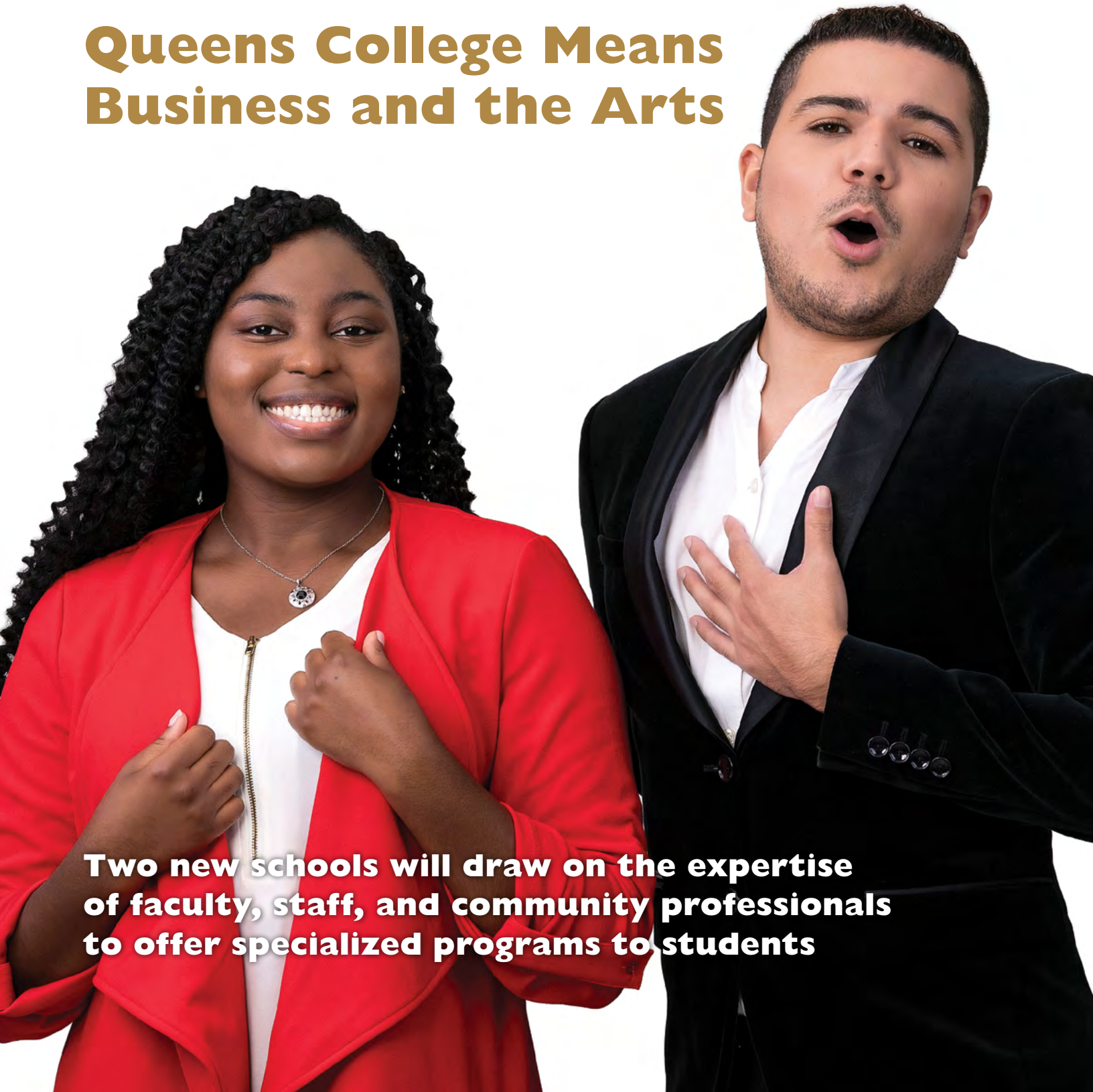


QUEENS

THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE

Queens College Means Business and the Arts



Two new schools will draw on the expertise of faculty, staff, and community professionals to offer specialized programs to students

847

new scholarships
to deserving students



816

students and families served
through our Mobile Food Pantry



42

new paid internships



Invest in Student Success

Today, the value of a path forward through public higher education has never resonated so strongly. Thanks to your gifts to the *Critical Needs Fund*, Queens College was able to provide additional support to students during the Spring 2021 semester.

Although Queens College continues to move forward, there is still much work for us to do.

Our amazing students – many of whom come from households that earn less than \$30,000 per year – face enormous challenges, hardships and loss.

It is imperative that we do our part to help.

Visit us online today at www.qcdonates.com to support our *Critical Needs Fund*. Donations can also be made using the envelope provided in the magazine's centerfold.

The power of your gift should not be underestimated. Together, we can make a direct impact on the lives of those who need it the most.



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From the President



What a difference a year makes. After maintaining 99 percent remote operations for academic 2020–2021, Queens College has resumed some on-campus activities while complying with all state, city, and CUNY COVID-19 guidelines.

Our students adjusted brilliantly to the changes of the past year and continue to thrive, thanks to the efforts of many people: the essential staff from Public Safety, Buildings and Grounds, and Information Technology, who kept the campus safe, secure, and connected; the faculty, who adopted new teaching formats; and the Queens College Foundation, which

funded scholarships through a generous emergency allocation.

The college completed a strategic plan for 2021–2026 in a process involving hundreds of participants—faculty, staff, students, alumni, members of the Queens College Foundation, and members of the Queens community—meeting over Zoom. We reached out to stakeholders through eleven virtual town halls. Using town hall responses and college data, five working groups explored the curriculum; diversity, equity, and inclusion; faculty scholarship and creativity; fiscal sustainability; and student success and student life. Recommendations in these areas are the basis of the plan, posted at <https://rebrand.ly/QC/SP2126>.

A key element of this plan is the creation of Business and Arts schools. Queens College has always prepared students for success in every dimension. A double major or a minor such as Business and Liberal Arts is a great choice; the future belongs to people with more than one skill set. The new schools, described on page 16, will enhance students' options.

In this issue, you'll also learn about some of our accomplished graduates. On page 20, the magazine profiles QCF treasurer Howard Sipzner '83, the brother, husband, father, and father-in-law of alumni. Like Sipzner, social practice artist Yvonne Shortt '08 comes from a family associated with QC; she just finished her first campus installation in August. You can read about her project on page 26.

Whether you're the first in your household to enroll in Queens College, or you followed parents or siblings here, we want to hear from you. Please send us a note at qmag@qc.cuny.edu.

Be careful and stay safe!

Sincerely,

FRANK H. WU
President Frank H. Wu

Cover: "Whether I must complete the finances, marketing, or legal side of my future music project, business, or clothing line, I know that the Queens College Business School can help me get there," says Ashley Fils-Aime, a senior who is majoring in corporate finance and minoring in music and production. Eduardo Pacheco, a graduate student pursuing a master's in vocal performance at the Aaron Copland School of Music, will alternate in the roles of Danilo and Camille this spring, when QCArts presents *The Merry Widow*.

Cover photo by Audrey Tiernan.

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We welcome your letters: qmag@qc.cuny.edu



Class of 2021 Receives a Virtual Send-off

Graduating as they conducted most of their studies since March 2020—electronically—members of the Class of 2021 enjoyed remote ceremonies at home, among jubilant family and friends.

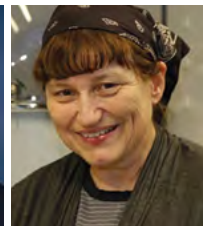
Top-performing students were recognized at an online Baccalaureate on the evening of Tuesday, June 1. They shared the limelight with guests Jerome Chazen, chair of the Louis Armstrong House Museum, and Vita C. Rabinowitz, former interim chancellor of CUNY. To acknowledge their long service to the community, QC President Frank H. Wu gave Chazen and Rabinowitz the President's Medal, the college's highest administrative honor.

Two days later, in the first graduation program led by President Wu since his July 2020 appointment, Queens College held its 97th commencement exercises remotely. The college awarded over 6,650 undergraduate and graduate degrees to more than 5,000 individuals, some of whom earned dual degrees.

Congressman Adriano Espaillat '79—a political science major, Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK student, and the first Dominican-American to be elected to the U.S. House of



Espaillat



Rafailovich

Representatives—delivered the keynote and received the President's Medal. Former QC faculty member Miriam Rafailovich, a distinguished professor at Stony Brook University in the Department of

Materials Science and Engineering and director of the Garcia Center for Polymers at Engineered Interfaces, received an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

Prominent speakers who joined Espaillat and Rafailovich on the virtual dais included the Honorable Charles Schumer, U.S. Senate Majority Leader; Congresswoman Grace Meng; then-Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul; New York State Senator Toby Stavisky; Assemblywoman Nily Rozic; Queens Borough President Donovan Richards; City Councilmember James Gennaro; CUNY Board of Trustees member Kevin Kim and CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez.



President Frank H. Wu addressed this year's graduates remotely.



Neuroscience Major Wins Salk Scholarship

Naomi Shohet '21, a Macaulay Honors student who majored in neuroscience and minored in chemistry, was among last spring's recipients of CUNY's prestigious Jonas E. Salk Scholarship.

Shohet had a stellar academic career at QC, where she spent four years doing research in the laboratory of Uri Samuni (Chemistry and Biochemistry), belonged to the Biology and Chemistry Honor Societies, and delivered the student speech at Baccalaureate. She is attending SUNY Downstate College of Medicine and plans to specialize in geriatrics, a choice inspired by her experience as a caregiver for her grandmother, who was diagnosed with dementia.

"I am so happy to receive this scholarship," said Shohet. "I could not have done it without the help of Dr. Samuni, as he molded me as a researcher and critical thinker from my freshman year. I am also really grateful to Ms. Valli Cook (Health Professions Advisory Services) for guiding me throughout my application process for medical school and for this scholarship."

"Naomi will be an excellent and compassionate physician and has the potential to make an impact in medical research," said Samuni. "I am sure Naomi's future achievements will make us and the college community proud. I also want to thank Valli; without her help, this would not have happened."

Salk Awards—named after City College graduate Jonas E. Salk, developer of the first vaccine to prevent polio—are based on academic performance, especially scientific research that students conducted as undergraduates.

Dual Master's Graduate Off to a Fulbright Future



King

Ryan King '21, who graduated with dual master's degrees in library science and history with a certificate in Archives and Preservation of Cultural Materials, won a Fulbright grant to spend academic 2021–2022 at Freie Universität Berlin in Germany. He is conducting research with members of the university's PathoGraphics project and writing a work of graphic medicine, a genre that uses comics to explore health care issues.

The Fulbright is a dream come true for King, a first-generation college student from Vacaville in northern California. He earned associates degrees in English and liberal arts at Solano Community College in Fairfield, California; then he transferred to UC Davis as a Regents Scholar, receiving a BA in English, with an emphasis on creative writing. Fascinated with comics—a medium he'd discovered his senior year at college—he wrote several comic books, commissioning artists to collaborate with him for pay.

In 2017, King and his wife Rachel Deatherage, an opera singer, moved to New York City.

Working as a library assistant—a unionized title—at Columbia University, he used his 1199SEIU tuition benefits to enroll in the MLS/MA offered jointly by QC's Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences and the History Department. Meanwhile, as an employee at Columbia, he was able to take classes at its School of Professional Studies in screenwriting, humor, and French, German, and Japanese.

This wide-ranging background equipped King for his Fulbright proposal, a graphic medicine project on obsessive hoarding, a disorder he has grappled with since a young age. "I can use the research skills I acquired at Queens College and my experience in archival work to explore the psychology behind holding on to stuff," he observed.

"If ever there was a good fit between project, person, and place, this is it," said Julia Sneeringer (History), who taught King in her MA courses on Nazi Germany, as well as Film and History. "Ryan's goals mesh perfectly with PathoGraphics' emphases on historicity, aesthetics, politics, and epistemology, building on his work in library science and literary studies."

Borough President Funds FNES Lab Rehab

Faculty, staff, and students in the Department of Family, Nutrition, and Exercise Sciences were delighted when Queens Borough President Donovan Richards earmarked \$1.25 million to overhaul the college's food science and management laboratory—a 2,000-square-foot facility. Richards announced the project, part of a total \$4.5 million in allocations to the CUNY colleges in Queens, on a visit to campus on Monday, May 24.

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards flanked by QC President Frank H. Wu, left, and CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez.



Outdoor Improvements Are on Track

State and city legislators are going the distance in supporting improvements to QC's soccer field and track.

On June 16, leaders from the Borough of Queens and CUNY met at the construction site for the field and track renovation, a \$9.3 million project funded by New York State and New York City. Work began in January 2021 and is expected to be completed early next year.



