joined the law firm FeganScot as an associate attorney. Lindenfeld will help FeganScott bolster its focus on economic frauds and establish the firm’s presence in New York City ... **2013: Eleni Chronas (AC)** has been appointed assistant director of

pupil personnel services at Herricks Public High School. Chronas will play a critical role in meeting the social-emotional needs of students and families ... **Dan Chuzmir** was hired as the new director of the Merrick Library on January 1. His goals as director include developing a makerspace where people with shared interests in computing or technology can work together on projects while sharing ideas, equipment, and knowledge; increasing demand for children’s programming and materials; and expanding the opportunities for the library’s readers community by doubling the number of author visits ... **Patrick W. Smith** took home first prize in Real Estate Board of New York’s Residential Deal of the Year Awards. The awards honor agents of remarkable ingenuity and tenacity, those who make good against all odds, running a gantlet of challenges to close an impossible deal ... **Umer Younus** was hired as a senior accountant for BEB Capital, a real estate investment firm. Younas earned an accounting degree from QC and is pursuing his master’s degree at the college ... **Rosanny Zayas** earned her first leading role, starring in the Showtime series *The L Word: Generation Q*, where she plays

Show your QC Pride

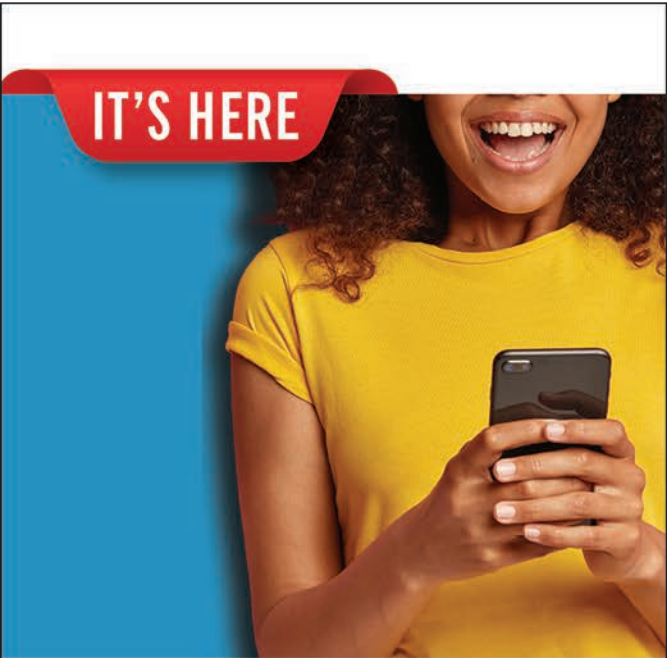
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the role of Sophie Suarez. The show was renewed for a second season in 2020. Zayas also appeared in an episode of the Netflix series *Orange is the New Black* in 2019. ... **2014: Hetal Jani (MA)**, founder of SPEAK, a mentorship program for immigrant girls, was one of 10 honorees at the 2019 L'Oréal Paris Women of Worth Awards, which honors "extraordinary women who selflessly volunteer their time to serve their communities." Jani was presented with the award by Academy Award-winning actress Helen Mirren. ... **2015: Liz Hogg** released her debut classical album, *Presenting Liz Hogg*, on Albany Records in January 2020. The album features works by Francisco Mignone, Heitor Villa-Lobos, Ernst Krenek, Johann Sebastian Bach, and more. Hogg held a release concert in January at the Park Church Co-op in Brooklyn. ... **2017: Samantha Chiu** has been awarded a prestigious National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship. Chiu's research uses neuroimaging techniques (EEG) to study speech processing. She plans to study the neural pathways between speech perception and speech production to form the foundation of clinical research for aphasia treatment. ... **Anthony Sciarratta** released his second novel, *The Letter*, through Post Hill Press. The book focuses on protagonist Victor Esposito, a writer who falls into a coma, and his love affair with Eva Abram. After Abram hears about Esposito's condition on a television broadcast, she recounts memories from their affair a decade earlier. ... **2018: Antonio Alarcon** was featured in an article in *Gothamist* for his role in challenging Donald Trump's attempt to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). In 2018, Alarcon was one of six plaintiffs from New York who successfully challenged the elimination of DACA. Last year, Alarcon and other New York activists were inside the U.S. Supreme Court to hear arguments in the federal government's appeal of the New York ruling. ... **Samantha Jannotte** was hired for the newly created position of health and wellness provider of Oceanside School District. She now visits