The college's NCAA Division II athletes use the soccer field for games, conditioning, and sport-specific training; intramural events and physical education classes take place there, too. Its benefits aren't limited to the college. Public and Catholic diocese school championships and Special Olympics events are staged on the field. Community groups use the field for soccer, track and field, and field day events.

Breaking ground are, from left, Queens College Athletics Director Robert Twible, Student Association President Zaire Couloute, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, Queens College President Frank H. Wu, City Council Member Francisco Moya, State Senator Toby Stavisky, City Council Member James Gennaro, Special Counsel for Ratepayer Protection and former City Council Member Rory Lancman, CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, and student athlete Shannon Gibbons.

Athletics Springs Back

After being sidelined in 2020 by COVID-19 regulations, several Knights teams returned to action last spring. In shorter than usual seasons, the baseball team qualified for the first round of the East Coast Conference (ECC) playoffs; the men's and women's tennis teams won their respective ECC Championships and qualified for the NCAA tournament.

Despite the pandemic, QC honored its scholarship commitments to student-athletes with the help of Retention Incentive Supporting Excellence (RISE). This program was funded through an emergency allocation by the Queens College Foundation.



Expressing Pride Online

Queens College supported diversity and inclusion in June with a pair of Pride events.

On Thursday, June 3, from 7 to 8 pm, organizers from CUNY

drag numbers, and cameos by community leaders, including City Council Member Daniel Dromm—Queens Pride co-founder—and other members of the New York City Council.

The 4th Annual CUNY Pridefest at Queens College was livestreamed on YouTube on Friday, June 25, from 4 to 6 pm. A DJ, PRIDE dancers, and other performers were on the lineup. Festival-goers were able to capture their favorite moments through a virtual photo booth.

Video footage from both the Queens Consortium Pride Celebration and the CUNY Pridefest will be preserved in the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives/CUNY.

Law School, LaGuardia Community College, Queens College, Queensborough Community College, and York College hosted the CUNY Queens Consortium 2nd Annual Virtual LGBTQI+ Pride Celebration. The party featured live music, student performances,

Modest in Size, Large in Impact

Good writing often comes in small packages. That was the impetus for the CUNY Chapbook Festival, a three-day virtual event celebrating a cherished, time-honored format: slim poetry collections that range from stapled photocopies to hand-lettered presses and digital productions.

Presented by the CUNY MFA Affiliation Group—comprising the MFA programs at Brooklyn, City, Hunter, and Queens Colleges—and Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, the festival opened on Thursday, February 18. Matvei Yankelevich, poet, translator, and executive director of nonprofit publisher Ugly Duckling Presse, gave the keynote, followed by a reading and performance by the Cornelius Eady Trio. The festival's remaining dates, on March 18 and April 15, featured a panel discussion, readings, and presentations. New York State Poet Laureate Alicia Ostriker—whose chapbook *Ideas of Order & Disorder*, a collection of poetry and photographs, was published expressly for the festival—delivered the April keynote. Asynchronous programming included a virtual book fair and guides to making chapbooks.

CUNY Distinguished Professor Kimiko Hahn (English) planned this festival for March 2020, only to have it postponed by the pandemic. A fan of chapbooks, she has acquired many over the years and donated more than 200—ten of which she wrote herself—to Rosenthal Library's Department of Special Collections and Archives.



Hahn

Hart Transplanted to CUNY



Hart

improving online access to information resources for students, faculty, and staff; and building on CUNY's progress in advancing open educational resources and scholarly communications.

Kristin Hart, chief librarian of Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library since 2017, has moved over to CUNY as university dean for Libraries and Information Resources, effective July 6, 2021. Among other achievements, Hart reimagined the Rosenthal Library and steered it through the coronavirus pandemic. Her responsibilities in her new position include facilitating collaboration across CUNY libraries;

Simone Yearwood has been appointed acting chief librarian of Rosenthal Library. A three-time QC alumna—she earned a BA in Sociology in 2004, a Master's in Library Science in 2007, and a Master of Arts in Urban Affairs in 2009—Yearwood began working at the college in 2011. In her previous role as deputy chief librarian, she represented the library at campus, university, and national levels on issues and policies relating to research and scholarly delivery and communication.



Yearwood

Practicing What She Teaches

Chloe Bass (Art), co-director of Social Practice Queens, received a rave *New York Times* review last fall for *Wayfinding*, presented by the Studio Museum in Harlem. *Wayfinding*, Bass's first institutional solo exhibition, involved 24 site-specific sculptures posted throughout West Harlem's St. Nicholas Park. Exploring three questions—"How much of care is patience? How much of life is coping? How much of love is attention?"—and made of reflective materials that blended into their surroundings, the installation felt especially relevant in a city coping with crisis. Bass subsequently staged *Wayfinding* on the campus of the Pulitzer Arts Foundation in St. Louis, adjusting her work to suit the location.



Netflix Documentary Offers Food for Thought

Foodies have been transfixed by "High on the Hog," a four-part Netflix series that charts how African Americans have shaped the palate of the United States. The documentary ranges from Benin, West Africa, to several U.S. cities, and profiles extraordinary chefs and entrepreneurs—such as Hercules Posey, the slave who presided over George Washington's kitchen before running away. "High on the Hog" is based on the 2011 book of the same name by scholar and Queens College Professor Emerita Jessica B. Harris '71 MA, who can be seen on screen.



Faculty Elevated to Top University Ranks



Torrejón McHugh

José Miguel Martínez-Torrejón (Hispanic Languages and Literatures) and Cecilia McHugh (School of Earth and Environmental Sciences) are the latest members of the QC faculty to become distinguished CUNY professors, an acknowledgment of their exceptional scholarship and contributions to their respective fields. Martínez-Torrejón, director of the Catherine of Bragança Center for Portuguese Studies, was named CUNY Distinguished Professor of Latin American, Iberian, and Latino Cultures last spring. He specializes in peninsular medieval-Golden Age literature, colonial historiography, and aspects of the Portuguese Renaissance. Over the summer, McHugh was named CUNY Distinguished Professor of Marine Geology with a specialty in Sedimentology. Working as nearby as Sandy Hook Bay and as far away as the South Pacific, she studies ancient sediment and maps sea floors to learn more about past earthquakes and perhaps anticipate future natural disasters.

QUEENS IN MEMORIAM

The greater Queens College community suffered tremendous losses in the past year or so. In these pages, we celebrate the lives and achievements of people who were affiliated with the college and are no longer among us.

David Alsop

A long-term member of the Biology Department, David Alsop passed away in July 2020. Alsop grew up in northern New Jersey, where he got the insect “bug” early, gathering specimens from the woods. He studied entomology at Cornell University and joined the Queens College faculty in 1970. His research specialty was cockroaches; colleagues recall encounters with examples of *Gromphadorhina portentosa*—the Madagascar hissing species—that escaped from his lab. He was so fond of roaches that he gave his name to a tropical species he identified in 1993: *Paramusoa alsopi*. In 2002, Alsop received the President’s Teaching Award for Excellence in recognition of his work in developing course guides and resource materials for invertebrate zoology and parasitology. He served his department as chair and member of its P&B committee and was deeply involved in the Academic Senate and university-wide. Retiring after nearly 37 years on campus, Alsop moved to North Carolina, setting up black-light sheets on his porch so he could continue collecting insects.



Saul Cohen

Former Queens College President Saul Cohen died in June 2021; he was 95. The son of immigrants from Vilna who settled in Massachusetts, Cohen attended Boston Latin School. He interrupted his freshman year at Harvard to enlist in the army, which assigned him to a demolition unit in Europe from 1943

to 1946. Demobbed, he returned to Harvard University to study geography, completing his doctorate in 1955. He taught at Boston University and then Clark University, serving as professor and dean of its Graduate School of Geography, where he achieved particular success in recruiting minority students. As QC president from 1978 to 1985, Cohen secured funding for key capital projects, including the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, the Aaron Copland School of Music Building, science facilities, and Townsend Harris High School. After leaving QC, he was a professor of geography for ten years in Hunter College. Elected to the New York State Board of Regents in 1993, he chaired the Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Committee when it established new academic standards for the schools.



Marianne Cooper

Associate Professor Emerita Marianne Cooper, a Queens College faculty member for nearly four decades, died of COVID in April 2020 just after her 82nd birthday. Born in Budapest in 1938, Cooper—nee Abonyi—survived both World War II and the Soviet invasion of Hungary. Helped by the Hebrew Immigrant

Aid Society, she and her mother made their way to Syracuse, New York; they became U.S. citizens and Marianne earned a bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University. Continuing her education at

Columbia University, she completed a doctorate in Library Science and began her 36-year-career at QC. Cooper taught in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, serving as chair for the department as it adopted new technology. Then she became the college’s affirmative action officer. A working mother and civic leader described by loved ones as a suburban superwoman, she retired in 2011, giving her more time to spend with her husband, children, and grandchildren.

Herbert Cooper commemorated his wife and the life they built together in an essay, posted at <https://rebrand.ly/MVCBio>.

Stanley Crouch

Eminent cultural critic Stanley Crouch, a recipient of a MacArthur Foundation “genius” grant who served as chair of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, passed away in September 2020 at the age of 74. An accomplished poet, novelist, and essayist, Crouch was in his twenties when he began teaching college-level English without holding a degree; a self-trained percussionist, he stopped playing jazz and devoted himself instead to writing about it, calling the genre “the highest American musical form because it is the most comprehensive, possessing an epic frame of emotional and intellectual reference, sensual clarity and spiritual radiance.” Playwright-director George C. Wolfe and trumpeter Wynton Marsalis were among the people mentored by Crouch, who helped to found Jazz at Lincoln Center and was a senior creative consultant for “Jazz,” the documentary series by Ken Burns.



Photo by Dominick Totino

Morris Dickstein

CUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English and Theatre Morris Dickstein, who spent much of his career teaching at Queens College, died in March 2021. The son of Eastern European immigrants, Dickstein attended Columbia University on a General Motors scholarship, majoring in English. He continued his education at Yale, where he would earn master’s and doctoral degrees, interrupting his studies in New Haven with two years at Cambridge. A scholar whose interests encompassed literature, film, and cultural history, Dickstein addressed these topics inside and outside the classroom. He published widely, contributing to the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, *American Film*, and numerous other titles, notably the *Partisan Review*, where he was a member of the editorial board from 1972 until the magazine folded in 2003. His books include *Gates of Eden: American Culture in the Sixties*, nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award, and *Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression*, a finalist for that award more than 30 years later.



Lawrence Eisman

Lawrence Eisman, professor emeritus of Music Education at the Aaron Copland School of Music, died in February 2021, at the age of 87. Eisman completed bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Queens College, majoring in education with an emphasis on music, and went on to New York University for his

EdD. After teaching in Long Island public schools, he joined QC full time, becoming an institution in his own right: He chaired the music faculty and envisioned and founded the college’s Center for Preparatory Studies in Music (CPSM), leading it for 29 years. Eisman retired from QC in 2002. Four years later, in recognition of his many contributions, CPSM was renamed the Lawrence Eisman Center for Preparatory Studies in Music. The center’s namesake continued teaching until 2019. His influence extended far beyond campus. Author of *The World of Music*, Volumes VI, VII, VIII, and many articles and reviews in the *Music Educators Journal*, Eisman was a curriculum chair for the New York State School Music Association and served on the editorial board of the Music Educators National Conference.

Shirley Slotkin Gorenstein '49

Influential social scientist Shirley Slotkin Gorenstein '49 died in September 2020. A prodigy in her field, she traveled at the age of 17 to the Kahnawake Reserve in Quebec, Canada, to study Mohawk ironworkers, presenting her paper to the American Ethnological Society in 1946. After graduating from Queens College, she earned master’s and doctoral degrees in anthropology from Columbia University. In the 1960s and '70’s, Gorenstein led archaeological expeditions in Mexico, and wrote and edited numerous books and articles on Mesoamerican archaeology. After a decade as a professor at Columbia, she founded the Department of Science and Technology Studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.



Hugo Kaufmann

Hugo Kaufmann, professor emeritus of Economics, died in May 2021. A classics major at the University of Basel in Switzerland, Kaufmann changed course after working at Bank Japhet in Jerusalem and spending several summers in Chemical Bank’s management training program. He earned his

doctorate in economics at Columbia University in 1968 and was associated with Queens College for the bulk of his career, retiring in 2012. For 20 years he was also the director of the European Union Studies Center at The Graduate Center, CUNY, where his research explored the economic effect of the unification of Europe. Kaufmann published widely and presented papers at conferences in the United States and Europe. Dedicated to the QC community, he served four terms on the Academic Senate, was a member of numerous committees, and with his wife, Shoshanna, participated extensively in college activities.

Norma Kershaw '72

Norma Kershaw, an archeologist and educator, died in September 2020 at the age of 95. Kershaw was a 40-something married mother of two when she enrolled at Queens College. Majoring in

anthropology and art history, she graduated Phi Beta Kappa; then she earned an MA in art history and archaeology from Columbia University, participating in fieldwork in Cyprus, Egypt, and Israel. Kershaw taught at the Great Neck Adult Program, Hofstra University Continuing Education—where she received the Conger-Patterson Award for Distinguished Teaching—and LIU Post. In addition, she served as a lecturer for the United Nations Cultural Affairs Committee from 1976 to 1989. She founded several archeological organizations, including the Long Island and Orange County chapters of the Archaeological Institute of America, becoming its first and to date only trustee emerita.

Margaret Tellalian Kyrkostas

Margaret Tellalian Kyrkostas, alumna and faculty member, passed away in February 2020. Born in Queens to Armenian immigrants, Kyrkostas was in her forties when she went back to school. After earning a bachelor’s degree from Queens College and a master’s in Physical Anthropology from New York University, she joined QC’s Anthropology Department. In 1977 she launched the Museum of the People of New York at the college, curating multiple exhibitions and organizing community events; she served as the museum’s director until the end of her life. She also curated an exhibition for the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, *Armenia: Memories from Home*, insisting that it include photographs and text documenting the Armenian Genocide.

Corky Lee

Photographer and activist Corky Lee, a Queens College alumnus, passed away in January 2021. Born in Queens to Chinese immigrants, Lee studied American history at QC and used his career to correct the way that history was depicted. Struck by the fact that no Asians appear in photos of the 1869 ceremony in Promontory Summit, Utah Territory, marking completion of the transcontinental railroad—a project built by thousands of Chinese laborers—he restaged the event for the first time in 2002; his version featured more than 200 Chinese, Chinese American, and Asian Pacific American participants. This act of photographic justice, which became an annual event in 2014, exemplified Lee’s determination to represent all Asian Americans. In his 45-year career, his subjects ranged from South Korean-born competitive eater Sonya Thomas to Sikhs holding a Central Park vigil to protest bias attacks in the wake of September 11.



Albert Levenson

Albert Levenson, a long-term member of the Economics faculty, died in May 2020. Levenson earned his bachelor’s degree at City College and his doctorate at Columbia University. He held a Ford Foundation fellowship and taught at Hofstra University before joining Queens College in 1961 as an assistant professor. Attaining full professorship nine years later, he went on to serve as an associate dean of Social Sciences and acting chair of his department. Levenson was the author of *Manpower Supply and Demand in Nassau-Suffolk, 1965–75* and a member of several professional associations.

QUEENS IN MEMORIAM



Aline Pascale Lubin

Aline Pascale Lubin, Queens College alumna and former head coach of women's volleyball, passed away in November 2020. Lubin graduated from QC with a degree in elementary education and earned a Master's in Urban Education from Cambridge College. As head coach of women's volleyball at QC for

from 1993 to 2010, she had 268 victories—the most in the program's history at the college. Her teams made the East Coast Conference tournament (formerly known as NYCAC) for 13 straight seasons. Lubin earned Conference Coach of the Year honors in 1993, 1997, 2003, and 2004, and American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Northeast Region Coach of the Year Honors in 2003 and 2004. She was inducted into the Queens College Athletics Hall of Fame with the Class of 2015.

Peter Mattson

Professor Emeritus Peter Mattson passed away in November 2020 at the age of 88. Mattson earned his bachelor's degree at Oberlin College and his PhD at Princeton University, then a center of research leading to the plate tectonic revolution. In 1964, after seven years in Puerto Rico with the U.S. Geological Survey, he came to Queens College as a founding member of the Department of Geology; he twice served as its chair, growing the department and designing its first master's program. Mattson's research focused on Caribbean tectonics and petrology but included studies in seismology and paleomagnetism. He conducted field work in 20 states and over 15 countries, including Canada, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Mexico, and Venezuela. His work led to two research volumes, scores of articles and conference presentations, three geologic maps, and several unpublished reports.



Reynold Ruffins

Painter, illustrator, and graphic designer Reynold Ruffins, a Queens College professor emeritus, died in July 2021 at the age of 91. Ruffins studied at the High School of Music and Art and then Cooper Union, where he met classmates Seymour Chwast, Milton Glaser, and Edward Sorel. Together, they co-founded

Push Pin Studios, which created designs and logos for IBM, ATT, Time Life, and the U.S. Post Office, among a host of notable clients. Leaving the firm to pursue his own projects, Ruffins went on to illustrate juvenile fiction, more than 15 titles in all. His work on *Running the Road to ABC*, a story about Haitian children going to school, won him the American Library Association's Coretta Scott King Award. He also collaborated with actress Whoopi Goldberg and musician Herbie Hancock on a video for children, *Koi and the Kola Nuts*, based on an African folktale. Predeceased by his wife, Joan, an artist and Cooper Union alumna, Ruffins is survived by their four children and six grandchildren.

B. Charlotte Schreiber

B. Charlotte Schreiber, a member of the Geology faculty for nearly two decades, died in July 2020 at the age of 89. Schreiber earned degrees from Washington University, Rutgers University, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Imperial College, London, before joining Queens

College in 1975. Specializing in sedimentology, she was the author or co-author of more than 100 peer-reviewed articles. Retiring from QC in 1993 after the death of her husband and fellow Geology professor, Edward Schreiber, she went on to positions at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, and the University of Washington, in Seattle. Professionally active into her 80s, she was a recipient of the Association of Women Geologists' Outstanding Educator Award and the International Association of Sedimentologists' Sorby Medal.

Sydney Schwartz

Sydney Schwartz, an expert in the field of early childhood education, passed away in November 2020. Schwartz earned her EdD from Teacher's College, Columbia University. One of the first presidents of the New York State Association of Early Childhood Teacher Educators, she served as dean, chair, and professor emerita at Queens College, and university director of teacher education for the City University of New York. Her professional activities included evaluating New York City-funded early childhood programs, co-directing the CUNY Literacy Enhancement Project, and chairing the CUNY task force to redesign the clinical component of teacher education for Middle States. The author of many articles, book chapters, and books, Schwartz worked closely with New York City public schools, influencing curriculum and policy for thousands of teachers across several decades.

Sheldon Soffer

Manager and mentor to generations of performers, Sheldon Soffer passed away in June 2021. He was 93. The Bronx-born son of Jewish immigrants, Soffer graduated from the High School for Music and Art, Queens College, and UC Berkeley, where he earned a master's degree in conducting. After a brief career at the podium, he founded his eponymous firm. He ran Sheldon Soffer Management until his retirement in 1999, representing an internationally celebrated roster of singers, instrumentalists, conductors, choreographers, and dance troupes. He also played a critical role in introducing the Suzuki Method of early music education to the Rochester area in the mid-1960s, and then nationwide. Soffer was predeceased by his parents, siblings, and partner of 28 years, Stanley Segal.



Mimi Stern-Wolfe '58, MM '62

Pianist and conductor Mimi Stern-Wolfe '58, MM '62, died on June 21 at the age of 84. The daughter of left-leaning Jewish immigrants who arranged for her to take piano lessons, she grew up in Ozone Park and the Rockaways, commuting to the High School of Performing Arts in Manhattan. She subsequently completed degrees from QC and the New England Conservatory and studied privately with Nadia Boulanger. Stern-Wolfe—who retained her hyphenated name after her marriage ended in divorce—worked with the Lake George Opera and the Aspen Music Festival. But she was best known for founding Downtown Music Productions, which presented socially conscious programming, such as concerts that celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. or featured repertoire written by women. In 1990, she launched the Benson AIDS Series, showcasing



composers and musicians who had AIDS or had died from it. Stern-Wolfe is survived by her partner, poet Ilsa Gilbert; her daughter, singer-songwriter Laura Wolf; and a grandson.

Donald Stone

Donald Stone, a member of Queens College's English faculty for several decades, died in January 2021 at the age of 79. Stone held a bachelor's degree from the University of California-Berkeley and a doctorate from Harvard University, and focused on the Victorian novel. His teaching career encompassed Beijing University, where he continued to work for years after his retirement from QC. Eager to see the university's Arthur M. Sackler Museum of Art and Archaeology develop Western holdings similar to the Chinese collections at prominent U.S. educational institutions, he purchased French and British prints that he donated to the museum and acquired others for it on commission. China recognized his efforts by giving him the National Friendship Award at a ceremony in the Great Hall of the People in 2014.

Tom Sullivan MLS '10

Tom Sullivan MLS '10 passed away in May 2021. Sullivan was a business librarian for accounting and finance at Texas A&M University's Business Library & Collaboration Commons, where he was known to go out of his way to support faculty. He was remembered for his big laugh, his devotion to the Green Bay Packers, and his knowledge of thousands of books. Before his employment at Texas A&M, Sullivan worked at Newman Library at Baruch College, taught library research methods at the Brooklyn campus of ASA College, and was a researcher for a host of companies, including Fox News, PwC, Barclays, Morgan Stanley, and Ernst & Young.



Rita Tancredi '53

Rita Tancredi '53, an elementary school teacher, passed away in October 2020 at the age of 88.

At Queens College, she majored in education, belonged to the Westinghouse Plan, and played intramural basketball. She did a stint in the military and had a long career in education. After retiring in 1988, she traveled the world and enjoyed Broadway, museums, and all that the city has to offer. She lives on at campus through a bequest that provides direct scholarship support to students.

Randolf Tobias

Professor Emeritus of School Administration Randolf Tobias died in July 2021. Tobias held a BA in Social Studies from Virginia Union University, a master's degree from Brooklyn College, and a doctorate in Education from Columbia University's Teachers College. As a Mellon fellow, he explored ways to increase the learning potential of culturally diverse communities. Tobias wore several hats at Queens College, serving as chair of the Department

of Educational and Community Programs and dean for special programs at the Percy Ellis Sutton Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge. The author of *Nurturing At-Risk Youth in Math and Science: Curriculum and Teaching Considerations* and *Ensuring Success in Math and Science: Curriculum and Teaching Strategies for At-Risk Learners*, he gave lectures and trained educators in England, the Netherlands, and South Africa. He is survived by his wife, Sandra Anthony-Tobias, like him an ordained elder at Clanton/South End Presbyterian Church; their blended family of five children; nine grandchildren; and many relatives.

Michael Twomey '48

Michael Twomey '48, a Queens College benefactor honored at the 2008 Gala, died in August 2020. In his student years, Twomey held class offices, played three sports, led the Dead End Boys house plan, and was sports editor for the *Crown*. After college, he enjoyed a high-powered career with American International Underwriters but found time for service on the local school board. In retirement, he and his wife, Barbara, a classmate he met at QC, spent half of each year in Scotland. Returning to the states for good in 2000, they lived in New York City and then Williamstown, Massachusetts. Their longstanding support of their alma mater culminated in the dedication of the Barbara and Michael Twomey Lounge in Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library. "There's really no way to pay back what we received from Queens College," Twomey said at the lounge's dedication in April 2007. "With the opening of this lounge, we feel like we're part of the college again." Twomey was predeceased by his wife; he is survived by their daughter, Celia, and numerous nieces and nephews.



Joyce Wallace '61

Doctor and activist Joyce Wallace '61 passed away in October 2020. A history major at Queens College, Wallace completed pre-med requirements at Columbia University's School of General Studies and earned an MD at SUNY Downstate. In the 1980s, seeing patients at her Greenwich Village office, she was in the vanguard of physicians who reported a rise in the incidence of Kaposi's sarcoma among gay men, as well as the disease's connection to the syndrome that would become known as AIDS. Later, through studies she conducted among prostitutes, she documented links between intravenous drug use and HIV infection. Wallace launched the Foundation for Research on Sexually Transmitted Diseases—which merged with the community health center Harlem United in 2007—and served on the faculties of New York Medical College, Stony Brook University, and the precursor to the Icahn School of Medicine. In 1992, she received the \$10,000 Brooke Russell Astor Award for contributing substantially to New York City's betterment.



VIRAL RESPONSE

Students, faculty, staff, and alumni address community needs in the wake of COVID-19

Board Provides Emergency Funding for Students

In January 2021, the Queens College Foundation (QCF) allocated \$2.75 million in support of need-based scholarships, the QC student food pantry, and tech internships. Combined with funding from other sources, the one-time, supplemental infusion of funds reached \$3 million.

Most of the foundation's emergency support has been earmarked for a new Queens College scholarship program for undergraduate students. Effective during the spring, summer, and fall of 2021, the Retention Incentive Supporting Excellence program provides supplemental support to students who are unable to meet the costs of higher education as a result of the pandemic. Athletics scholarship obligations are being supported as well, with further funding allocated to address pandemic-related expenses as competition resumes. Funds are also being used for the Knights Table Food Pantry; internships operated by Queens College's Tech Incubator; and graduate student recruitment. (To learn more about the food pantry, see the following article.)