fourth- and fifth-grade classes throughout the district for 40-minute lessons on being well. Jannotte's lesson plans are based on the American School Counselor Association framework; students learn how to recognize their feelings and take a step back to reflect on them before acting. They also learn organizational skills, healthy habits, and how to feel their best. ... **2020: Vallaire Wallace** earned a full scholarship to the University of Virginia to pursue a doctorate degree in English. Wallace majored in English with a minor in drama and theater and graduated *summa cum laude* with a bachelor of arts.

Class year not available: **Joe Femenia**, who passed away suddenly last year at the age of 62, was commemorated with a portion of 130th Street in College Point named in his honor. Femenia was instrumental in restarting the College Point Civic and Taxpayers Association in 2008. He served as the association's president from 2008 to 2012 and again from 2014 until his death. ... **D. Robert Martin** was hired as president of Field Organization at ConvergeOne, a leading global IT services provider of collaboration and digital infrastructure solutions. Martin, who assumed the position in March, is responsible for all North America partners and alliance business. ... **Erica Peralta (MA)** was appointed assistant principal at Nathaniel Woodhull Elementary School in Shirley, NY. In this role, she assists the principal in leading approximately 700 students in kindergarten through fifth grade and helps to oversee a staff of nearly 60 faculty members and 50 professional staff. ... **Margaret Schmitt** was selected as the new cantorial soloist at Kol Ami, a small reconstructionist congregation in Boca Raton, Florida. Schmitt is a soprano who has appeared in opera, musical theater, and concerts throughout the United States and Europe.

IN MEMORIAM

During the past year, the college community has learned of the loss of some of its valued members. They will be missed and warmly remembered by their friends and colleagues.

Joyce Abrahamsen '01
Andreas Adams '68
Leah D. Jeselsohn Adler '84
Ada Friedman Agronin '43
Arlen Ahlers '62
Charles Alessi '63
Genevieve Granek Allen '58
Harry Allen '58
Dave Alsop
Bernice Gross Altarac '41
Harvey Alter '52
Philip Andreski '64
Martha F. Andujar '73
Lewis Aron '73
Ann Mendikian Assadourian '51
Reynold M. Aufraser '70, MA '76
Louis Badinelli '64
Gertrude Birnbaum Ballaban '44
Emilio F. Bandiero '87
Joan Cornman Baratz-Snowden '61, MS '62
Elliott Robert Barkan '62
Linda Bailey Bastian '77
Albert A. Beard '58
Vera Ziolkowski Becker '45
Patricia A. Sullivan Beneat '75, MS '76
Esther Benenson
George W. Benoit '58
Dominick M. Benvenuto '56
Mildred S. Slackman Berkey '49, MS '60
William Frost Berkowitz
Stanley J. Birnbaum '42
Meryl Elaine Black '75
Irene Blanco '63
David Bloch '60
Faith L. Brofman-Goldberg Block '60
Margaret Siegle Blum '52
Evelyn P. Bogner '86
Robert D. Bohlen '68
Fred P. Boruchov '68
Regina C. Breheny '87
Carol J. Lang Brock '44
Susan Cohen Broder '67
Harriet Kivelson Brodtkin '45
Joanne R. Reynolds Bronars '53, MS '56
Betty Cohen Brophy '45
Joseph R. Brostek '55
Lorraine Buch '52
Dorothy M. Rubinstein Burley '69, MS '72
Eleanor Burns '50
Rose Burt '74