"We are eager to support President Frank H. Wu and his team to help assure greater student retention and graduation," said Lee Fensterstock '68, QCF chair and chairman and CEO of Fensterstock Associates. "We hope to inspire more alumni and friends to join us in contributing to student success."

"I know I speak for everyone when I think the Queens College Foundation for this generous initiative to help students stay in school and to keep many of us from going hungry," said Student Association President Zaire Couloute.

Food Pantry Prepares a Moveable Feast

The Knights Table Food Pantry has remained open by appointment throughout the pandemic, reducing food insecurity among matriculated students enrolled at CUNY campuses. Last year, through Turning the Tables on Hunger, the pantry began hitting the road. In December 2020 and again in the spring semester, the mobile distribution program made stops in designated Queens



neighborhoods to give out food and personal health care items. Turning the Tables dates were announced in advance; to pick up products, students had to RSVP, and wear a mask and practice social distancing at the site. By spring's end, more than 800 students and their families had benefited from this program. Services will resume for the seasonal holidays.

The Knights Table, which is supported by the Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation and the Queens College Foundation, has received monetary donations from community organizations and campus groups along with nonperishable items from QC employees and the Queens County Farm Museum. Volunteers, including college faculty, staff, and students, staff the pantry.

The Knights Table Food Pantry turned the table on hunger with a stop in Jackson Heights on June 4. Seen here from left are York College student Arelis Mera and QC students Jessica Gonzalez and Johanna Paula Gonzalez.



Research Resonates Beyond the Street

Information students gathered about the damage COVID-19 wreaked on street vendors was followed by New York City Council action.

Sari Kisilevsky (Philosophy) sits on the advisory board for The Street Vendor Project (SVP), a grassroots advocacy organization. In the summer of 2020, she hired students to conduct surveys and in-depth interviews of vendors for the New York portion of a 12-city longitudinal study set up by SVP and Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), an international network that empowers the working poor who are part of the informal economy.

Data compiled by team leader Talia Salas—daughter of a vendor—and her fellow students Irlanda Zea Marino, Luo Guannan, Husam Zaid, and Nasif Mia told a devastating story. In April 2020, 98 percent of survey respondents had zero earnings; by June, they were earning an average of just 20 percent of pre-COVID revenues, with 79 percent of respondents still making nothing. Moreover, 26 percent received no government financial relief and 63 percent received no government food assistance; many street vendors are undocumented and therefore are excluded from local, state, and national small business assistance programs. Respondents described struggles with COVID-19 illness, illness and deaths of family members, and inaccessibility of medical care. Poor mental health and anxiety were also affecting many street vendors.

Just over three-quarters—76 percent—of respondents borrowed money; drew down savings; sought financial help from family, friends or neighbors; or sold or pawned assets as a response to the crisis. Many have been unable to make rent payments, and more than half of survey participants expressed the need for assistance to meet basic needs.

The problem was compounded by the city's cap on street vending permits, which created a black market for them. A permit that normally costs \$200 to renew every two years can go for more than \$20,000 on the black market. Many street vendors were on the hook to pay for permits even as their revenues declined to almost nothing.

In January 2021, after WIEGO released its report, COVID-19 and the Informal Economy Study: City Fact Sheets, the New York City Council voted to more than double the number of permits. Over a decade that begins in 2022, 400 additional permits will be issued annually. To quash the underground market, City Council legislation requires permit holders to be present at their stands.

Volunteers Support Quest for Vaccinations

Past and present QC staff have been helping New Yorkers get shots at better health.

Rebekah Hanousek-Monge '07—director of both MS Human Resource Management and MS Organizational Leadership at Mercy College, where she is an assistant professor; formerly assistant director of admissions at Queens College—hasn't seen QC Director of Undergraduate Admissions Chelsea Lavington for about 15 years. But they keep in touch through Facebook. In January 2021, that's where they found themselves discussing their struggle to schedule vaccinations for eligible people in their circles.

As soon as appointments appeared online, they were filled. New York State, New York City, hospitals, and pharmacies maintained separate systems, forcing users to jump back and forth among multiple websites. "The process was so convoluted and complicated," observes Hanousek-Monge, who nonetheless prevailed. "In helping my parents and my dad's cousin get the vaccine, I learned to navigate the system." Lavington experienced a similar learning curve. To share their knowledge, the women created a Facebook group, Helping NYC Get Vaccinated, on January 12. "The group is completely nonpolitical," says Lavington. "We just want to help people get vaccinated. As more vaccine was being dispensed to New York, people searched and joined us, and the group started to grow."

Right away, they heard from Tony Ko, a SharePoint administrator in the Manhattan district attorney's office, and previously a system administrator and architect in the IT network and server group at QC. Ko set up appointments for his wife, who had resumed her commute to lower Manhattan, and his parents. He became the group's third administrator, alongside its founders. "QC is the connection among all of us," comments Ko, who has yet to meet Hanousek-Monge in person.

All three devote endless hours to Helping NYC Get Vaccinated, rewarded only by the knowledge that they are making a big difference in people's lives. In recognition of their public service, WCBS Newsradio 880 named their group one of its Difference Makers.

The public can visit the group's Facebook page, where members post appointments as they become available, report on vaccination side effects or lack thereof, and occasionally, in response to queries, direct non-New Yorkers to resources closer to their respective homes. There's no way to tally how many individuals have been immunized through Helping NYC Get Vaccinated. But its size—more than 9000 members, among them a considerable number affiliated in some way with QC—attests to the group's reach.



Rebekah Hanousek-Monge



(Left) President Frank H. Wu and New York State Senator Toby Stavisky at QC's pop-up vaccination clinic; (right) curator Stephanie Lee at work.

State, Local Hospital Call the Shots

Participating in the fight against COVID-19, Queens College turned the Student Union into a state-sponsored pop-up vaccination site over the weekend of April 10–11, 2021. President Frank H. Wu was among the more than 1,200 people who rolled up their sleeves for the one-shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Assemblymember Nily Rozic publicized the public health event; Queens Senator Toby Stavisky and Queens City Councilmember James Gennaro dropped by to lend their support. “I thank our partners in New York State government, the college, and our local partners for making this happen,” said Congressmember Grace Meng.

The following month, alumnus Robert Levine alerted the college community to walk-in vaccinations at Flushing Hospital Medical Center, where he is chief operating officer. The hospital made the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine available to all QC students, faculty, and staff on May 5–7 and May 12–14, 2021; follow-up appointments for the second shot were issued to all.

Godwin-Ternbach Staffer Opens a Gallery in Her Garage

April 2020 was not an auspicious time to launch an exhibition space. But that’s when award-winning artist, graphic designer, educator, and curator Stephanie Lee, who works part-time at QC’s Godwin-Ternbach Museum, opened the Garage Art Center in Bayside, Queens. As the name implies, it’s housed in her garage, where Lee stages solo shows, welcoming visitors by appointment.

“There are so many good artists living in Queens,” observes Lee, a native of Busan (Pusan), South Korea, who holds a BFA in communications design and an MS in museums and digital culture from Pratt Institute. “I want to introduce high-quality art in the Queens community and connect artists with the local audience. I wanted to start from where I live, then amplify beyond Queens, rather than follow what’s already popular in the city.”

Remarkably, the Garage Art Center, which charges no admission, presents and promotes artists for free. “Materials such as postcard design, wall lettering, and press releases are provided by our gallery,” says Lee, who donates her services. (At the Godwin-Ternbach, she designs promotional material for exhibitions,

programs, and social media while assisting with the website and database management for the museum’s collections.)

Reaction has been positive, with enthusiastic coverage in the local press. “Artists love it, and the community responds very well,” Lee reports. Visitors from the QC community have been especially supportive. Two artists educated at QC serve on the center’s advisory board: Janet Schneider ’72 and Tina Seligman ’82.

Remembered in Our Hearts

Queens College deeply mourns the members of our community lost to COVID-19—faculty, staff, students, alumni, and retirees whose deaths were noted in the media or reported by their loved ones. When we can safely gather on campus, we will hold a ceremony to commemorate these cherished individuals whose lives ended too soon.

FACULTY

Peter Brancazio, *Adult Education*
 Marianne Cooper, *GSLIS*
 Lawrence Eisman, *ACSM*
 Kalma Shapiro Feinsod ’46, *ACE*
 Babette Solon Hollister, *Economics*
 Elliott Mendelson, *Mathematics*
 Johnson Tseng, *Economics*

STAFF

Joseph R. Brostek ’55
 William Helmreich, *Center for Jewish Studies*
 Dolores Lawler

ALUMNI

Robert L. Agnes ’66
 Louis Badinelli ’64
 Robert D. Bohan ’68
 Virginia C. Walker Callahan ’45
 Renee Sobel Diamond ’68
 Jack Eber ’69
 Sheryl Mankofsky Fabi ’74
 Ralph Gismondi ’01
 Ruth Rosen Gold ’74
 Joseph S. Sedgwick Hawley ’75
 Pamela Haynes
 Doris A. Berkley Herman
 Robert Klein ’66
 John E. Koveleski ’94
 Robin L. Zernit Lamkay ’64
 Roberta Landers ’82
 Corky Y. Lee
 William T. Morris ’80
 George Papazicos ’79
 Kaliop Kentrotas Papazicos ’83
 Frank Puppola
 Allen Rogoff
 Dezann K. Romain ’09
 Vincent J. Scire, Jr. ’85
 Dorothy L. Wells ’98
 Arlene R. Kirschenbaum Zide ’61



Professionals campus

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

Our distinguished speakers are experts in their fields as well as role models for career success. Most of them got their start at Queens College. *Professionals on Campus* gives students the opportunity to learn from and interact with alumni and friends of the college representing multiple industries and sectors.

The guest lectures were hosted virtually this year. We are proud to recognize the exceptional participants for the 2020–2021 academic year.

Dr. Alan Beyer ’74, Executive Medical Director, Hoag Orthopedic Institute

James Burdi, Partner, Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP

Benjamin Chevat ’80, Executive Director, 9/11 Health Watch

Michael Craig-Scheckman ’75, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Deer Park Road

Raymond Edwards ’84, Executive Vice President, Retailer Services, Kimco Realty Corporation

Lee Fensterstock ’68, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Fensterstock Associates

Eugene Fidell ’65, Senior Research Scholar in Law, Yale Law School

Loren Forrest Jr. ’92, Partner, Holland & Knight

Paul Frimmer ’66, Partner, Loeb & Loeb

Andrew Gavil ’78, Professor of Law, Howard University

Noel Hankin ’68, Former Senior Vice President, Multicultural Relations, Moët Hennessy USA

Gerard Hannon ’74, Partner, Baker & McKenzie LLP

Harris Horowitz ’78, Managing Director, Global Head of Tax Policy & Innovation

Dr. Elliot Jacobs ’66, Plastic Surgeon, Private Practice

Dr. Barbara Kirwin ’70, Forensic Psychologist

Dr. Lee Nadler ’69, Dean for Clinical and Translational Research, Harvard Medical School

David Newman, Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing, Content, and Communications Officer, New York Mets

Mark Rose ’85, Chief Executive Officer, Avison Young

Sherri Rossoff ’83, Managing Director, General Counsel, and Chief Compliance Officer, RockCreek

John Rzonca ’08, Senior Manager, Office of the General Counsel, Deloitte



The Art of Business and the Business of the Arts

By pooling the talents of faculty, staff, and community professionals at two new schools, Queens College will enhance options for students

Roughly a year after changing its divisional nomenclature, Queens College is undergoing perhaps the most significant restructuring in its history, launching a pair of schools, one dedicated to business, the other to the arts.

“When we look at what students want and what they wish for, and we look at what the market offers opportunities in, it’s apparent that we have so much already that could form a business school,” President Frank H. Wu announced in his first State of the College address last spring. “If we just put together everything that we have in the arts and bundle it, we’ll have a first-rate arts school.”

Queens magazine talked to Kate Pechenkina, interim dean of Social Sciences, and William McClure, dean of Arts and Humanities, to learn more about these plans and how they will enhance the education and career prospects of QC students.



Building the Business School of Tomorrow

QC has long offered BAs, BBAs, and BScs in business-related fields, as well as advanced degrees in accounting and risk management. The Queens College Business School (QCBS) will strengthen connections among existing programs and give students a comprehensive experience.

The finance curriculum is being expanded to include a concentration in fintech. Coursework covers cryptoassets and specific areas in computer science, economics, and mathematics. A new policy analysis track examines the regulatory environment, with coursework in political science, history, and sociology. These developments will provide the kind of background demanded by the financial and regulatory environments where most of the program’s students will find careers.

Academics will be accompanied by a constructive B-school culture. “What’s new is integrating our courses with advising, networking, internships, and other career opportunities,” Pechenkina comments. “We want to create a culture of support, development, and innovation.”

Seminars will enable students to interact with alumni speakers, some of whom serve on the school’s advisory board. Peer-to-peer networking will be just as important. “Students are resources for students,” says Pechenkina, noting that members of QC’s diverse student body can promote understanding of their respective cultures—insights that are critical for the BBA in International Business.

(Left to right) Ron Gross talks shop with Tao Wang (Economics).

Opportunities for on-campus collaborations already exist, thanks to the presence of the Tech Incubator at Queens College and a Small Business Development Center, as well as the introduction of Blackstone LaunchPad, an entrepreneurship training program funded by its namesake, the global investment firm. (QC is among nine CUNY colleges that just joined the LaunchPad network, which now comprises 45 schools in the United States and Ireland.) In addition, QCBS will emphasize connections to the local business community, a natural move given QC’s documented role as an economic engine for the borough, city, and state. “There has been a concerted effort among faculty members to look at the job opportunities for students within the Borough of Queens,” Pechenkina reports.

Right now, accounting and economics majors, as well as BALA and risk management students, will be automatically enrolled in the QCBS. Students can transfer from other majors after completing the prerequisites for the business track of their choice.

Maximizing Opportunities in a New School of Arts

“Queens College has always had strength in the arts,” says McClure. “We have huge resources, with more performance space than any other CUNY campus.” Those resources include three academic departments and the Kupferberg Center for the Arts (KCA), a multi-disciplinary institution representing the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, the Louis Armstrong House Museum (LAHM), and the Colden Auditorium, the borough’s largest indoor venue.

Clearly, students are attracted to Queens College, the alma mater of Carole King, Paul Simon, and Ray Romano. The college’s arts departments—Art; Aaron Copland School of Music (ACSM); Drama, Theatre and Dance (DTD)—jointly have about 1,200 majors and 300 graduate students. “A smaller, more focused school can give these students better advising,” McClure observes.

QC Arts will foster excellence, innovation, leadership, and inclusion. Experiential programs, such as internships, and the participation of Queens-based arts organizations will expand on the education taking place in classrooms, studios, and stages. New academic tracks, such as a minor in arts administration, are anticipated.

Alumni will be critical to QC Arts’ success. “In the arts, the path after graduation is often less than clear,” explains McClure. “We want to connect students to alumni and create personal resources in addition to financial resources.” Public participation will be crucial, too. “Important to the ethos of the school is that the community be involved,” McClure continues. “We’re working to diversify the pool of people engaged in the arts.”

(Left to right) Klaudia Morelowska is coached by Reri Grist '54, an internationally celebrated soprano.



Papageno (second from left), a bird-catcher, undergoes trials in a recent production of *The Magic Flute*.

The new school will specifically promote interdisciplinary work. *Satchmo Stomps! Stepping, Swinging, and Standing with Louis Armstrong*, an original QC Arts dance and music production filmed at the LAHM, will be released in February. A year of collaboration will result in the QC Arts production of Franz Lehár’s *The Merry Widow*, to be presented April 7–10, 2022. ACSM and DTD will co-produce it, art students will design marketing and promotional materials, and art and music history students will mount an exhibit that contextualizes the operetta. The bi-annual Student Arts Festival, wholly produced by QC Arts students, will take place at the same time.





Vincenzo Vivo's storefront in Brooklyn, New York.

Love Has No Borders

A Family's Discarded Letters Find a New Home Thanks to the Calandra Italian American Institute, a Florida Atlantic University Archive, and a Fateful Discovery

By John Scarinci

A chance discovery by an Italian American woman in Brooklyn helped to launch the Vivo-Fruttauro Collection, a series of transatlantic letters sent among members of an Italian family in Brooklyn, La Spezia, and Bagnoli in 1947. The collection can now be viewed online <https://itamm.omeka.net/collections/show/4> thanks to a partnership between the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute (affiliated with QC) and the Italian American Memories Documentary Archive created by graduate students at Florida Atlantic University (FAU).

The letters give a glimpse into the lives of Vincenzo and Giuseppina Vivo, their daughter Rosa, son-in-law Giuseppe Fruttauro, grandson Angelo Fruttauro, and other extended family members. In the letters, Vincenzo is living in Brooklyn apart from Giuseppina, who is having issues returning to the United States after visiting family in Italy.

In March 2016, Lisa Giordano of Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn, came upon the letters strewn on the sidewalk in front of a brownstone on DeGraw Street, between Smith and Court Streets. Once a significant Italian American community, Carroll Gardens became gentrified over time, with many houses gutted for renovation by new owners.

"I had gone down DeGraw Street and [the letters] were just all over the sidewalk," recalled Giordano. "You could just walk through them. It looked like someone had thrown them from a window or dumped them out in a box. . . These things lived for so many decades, and suddenly they were out on the street."

It was raining, so Giordano gathered the letters off the street, even though she had no idea what to do with them. She held on to them for several months, until she moved out of her apartment and needed to find a new home for them. Familiar with the Calandra

Despite the fact that we never met these people, Vincenzo and Giuseppina entered our family life through these stories and anecdotes.

Institute—she had attended some of its earlier seminars—Giordano went to its offices, hoping the letters could be preserved there. She ran into Joseph Sciorra, the director for Academic and Cultural Programs.

"There was something very soulful about this man," said Giordano of Sciorra. "I was so happy that he was there, and I got to hand the letters off to him. I just wanted them somewhere safe and with people who know how to speak Italian and at least read them."

Sciorra was similarly stumped about what to do with the letters; Calandra is not an archival institute. He kept the documents in his office until early in 2020, when he attended an Italian symposium hosted by FAU and discussed a collaboration with Viviana Pezzullo, a graduate teaching assistant at the university.

In 2018, with colleagues Domenica Diraviam, Vincenza Iadevaia, and Federico Tiberini from FAU's Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature, Pezzullo co-founded the Italian American Memories Documentary Archive. The online catalog collects miscellaneous material on Italian American history and culture, including letters, oral interviews, and postcards.

"I thought: 'Bingo!' Maybe we can give them this collection and see what they can do with it," said Sciorra. "Not only archive, digitize, scan it, and put it online, but even sort of look at it and examine it a little better."

Sciorra lent the letters to FAU, and Pezzullo and other students went to work reading and digitizing them. This proved to be a challenging task for both beginner and advanced students of Italian, as the letters were written in standard Italian with non-standard, dialect vocabulary and conjugation. The students also needed to piece together the relationships of each person mentioned in the letters.

"We didn't know anything about the families. We had to speculate and try to come up with theories," noted Pezzullo. "It was very interesting when we were trying to draw the family tree and understand who is talking to whom. Everyone calls Giuseppina 'mamma.' For someone you love in Italy, you call them mamma even if it's not your actual mother."

Pezzullo and her colleagues cross-referenced the names in the letters with historical databases and determined the living relatives of the correspondents. Pezzullo and Diraviam were hoping to contact them while traveling to Italy in the summer of 2020, but their trip was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Meanwhile, cousins of Giuseppe Fruttauro—great-grandson of the Vivos and grandson of their son-in-law, whose name he shares—stumbled across the collection online and alerted him to it. In April 2021, he emailed Pezzullo and shed light on the family history.

"When we were children, our grandparents, Rosa and Giuseppe, used to talk to us about their life in Naples; my grandmother's parents before the departure of Rosa, Giuseppe, and their children to La Spezia; and Vincenzo's trip to America. At a later time, Giuseppina and their children joined him in the U.S.," noted Fruttauro. "Despite the fact that we never met these people, Vincenzo and Giuseppina entered our family life through these

stories and anecdotes. After many years, we had the chance to meet Rosa's sisters and brother, who came to Italy on vacation to visit their sister, brother-in-law, nieces, and nephews."

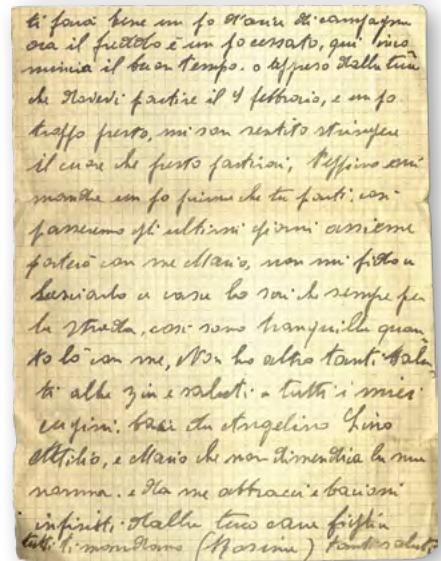
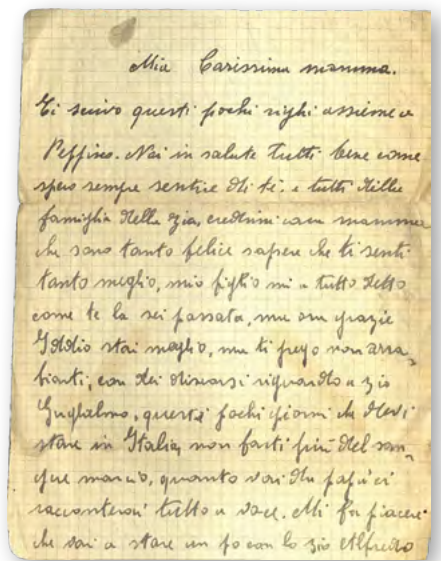
Giuseppe and his family were touched by the letters and the opportunity to discover untold stories about their family. "We were amazed about how these letters exchanged by our loved ones arrived into our life, so many years later," said Fruttauro. "It was moving to see how love bound these people who were so far apart."

Sciorra expects these letters will be a great opportunity for researchers to study the second wave of immigration from Italy, which occurred after World War II. The vast majority of research on Italian immigration has focused on the first wave, from the 1880s to 1924.

"There's a very nuanced narrative that emerges from this collection that warrants further investigation," noted Sciorra. "We get a sense of the intimacy and the emotional impact that separation of immigration brings. The almost sort of desperate need to want to maintain this connection despite the distances. . . ."

"So much of what [historical] documents contain are legal documents, laws, the writings of the elite and government officials, and sometimes celebrities and personalities. But here we get the intimate exchanges between husband and wife and various relatives and we learn about their concerns. We learn about their affections—their emotions.

I think the letters open up the window to the immediacy of family that are in the midst and throes of emigration. This is a story that continues to reverberate for our times."



A letter from Rosa Fruttauro to her mother, Giuseppina Vivo

Another QC Legacy

The latest installment in a series about families with a tradition of studying at Queens College

Howard Sipzner and Family

By Jacquelyn Southern

Howard Sipzner '83 has been in and about Queens College for much of his life. A graduate who—like so many before him—found the college a springboard to a rewarding career, he has excelled professionally in finance: he helped break new ground in financial instruments and in technologies of data analysis, and he steered a public real estate company through the financial crisis of 2008. Today he serves as treasurer of the Queens College Foundation (QCF) and chair of its investment committee—roles crucial to the long-term health of the college, work that he modestly describes as “giving back.”

A native of Kew Gardens Hills, he followed his older brother, Robert Sipzner '78, in attending QC. His mother, Sydell (Schwabel) Sipzner, was a part-time bookkeeper and his father, Israel, worked in the garment industry. “A private university was definitely too expensive for our family, and Queens was a great value,” he remembers. He was able to enter QC on early admission, skipping his senior year of high school.

Sipzner's verve and curiosity were already on display in his undergraduate years. He speaks enthusiastically of his coursework while characterizing himself as “a numbers guy.” As a young freshman, he says, “I was probably a little bit ahead of my skis, but got my appetite whetted.” His professors inspired him—among them Michael Dohan (Economics), who made analysis of demand and supply curves “exhilarating.” (Dohan was honored by another alumnus who created the Professor Michael Dohan Endowment Fund for economics scholarships.) Similarly, Jerry Waxman (Computer Science) sparked a lifelong engagement with computers; despite “a big lecture hall and probably a couple hundred kids, I still managed to connect with him and develop a love of programming.”

After a year and a half of study abroad in Israel, Sipzner returned to QC just as computer science became “very hot,” jumping in with passion and resourcefulness. To work around the need at that time to use card readers on campus, he and his friend Jay Denberg '83 bought the components to make their own computers that would allow them to dial into campus. “That was a huge timesaver,”

he recalls. “Computers were exploding at that time. I remember the computer clubs on campus and all the excitement around programming and rudimentary hardware. Those were really the early days of some of the first computers—the Atari, the Commodore, and other manufacturers were bringing out their first models.”

In 1983, Sipzner graduated *summa cum laude*, having majored in computer science and minored in economics and mathematics. Rather than proceed immediately to a seat at Harvard Business School, he deferred admission and worked for a couple of years at Merrill Lynch Capital Markets as an analyst in the public finance group. When he began, they were using Lotus 1-2-3 and a dial-up service to design bonds. “It was archaic and it didn't do most of what we needed done,” recalls Sipzner, so he and a fellow analyst wrote more powerful software in Basic. “I remember that the people we worked with hated the idea that bankers were doing programming,” but the proprietary MLBAPSM became Merrill Lynch's new bond-structuring software. (He and his friend also entertained themselves by writing a program called Lunar Landing, using real formulas for space travel.)