Mary J. Calabro '45
Brenda Canepa '92
Doris Kurzman Caplan '48
Karen S. Caplan '92
Susan J. Carnevale '73
Michael G. Carpenter
Grace M. Myslik Carson '51
Henrietta Cartwright
Joan O'Connell Caruso '54
Marion N. Cassata '45
Joseph J. Causa '73
Helen Bagger Cavanagh '46
Eugenia Chang-Rodriguez
Ruth Zicherman Cherof '46
Barbara Inselmann Cleary '70
Terri Schacter Coffel '82
Michael B. Cogswell '95
Edwin Cohen '57
Martin Cohen '75
Sheldon M. Cohen '64
John J. Colletti '70
Sally A. Conroy '73
Arlene Hugelmeyer Cooper '46
Arthur S. Cutler '75
Robert E. Dady '58
Gary P. D'Agrosa '70
Enver Dalmas '68
Eleanore R. D'Amelio '46
Joan M. Russo D'Arienzo '47
Richard A. Davidson '58
Sal DeBenedictis '77
Warren R. DeBoer
Diana I. Benatti Delisi '52
Renee Sobel Diamond '68
Franklin Joseph "Bud" Dimino '55
Helen M. Driscoll Dorning '61
James A. Doyle '43
Lydia E. Droz '79
Frances S. Segall Dubner '51, MA '53
Barry Duchan '68
Judy G. Georgaras Dumas '48
Alice Garan Dunne '46
Jack Eber '69
Joel Einschlag
Arleen Ercole '98
Erica Erdberg '64
Jutta M. Farnung '76
John F. Fay '97
Antoinette Sintich Fecko '57
Kalma Shapiro Feinsod '46
Joseph L. Fenaroli '48
Winsome R. Fennell '83
Karen E. Ferguson '81
Diane Marguerite Silz Field '56, MS '59
Robert Fihler '71
Lucretia A. Scharf Finkell '68
Arthur Kenneth Fitzgerald '56
Marguerite Patricia Hernon Flanagan '48
Marlene D. Thomae Flanagan '57
Gloria C. Stein Fleischer '62

Thomas Forrest '52
Amy D. Fox
Florence Altman Fox '56
Janice Greenblatt Frankel '69
Judah Frankel MS '12
Mark H. Freilich '79
Philip Frieder '42
Marcia H. Kinstler Friedman '47
Sandra Kolodny Fuchs '54
Lucia Fulco '66
Lisa S. Gabow '64
Roberta Joan Beller Gardner '62
Ricki Garfield '02
Robert T. Gettens '69
Lynne M. Dannenberg Geyser '60
Donald J. Gilbert '50
Betty Gitlin '90
Maryann Herzberger Glantz '64
Ruth Rosen Gold '74
Joel H. Goldberg '57
Shepard Goldberg '50
Arnold J. Goldfuss '68
Deidre N. Goode MLS '95
Steven S. Gordon '63
Evan Grabelsky '12
Roy S. Graber '94
Marguerite A. Gray '73
Suzanne M. Gallo Green '85
Edgar A. Gregersen '57
Arthur J. Gribbin '54
Allen Robert Gross '65
Solomon Jack Guberman '66
Anita Z. Hall '85
Miriam Feigenbaum Halpert '56
Peter T. Harkness '50
Annette R. Rega Harrison '61
Henriette H. Ellner Hasley '68
John E. Hauptert '59
Mary Justina Hausler '55
Arlene Haywood '72
Richard Heath '65
Stanley Sol Heller '50
Geraldine Rothman Henzel '55
Rita D. Smith Herpich '71
Ana Herrera '80
Michael E. Hertz '54
Mary M. Hill '75
Paula M. Csajko Histing '65
Eileen Hunt Hodgson
Shirley Wolberg Hoffman '45
Anne J. Hofmann '73
Doris Benedict Hofmann '54, MS '56
Babette Solon Hollister
Robert Holz '63
Elaine M. Miller Honart '47
Arnold Honig '48
Ruth E. Horbert '93
Reva Foier Horowitz '75
Barbara Goldstein Horwitz '48
Michael J. Houlihan '60
Adonija Zilvinskis Hoyt '64

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Scene at Jefferson Hall



“Timing is everything when it comes to taking a memorable photo,” says QC Peace Officer Kevin Lam, an essential staffer who reports to campus regularly, with his camera,

while most members of the college community work or study from home. “I happened to walk by Jefferson Hall when I saw the rainbow and took the opportunity to capture the image.” Photography is a lifelong passion for Lam, who majored in it at Hunter College and enjoys sharing his scenery shots with friends.

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Additional information to follow.



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