Sipzner went on to earn his Harvard MBA and to pursue a career in banking and real estate. His work in finance has been related to real estate development, a sector that requires nimble thinking and a full toolkit of both standard and emerging skills, and it offered him the opportunity to move around the Eastern Seaboard before finally returning to metropolitan New York. “Finance, as I got to do it, was really everything. We touched every aspect of real estate,” he says. As a vice president of several Chase divisions, he had

“Queens has really been a shining bright star for me... I got involved in the investment committee, which fit my background.”

“comprehensive real estate banking experience,” from traditional lending and asset sales to loan syndication, workouts, and investment banking—and he continued to innovate technologically. “The tail end of my time at Chase was really the early years of the growth or rebirth of real estate investment trusts (REITs),” he adds. “We got involved on the credit side, lending to many of those companies and helping others grow larger through mergers or acquisitions.”

When he became executive vice president and chief financial officer (CFO) of Equity One, Sipzner executed billions in capital market transactions—and kept challenging himself intellectually as the firm grew more than tenfold to over \$3 billion in market value. All this experience stood him in good stead when he took over as executive vice president and CFO of Brandywine Realty Trust, assuming control of the finance, accounting, and IT departments—just as the country was going into the 2008 crisis.

“Just managing a company through that period when our equity value disappeared and there was no capital out there was an experience. That was not an economic crisis, that was a financial crisis,” he recalls. “Liquidity dried up, banks were failing, it was a crazy period. We had to figure out how to keep the company moving forward until things loosened up.” In his seven years with Brandywine, he led the company's successful response to that crisis, including structuring and closing more than \$4.5 billion in debt financing, equity issuance, asset sales, and joint venture transactions, and completing about \$900 million in debt repurchases.

These days, Sipzner has branched out into new endeavors. He was a founding partner of Workspace Property Trust, a suburban office realty company, and as the founder of Dunes Capital LLC, he manages diversified realty services. “Lately I've rolled my sleeves up and gotten into the actual work on projects,” he says, “kicking the tires more, evaluating individual real estate projects and executing necessary improvements.”

Through these years of high-stakes positions, Sipzner has maintained ties to the college. His wife, Rhonda (Borgen) Sipzner '84, graduated just one year behind him. Other family alumni include his son Zachary Sipzner '13 and his daughter-in-law Penina (Gold) Sipzner '09. His daughter Lauren (Sipzner) Ganz took classes at the college, and many friends' children attended QC as well. When he was approached to serve on the board of the QCF, he was glad to volunteer. “Queens has really been a shining bright star for me,” he says. “I got involved in the investment committee, which fit my background. We've survived a number of ups and downs, and make a lot of decisions about how to invest our portfolio. I've had the chance to work with some very talented people inside and outside the foundation on that. So that was a very important squaring of the circle for me, that chance to give back and get involved once again with Queens College.”

That appreciation of others' labor and knowledge, combined with concern for young people, is a common thread in the Sipzner



(Above) Sydell and Israel Sipzner joined their son Howard at Commencement; (right) the proud QC alumnus as he looks today.

family's life. Rhonda Sipzner has volunteered for some 20 years at the Jewish day school their children attended, and he volunteers his financial skills at synagogues and other Jewish organizations. “It's one of the more satisfying things I do—being able to help these organizations serve the next round of people who are going to go there and use these places.”

For Sipzner, QC meant “great education that was challenging and fair and thorough. Great faculty. I never felt I missed anything by not going to what some would call a better school, but in reality probably wouldn't have been. Great friends, to this very day. I also liked the fact that it was a commuter school because throughout that period, I held all kinds of odd jobs. I think kids to this day who go to Queens College often juggle the campus learning experience while doing some kind of work, probably in many cases to pay for the education, which brings it back full circle to the Queens College Foundation. One of our primary mandates is to create scholarship funds so kids have to do that as little as possible, don't have to spend that much of their time or any of their time working so they can go to college. We can take that pressure off.”

In fact, the economic and social diversity of the college is, for Sipzner, a measure of its success and part of what keeps him committed to sustaining its future. “When I came in as a Jewish student, the college then—and even more so today—is just such a microcosm of Queens and New York City. It's probably got every nationality represented there, every language, whether on the faculty, the staff, or students. You're surrounded by diverse neighborhoods on all sides. It's a great place to get ready for society at large and get familiar with what it's like out there. That tapestry of all those different backgrounds is just unparalleled.”

Five for the Board

Richard Barakat '81, Victoria Fernandez '18, MLS/MA '21, Amber Guth '79, Julius Mercado '01, and Olivier Noel '11 join the Queens College Foundation



BARAKAT, an internationally recognized surgeon and clinical investigator, leads all the oncological services and research at Northwell Health, including the Cancer Institute, which treats more than 19,000 new patients each year. He is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell and the author or co-author of more than 340 peer-reviewed articles and numerous textbook chapters. Barakat received his BA from Queens College and his MD from SUNY Downstate. In addition, he earned an MBA from the Columbia University School of Business.



As the museum coordinator at the Harriet and Kenneth Kupferberg Holocaust Center at Queensborough Community College, **FERNANDEZ** helps develop and revise exhibition content, instructs student programming, manages library and archival collections, and facilitates a monthly Holocaust survivor support group. As the 2020–2021 Freda S. and J. Chester Johnson Civil Rights and Social Justice Archives Fellow at the Special Collections and Archives of Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, she facilitated an oral history project to curate and publicize collections related to the civil rights activities of Queens College students during the 1960s.



GUTH, a distinguished surgeon and researcher, is a member of the faculty at New York University School of Medicine. As NYU Langone's first female attending surgeon, she led the way for other women in her field. Guth is at the forefront of using new techniques and technologies. She uses MarginProbe®—a device that detects cancer cells in healthy tissue during breast surgery—to reduce follow-up procedures.

She also uses the SAVI SCOUT® system, which eliminates the need for people to have an additional radiologic procedure the day of surgery. Guth has published more than 200 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and abstracts.



At Queens College, **MERCADO** juggled his classes with employment. Upon graduating with a BA in Accounting and Economics, he started his career in the investment management assurance practice of PriceWaterhouseCoopers, where he primarily worked with hedge fund clients and PwC teams across the globe. In 2004, he joined Columbia Investment Management Company (CIMC). Mercado was instrumental in developing and implementing CIMC's investment operational processes, reporting infrastructure, and operational due diligence program. In 2018, he took over as the chief operating officer of CIMC.



NOEL moved from Haiti to Queens at age 18. At Queens College, he majored in chemistry and conducted research with Nathalia Holtzman (Biology). In 2015, he founded DNAsimple, which connects scientists in the United States and Canada to would-be study participants in the United States, who provide saliva samples. When he pitched DNAsimple on ABC's "Shark Tank," entrepreneur Mark Cuban took a stake in the company. After earning an MD/PhD at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Noel entered an integrated plastic and reconstructive surgery residency at the Yale School of Medicine.

Nurturing Students and Their Families

Public schoolteacher Ariadna Phillips runs a self-help network that supports the needy in the South Bronx

By Leslie Jay

As the founder of South Bronx Mutual Aid (SBXMA), Ariadna Phillips MSEd '20 has helped provide about 107,550 meals, 49,000 grocery packages, and 120 tons of items such as clothing, masks, diapers, formula, and wipes to people in the Bronx and Upper Manhattan since April 2020. SBXMA's work has extended to relocating families that have been illegally evicted and organizing tenants—many of them immigrants—to stem housing loss. Phillips sees this volunteer project as the outgrowth of her responsibilities at the South Bronx's Laboratory School of Finance and Technology: MSHS 223, where she is director of World Language/Dual Language. "People working collectively has helped make for better solutions," she observes.

Her commitment to struggling individuals is grounded in her upbringing in Clearwater, Florida. Phillips was 14 when she lost her father, a social studies teacher in public school. Her mother was pursuing a master's degree in foreign language education, but her undergraduate credentials—awarded by institutions in her native Mexico and France—weren't initially recognized by the body charged with evaluating them. She left the program shy of her degree and worked at a call center for \$8 an hour.

"I became the caretaker for my sister, who is four years younger," says Phillips. "She had to do whatever I did. I had my sights set on an Ivy League school, so I'd take her with me to the library."

Phillips was accepted to Princeton, where she majored in anthropology and started a breakdancing crew that entered contests in the South Bronx. She asked to be assigned to the area when, upon her graduation in 2003, she joined Teach for America and enrolled in Fordham University's Master of Science in Teaching program.

Bicultural and bilingual, Phillips was disturbed to learn that the bilingual educational model then in effect subtracted students' home language instead of adding English to it. Another problem: Her classroom was poorly equipped. "There were 36 students in my class, but I had only ten books (primary readers), and even fewer for bilingual education," she recalls. "I went home to Florida, brought my childhood books back to the Bronx and outfitted my classroom."

Armed with her MST, Phillips left the public school system, and later, New York. She relocated to the Salt Lake City area and eventually established a bilingual early education program. "I had a son," she says. "I opened up my own school to have him with me full-time."

Missing New York, she returned. By 2012, she was again working for the New York City Department of Education; within a few years she would go back to school herself. She earned a TESOL certificate (PreK-12) in bilingual and multilingual education and completed two computer science fellowships. Then Phillips came to QC for a Master's in Educational Leadership, "because Soribel Genao's program offers a culturally responsive and multilingual framework to thinking about educational leadership as liberation work," she says.



In December 2020, Ariadna Phillips and fellow SBXMA organizer David Arvelo paused for a photo op as they picked up produce from another mutual aid organization. Making several stops that day in Queens and Brooklyn, they collected donated food, clothing, and gifts for a Posada family celebration and distribution in the South Bronx's Mott Haven neighborhood.

"Ariadna was a great representation of her cohort—inspiring, motivating, and always curious," says Genao. "Ariadna's specific role among the cohort was unique. Her love for families and communities was a reminder of authentic leadership, engagement, and collaboration."

Affiliated since 2015 with MSHS 223, Phillips has a demanding schedule. Nonetheless, in February 2020, she found time to collaborate with activists trying to help people recover from the previous year's earthquake in Puerto Rico. "I was sourcing and transporting supplies, handling logistics," explains Phillips.

After the pandemic struck, she performed similar functions in the Bronx. She built a team of volunteers willing to pick up and distribute donations, and made connections with businesses that could contribute food or personal supplies. By fall 2020, SBXMA was linked to a network of community refrigerators that could store perishables. As of summer 2021, Phillips had shifted SBXMA's primary operations to stocking these refrigerators instead of delivering food directly to recipients.

She credits her apparently endless energy to strong self-care practices. "I'm a *curandera*," she says, citing her knowledge of indigenous remedies. Caffeine helps, and here, too, her choices have sociopolitical ramifications. "There are really delicious fair-trade alkaline coffees made in the mountains in Puerto Rico and Nicaragua."

ASK: What You Can Do for Your Alma Mater

Virtual Program Facilitates Connections between Alumni and Students Who Can Learn from Them

How can Queens College students benefit from the broad range of knowledge possessed by QC's alumni community? Just ASK (Alumni Sharing Knowledge). Launched by the Office of Alumni Relations in September 2020, ASK enables one alumnus or a group of alumni to connect with students in different career preparation programs, all taking place over Zoom.

Taruna Sadhoo, who directs the QC chapter of CUNY Service Corps, works with Laura Abrams (Alumni Relations) to procure alumni speakers for her World of Work classes and Lunch and Learn series. "We address various career readiness topics: branding for social media, communication and professionalism in the workplace, networking, global intercultural fluency, interviewing skills," Sadhoo said. "We also address civic engagement and community service and how you can use those skills to advance your career readiness."

ASK speakers generally talk about their professional journeys. Many QC students, some the first in their families to attend college and/or from immigrant families, don't have a support system to rely on when making career decisions. Consequently, the alumni network is a valuable asset for all phases of their lives.

Amy Mack '94 appreciated the opportunity to talk to peer counselors as one of Sadhoo's guests in fall 2020. "It was great to connect with current QC students. I hope they enjoyed hearing my stories, my advice, and felt inspired," said Mack, a former peer counselor herself. She made a second appearance, alongside Linda Maney Quaglio MSEd '17 and Robinson Cajamarca '16, in

Conversations with Psychology Alumni, an ASK program presented in April in collaboration with Elizabeth O'Connell from the Center for Career Engagement.

Other spring 2021 career panels focused on Media Studies, with Jason Figueira '08 and Stephanie Dunbar Schmitt '15; Political Science, with Jacob Hochberg '16 and Susan Stamler '81; and English majors and *Knight News* staffers, with Cesar Bustamante Jr. '09 and Gauthier Giacomoni '09.

During a Lunch and Learn session open to all students, business consultant Ronald Frank '68 spoke about best practices in interviewing. Students prepared mock interviews and received feedback from Frank. He serves the ASK program in another way: He's a member of a committee that several alumni joined in January 2021 to promote awareness of ASK among their own QC networks. Three other members, Ricardo Cortez '72, Gerard Passaro '79, and Barry Katz '75, spoke with students in World of Work sessions in the spring.

Diane Shults, co-chair of the ASK Committee, taught a World of Work class during summer 2021. In July, financial advisor Lee Korn '96 discussed his QC journey. BFA candidate Cindi Li, a design major who anticipates graduating at the end of Fall 2021, valued the opportunity to meet Korn virtually. "Conversations led by Lee Korn have reinforced my outlook on what it takes to be successful in the workplace," she said.

Korn was equally impressed by Li and her fellow students. "As an alumnus of Queens College, I am never surprised at the tenacity and grit that the students exude," he wrote Shults. "QC is certainly preparing students for success in the 'world of work.' As an entrepreneur in the market to hire, I can think of no better place to start than Queens College. Please keep me in mind for future opportunities!!"

Abrams routinely updates the ASK roster and shares it with Sadhoo, Shults, and O'Connell. The general campus community, Abrams says, can also request alumni guests for remote classes. She encourages interested alumni to reach out to alumni@qc.cuny.edu.

Alumni Sharing Knowledge Participants through July 2021

Peter Archer '85, MSEd '87 (Retired Instrumental Music Director, Middle School 74, Bayside, NY)

Cody Bachu '14 (Product Integration Analyst, Church Pension Group)

Andres Baena '13 (Principal, Baena Law Group, and Manager, Blue Rock Real Estate)

Zoy Balaskas '95 (Senior Vice President and Chief Underwriting Counsel, Commonwealth Land Title Insurance Company)

Cesar Bustamante Jr. '09 (Media Monitoring Manager, 72Point Inc.)

Robinson Cajamarca '16 (MS Candidate, Industrial-Organizational Psychology, Baruch College, CUNY)

Anika Chowdhury '18 (Production Coordinator, DreamWorks Animation)

Ricardo Cortez '72 (Co-Chief Executive Officer, Broadmark Asset Management)

Stacey Dackson-Weir '93 (Vice President and Director, Special Projects Department, Structure Tone)

Jason Figueira '08 (Assistant Media Services Technician, Borough of Manhattan Community College)

Ronald Frank '68 (Business Consultant and Executive Coach)

Gauthier Giacomoni '09 (Assignment Editor, CBS News)

Patricia Greenberg '85 (Owner, The Fitness Gourmet)

Jacob Hochberg '16 (Chief of Staff, Office of Congressman Henry Cuellar, U.S. House of Representatives)

Barry Katz '75 (Senior Vice President and General Manager, NEP Group, Inc.)

Lee Korn '96 (Financial Advisor and Principal, Opal Wealth Advisors)

Amy Mack '94 (Special Assistant, Youth Services Division, DC Department of Human Services)

Charusmita Maden '19 (Business Analyst and Product Manager, Bank of America)

Linda Maney Quaglio, MSEd '17 (School Psychologist and Adjunct Professor)

Gerard Passaro '79 (Senior Vice President, Network and Technical Operations, MSG Networks)

Stephanie Dunbar Schmitt '15 (Regional Representative, Disney ABC Television Group)

Isaac Sobel '14 (Director of Finance, SeniorCare Emergency Medical Services)

Karla Padawer Solomon '14 (Training and Education Coordinator, Achieve Behavioral Health)

Susan Stamler '81 (Executive Director, United Neighborhood Houses)

Monika Szegda '14 (Associate, Multinational Corporate Banking, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Hong Kong)

Stephanie Ubiergo '17 (Senior Analyst, Legal Compliance Risk Management, MasterCard)

Maria Ubiergo-Davis '10, MS '12 (Senior Data and Insurance Specialist, BASF; MBA Candidate, Business Analytics)

Margarita Zias '19 (Information Security Risk Management Associate, Discover Financial Services)



Incubating In-House Talent

Alumni and students teamed up to help startups through a program administered by Schiro Withanachchi (Economics) and Ying Zhou (Tech Incubator at Queens College).

Last summer, 17 economics and business majors held paid virtual internships at the incubator, offering support to resident companies. The students were mentored by David Auslander '85 (chief architect and technology innovation leader at Microsoft), Stacey Dackson-Weir '93 (VP and director at Structure Tone), Ronald Frank '68 (managing partner at Ronald S. Frank, LLC; former managing partner at IBM), and Jonathan Vazcones '11 (VP of Community Reinvestment at M&T Bank). "The students gained practical experience and the firms benefited from their knowledge in such fields as finance and statistics," says Withanachchi.

Evelyn Rodriguez, a senior majoring in quantitative economics, strengthened her understanding of different technologies while assisting Walkspan, which creates customized pedestrian routes. "During our weekly meetings, my mentor would give us a detailed introduction to the technology we would work with on our next task and also discuss in-demand tech skills and different career paths in tech," Rodriguez reports. "The tasks that followed allowed me to implement what I had learned."

Vazcones was thrilled to help bridge the gap between education and employment. "As a person of color, I take pride in speaking to students who look like me, have an upbringing similar to mine, and have many of the same doubts and questions I once had . . . I truly appreciate the space that the TIQC/Economics summer student mentorship program created to address the issues beyond the surface."

Because of its success, this internship program will be continued.





Photo by: Elizabeth Barschle

Art comes to life in Yvonne Shortt's studio.

Conversation Pieces

Yvonne Shortt '08 wants her art to start dialogues

By Leslie Jay

“Art is a tool to talk to people about their issues,” says social practice artist Yvonne Shortt MA '08. *Elevations*, a project Shortt mounted on Queens College grounds this summer, is no exception. Comprising half-a-dozen 5- to 6-foot Afro picks with ornamented handles fixed to welded metal teeth, the installation is part of a series she started last year to prompt conversations about what it is like to be a person of color. She envisions *Elevations*, which is as personal as hair care and as public as anything presented outdoors, as a collaborative narrative. In late 2022, the picks' handles will be replaced by new ones, some created jointly with students and alumni.

Art is a second career for Shortt, a Queens native whose grandparents, parents, and brother all studied at QC and whose niece is enrolled at the college. “In high school, I struggled with math,” she recalls. “A kind teacher saw that I thought differently—great in calculus, not so great in algebra.” Encouraged by that teacher, Shortt ended up majoring in math at New York University and becoming a computer programmer.

She spent 15 years in the financial sector. “The great part about this work was being exposed to so many different types of people,” she says. “Some people flaunted their wealth; others had a car that was 20 years old.” Shortt lived comfortably in Manhattan with her husband, Richard West, who worked in finance tech, and their two young daughters. “I enjoyed it until I didn't,” she comments. “Where I grew up, there was no doorman. There was no one who picked up the trash. I wanted that lifestyle for my daughters.”

After the family moved to Rego Park, Shortt noticed that her children's new elementary school differed from the one they previously attended. “In Manhattan, my daughters' school offered a robotics class, a Spanish-immersion class, a chess club,” she observes. “The PTA's operation budget was \$300,000. In Queens, we didn't have those classes, and the PTA's budget was \$12,000.” To understand this disparity between two public elementary schools in the same city, Shortt wanted to take Urban Studies courses at QC. Told that she could create her own capstone project to investigate

“Find the thing that you can bring to Queens College to help the next generation so that they can do amazing things.”

topics that mattered to her, she enrolled in the master's program. Her capstone was design in the urban environment.

Ever since, her art has been shaped by the desire to analyze and solve problems, starting with a trash-strewn Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) underpass on 63rd Drive. Shortt founded Rego Park Green Alliance and in five years, with funding from City Council Member Karen Koslowitz, reclaimed the site, decorating it with murals. The Department of Transportation and the LIRR participated in the venture.

That experience gave Shortt a model for organizing community projects and finding legislators and corporate donors to support them. “Public art is expensive,” she notes. “I do all the fundraising myself.” Rego Park Green Alliance morphed into RPGA Studio, a nonprofit that uses art, design, technology, education, and activism to address community issues around Queens. The studio is headquartered in the house where Shortt and West raised their daughters; the family relocated to Forest Hills Gardens.

In addition to leading RPGA, Shortt is an accomplished social practitioner exhibited in New York City and beyond. Using materials ranging from aluminum and wood to marble dust that's cast in a mold, she creates pieces that call attention to overlooked or undervalued individuals, such as members of minorities or people with disabilities. For example, one sculpture of an African American woman, to be made of soap, is designed to erode through exposure to water.

Shortt's distinctive work attracted interest from the Kupferberg Center for the Arts (KCA). “Yvonne Shortt's approach to social practice art—where she mixes her family history with the larger African American experience in the United States, and involves different communities—is much needed in these times of division and uncertainty,” says Julia del Palacio, director of strategic partnerships at KCA.

Shortt and KCA were discussing a show for the Queens College Art Center when the pandemic shifted their focus. “Instead, we agreed I would create Afro picks,” says Shortt. Her picks allude to combs first made in Africa more than 5,000 years ago out of stone or wood, with long, widely spaced teeth that are ideal for styling tightly curled hair. In the mid-20th century, simpler metal and plastic picks attained iconic status in the United States, where they were tied to users' ethnic and cultural identity. Shortt is building on this record while inviting thought about what people do to their hair and why.

A child's face emerges from petals in “Wildflower,” one of the Afro pick sculptures Shortt installed this year on Queens College grounds.

The pick handles, cast of marble dust and resin or sculpted in clay and fired in a kiln, merit close attention. One handle celebrates Shortt's grandfather, who left Savannah, Georgia, earned a math degree at Queens College, and became a teacher, supporting his wife and seven children. “That degree set my grandfather's life on a different trajectory,” says Shortt. “He ascended into financial security. He bought homes in Queens and Staten Island.”

Shortt remains grateful to her grandfather's alma mater, and her own. “QC is a wonderful opportunity for the community,” she comments. “The price is very reasonable, which allows you to do amazing things and not go into debt. Then you can give back to the college. It doesn't have to be money. You can give back a skill. Find the thing that you can bring to Queens College to help the next generation so that they can do amazing things as well.”



Photo by Richard West

From Sociology to Social Club

Noel Hankin '68 Helped Spark the Disco Era of the 1970s

By John Scarinci



Noel Hankin '68 enjoyed an active social life as a student at Queens College, regularly dancing and socializing with friends at campus parties. Shortly after graduating from QC, Hankin turned his leisure activity into a thriving discotheque business that contributed to the emergence of disco music in the 1970s.

When Hankin first enrolled at Queens College in 1963, he was having a great time making many friendships and memories. But as a pre-med major, he was struggling in his courses.

"I joined a fraternity the same semester I had a very difficult array of classes. I got carried away with the fraternity life... I failed all my classes. I went through an explosion of my social life and forgot how to balance my academic life...It was a wake-up call."

Hankin regrouped and started taking his studies seriously, attending night school in order to get back on track. He switched his major to sociology after a popular professor piqued his interest in the subject.

"The subject matter seemed interesting to me, and it gave me the flexibility to do a lot of different things. As it turns out, sociology proved to be quite appropriate for the business I wound up creating," added Hankin.

Upon graduating from Queens College, Hankin and his friends, including some who also attended QC, started a social group called "The Best of Friends." The group hosted dances with live bands for fun. But while attending one party with his friends, he came up with an idea for a business venture.

"One day I was invited to a birthday party at a club. It was a fabulous club," said Hankin. "The party was very exciting. The music was recorded, and the sound system was good and people were really enjoying it."

Hankin decided he wanted to create something similar that appealed to African Americans who worked in midtown and needed a place to socialize. He held a meeting with his social club and convinced his friends of the idea.

The Best of Friends started to partner with local clubs as promoters and launched their first discotheque in February 1971. After just a few weeks, the club was at capacity every night. They expanded to larger venues and the crowds kept coming, with thousands of people walking through the doors each week.

"My partners taught themselves how to play the music in such a way with their earphones and a mix board so that the beat never

stopped. Dancers never missed a step," said Hankin. "This was not a brand-new technology, but it was not often used. What they did that was brand new was taking a popular record and having two copies and playing the bridge over and over again to extend the length of play. It developed a strong word of mouth and built our reputation."

Eventually, they stopped promoting for other clubs and opened their own clubs, creating five in all—three in Manhattan, one in Queens, and one in Brooklyn. Their three discotheques in Manhattan— Leviticus, Justine's, and Bogard's—were the first Black-owned clubs in midtown.

Leviticus was their flagship club and became internationally known, attracting people from all races and walks of life—including major celebrities such as Elizabeth Taylor, Rick James, Nick Nolte, Arthur Ashe, Madonna, and members of the New York Knicks. Nile Rodgers, who wrote the disco hit "Good Times" was at Leviticus when he first heard an early recording of Sugar Hill Gang's classic hip-hop song "Rapper's Delight," which sampled the beat from "Good Times" without permission. (This led to Rodgers taking legal action and eventually being given writing credits for "Rapper's Delight.")

"We were by far the biggest African American player. We were huge. I feel what we did contributed significantly to the explosion of disco in the U.S. in the mid-1970s," added Hankin.

Although his discotheque business was flourishing, Hankin was burning the candle at both ends, still working his day job in advertising while working at the clubs in the evening.

"There were a couple years where I was working at the club every other night, leaving at 5 am and then going to work the next day, which was punishing. I needed more time with family, so I resigned from The Best of Friends and focused on my day job."

Hankin proved to be just as successful in his advertising career. At the advertising firm Ogilvy and Mather, he led a highly successful advertising campaign for Schaefer Beer, which drew the attention of Miller Brewing Company in Milwaukee. Miller offered Hankin a job as a brand manager in 1986.

While disco was fading in popularity in the 1980s, Hankin was focusing on some new objectives. At Miller, Hankin co-created the National Black Scholarship Fund which was backed by Miller Lite, the National Basketball Association, Reebok, and Sony. He also served as vice chair. The fund, which eventually changed its name to the Thurgood Marshall College Fund, supports scholarships for students who attended public historically black colleges and universities

(HBCU). To date, the Thurgood Marshall College Fund has raised over \$300 million in scholarships and helped prepare 260,000 students for career success through leadership training.

His work at the Thurgood Marshall College Fund was noticed by former president Bill Clinton, and Hankin was asked to serve on the advisory council for HBCUs during the Clinton Administration. Hankin met with President Clinton on an annual basis to identify priorities for HBCUs. One of the most important priorities Hankin identified was to continue the use of Pell Grants which provide need-based financial aid to students attending college.

"He was very attentive," noted Hankin. "He listened carefully, and he followed our recommendations pretty closely."

Following his work with Miller and President Clinton, Hankin returned to New York City and went on to serve as the senior vice president of Moët Hennessy in 1997. He provided leadership in development of multicultural strategic plans and initiatives for core brands in African American and Hispanic consumer markets until his retirement in 2010.

After his retirement, Hankin revisited his days in the discotheque scene and wrote a book titled *After Dark*, which was published in August 2021. The book gives a first-hand account of the memorable experiences Hankin had during the height of the discotheque era.

"This book puts a spotlight on middle-class African Americans in terms of social culture, and that's rarely seen and presented in such an authentic way. This was real life," added Hankin. "If you



look back at the 70s, what was the most significant thing happening in terms of socializing? It was the disco era. That's what defines the 70s. We played a large role in driving that."

Tripping the Night Fantastic

After Dark offers a step-by-step account of how entrepreneurs created a memorable dance scene

By Jay Hershenson

Put on your dancing shoes and your spiffy, bright clothes of choice. Pack your brush, your comb, a clean hanky or two, and step into Noel Hankin's time machine for a delightful journey to the 1970s world of New York City disco dancing. Experience first-hand the backdrop of "Fear City" vs. "Fun City." In that era, many business executives ran home to the outer boroughs and beyond from their Manhattan offices at the short end of a business day. The crack epidemic was in full bloom and nightlife suffered as the city coped with crime waves.

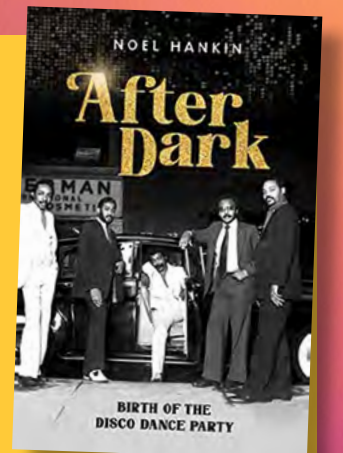
Others instead found sanctuary of a sort at a different kind of wave: disco parties in midtown Manhattan. They took the plunge onto the crowded dance floor at new lounges in midtown, pulsating with lights and rhythm.

I felt myself taking this exciting, indeed exhilarating and joyful ride through the pages of the new nonfiction book *After Dark*. The author, Noel Hankin, makes you an intimate part of "The Best of Friends," as his group of

college and investor friends strategically moved from the stresses and successes of their groundbreaking business ventures to the roar and delight of happy people.

I have known Noel for many years in his past roles as an advertising and beverage industry executive, a civil rights leader, and a philanthropist. We became special friends when Governor David Paterson appointed him to serve as a member of The City University of New York Construction Fund. We traveled to Albany together for his confirmation by the New York State Senate and celebrated his public service in support of CUNY college facilities. With this book, Noel, a proud and distinguished Queens College alumnus, has found his true calling as a captivating storyteller. The time machine is ready for you!

Jay Hershenson is vice president for Communications and Marketing and senior advisor to the president of Queens College.





A cohort of JFEW Scholars celebrated their graduation at a pre-pandemic Commencement.

JFEW Helps Women Achieve Economic Mobility

Since 2011, the Jewish Foundation for Education of Women (JFEW) has given over \$2,400,000 to high-achieving women students with financial need at Queens College. These JFEW Scholars participate in a visionary program that seeks both to educate and empower women to achieve economic mobility, a goal that has guided the foundation through its long history.

Although JFEW formerly granted scholarships to individual applicants, beginning around 2008 it moved to an innovative model of supporting Scholars through cohorts, in partnership with colleges, universities, and nonprofits. At present, there are 11 cohort-based programs, mostly in public higher education in New York State where JFEW is based and many within the CUNY system. The QC program partners with Communications Sciences and Disorders (CSD). In the view of JFEW President Lisa Cohen Liman, today's model is the culmination of years of experience with immigrant and first-generation women's education. "JFEW is almost 150 years old. The programs have evolved over many years, and this format is one we've found to be very helpful for the students in attaining their degrees."

Funds alone don't suffice. "Lots of people approach us, but it takes a lot to create a partnership," says JFEW Executive Director Rona Sheramy (daughter of Cecile Kornberg '59). "The key to our program is the program coordinator, and at Queens we simply could not ask for a more extraordinary program coordinator—Kathy Downing. She

serves as an advisor to the students on not just academic matters but helps navigate the challenges of college completion."

Every year, there are 40 students—selected by the CSD faculty—who are starting or completing their two-year journey as JFEW Scholars. In both their junior and senior years, these women receive up to \$3,500 in scholarship support, funds to attend a professional conference and four to six professional workshops, and personal advisement and mentoring by Downing and other faculty members. After junior year, they also receive subsidies for the summer internships needed in their field, which they might otherwise be forced to forgo for paid work.

"The students in this program are very accomplished and very driven," says Sheramy. "They are enrolled full time, they need to maintain a 3.0 GPA or above, they need to demonstrate financial need. Most of the students in our program are both Pell and TAP eligible. There are all different life experiences that have brought them to this incredibly demanding field of study."

JFEW's commitment to women's education began with Minnie Louis, an American of German Jewish heritage who founded the Louis Down-Town Sabbath School in 1880; its purpose was to help Eastern European Jewish immigrant girls learn English and acquire marketable skills. It developed into the Hebrew Technical School on the Lower East Side, a daily school with enviable

"We need more women in more leadership positions throughout our economy and throughout our society."

facilities. In the 1930s, when public schools engaged in vocational education, the Hebrew Tech building was sold to the New York City Board of Education and the proceeds were used to establish the Educational Foundation for Jewish Girls, which supported Jewish women's college education from the 1940s into the 1960s. In 1964, says Sheramy, "the foundation became nonsectarian and changed its name to the Jewish Foundation for Education of Girls (then to Women in 1977). This was in the context of the civil rights movement and the belief in supporting the educational and career aspirations of women of all backgrounds."

For all these reasons, the QC program is closely aligned with the goals and spirit of JFEW's mission. Public universities "are the most important institutions in terms of being the drivers of economic mobility," says Sheramy. "Queens College, and the women who are in this program, embody so many of the foundation's themes. Many of them are immigrants or the children of immigrants, many of them are first-generation college students. All of them are driven and determined, and incredibly hard workers. All the students come from backgrounds where there is financial need, but they are determined to create careers for themselves and to achieve economic mobility for themselves and their families."

Moreover, support for women remains urgent. As Liman says, "The landscape has shifted dramatically since the early days of JFEW, when higher education wasn't even an option for many women. There has been progress in that regard, and yet there are challenges." The pandemic, and its disparate impacts on women's work and careers, has inspired fresh resolve to help low-income women succeed at climbing the economic ladder.

"We also believe—it sounds very clichéd but it's true," adds Sheramy, "we need more women in more leadership positions throughout our economy and throughout our society. Women not only need a college degree for that, but they need networks for support. That gets back to creating these cohorts and communities, not only to support the women while they are in school but for that to be the basis of their network once they are out of school."

Although JFEW now helps women of all religions and backgrounds, it remains true to its roots. A Jewish value that guides its decision-making is *tikkun olam* (healing the world). "The notion is to support not just one's immediate community, but all communities and society as a whole," explains Liman.

"Something I talk about when I meet the new cohorts—and they're incredibly diverse," says Sheramy, "is what connects us all. At this time, when there's so much discourse around what does



Members of the 2020–22 cohort convened remotely for a full-day presentation on their summer internships.

not connect us and disagreement, what I'm so moved about in this program, and what our scholars speak about so eloquently when they share their own experiences, is how much connects us. What connects these women to the women who attended Hebrew Tech or who received a scholarship to go to college in the 1950s is this drive and commitment to education, and the belief in the necessity of education as a way to improve oneself and to improve one's family situation. The experience of this history very much guides the foundation today."

—Jacquelyn Southern

Harris Horowitz '78 Helps Advance the American Dream

Harris Horowitz '78 credits Queens College for giving him the skills needed to have a successful career, and in recent years, he has found several ways to give back to his alma mater.

Thanks to his financial support, Queens College established the Harris Horowitz Internship Opportunity Fund in early 2021. The fund provides financial assistance to undergraduate or graduate students who are participating in unpaid internships in the arts, education, public service, non-profit agencies, and other industries that do not traditionally pay their interns. The \$2,400 one-time stipend for eligible students has already supported a total of 25 interns for summer and fall 2021, with more students to be awarded stipends in the coming months.

"Oftentimes internships either don't pay or don't pay too well. And some of the students actually need to make money for family living expenses or to pay for their education," says Horowitz. "The idea was to provide funding to these students so they wouldn't have to choose between taking on an internship that they thought would be interesting and have long-term potential versus taking a job simply to make money."

Horowitz is a managing director and serves as the global head of tax policy and innovation at BlackRock, Inc. He is responsible for driving BlackRock's commercialization, awareness, and innovation of tax-efficient investment products. He also leads global tax policy efforts for BlackRock, its clients and products. Furthermore, he is a senior advisor on tax matters to BlackRock's businesses and functions.

"Queens College gave me a strong foundation of knowledge and experience that I could build upon," notes Horowitz, who majored in accounting. "It also helped in the liberal arts context. I didn't just take accounting courses. I took history, political science, English, and other courses that were very helpful for a lot of the soft skills one needs to succeed."

This is not the first time that Horowitz, a native of Whitestone, has given back to QC. In 2019, he established the Murray and Harris Horowitz Scholarship Endowment at Queens College, named for his father and himself. The endowment provides an annual scholarship for four consecutive years to a student in good academic standing—with a preference for a performing arts student—who demonstrates financial need.

In 2013, he funded the Murray Horowitz Scholarship in the Arts Endowment, which provides an annual scholarship on the basis of talent in art, music, drama, theatre, or dance. That same year, he established the Norma and Murray Horowitz Concert Series Endowment, named in honor of his parents. The endowment supports concerts at the Aaron Copland School of Music.

His father had audited some art and music classes at QC following his retirement. It was then that Murray Horowitz learned



Harris Horowitz

of the various concerts the music school hosted, which he and his wife regularly attended until his passing.

"When my father passed, I thought it was a good way to remember him. He really loved Queens College—the programs they sponsored, making friends and interfacing with people he ordinarily wouldn't have, and just enjoying himself," adds Horowitz. "The college is really a fun experience for retired people and it allowed my parents to enjoy their retirement."

Horowitz has also returned to campus on multiple occasions as a guest speaker at QC's Professionals on Campus series, providing his knowledge and insight to Queens College accounting and business students.

"When I went back to QC to speak, I was attracted by the diversity of the student body, not just ethnically or racially, but with past life experiences and how they were really devoting themselves to being good students in order to improve their fortunes in life," says Horowitz. "There were students in great need who might have been the first in their family to go to college, who were struggling supporting others in their family while also wanting to better themselves. I just thought this was a way to help keep the American dream alive."

—John Scarinci

1948: Franklin E. Kameny was celebrated posthumously as a gay rights pioneer by Google during Pride Month in June 2021. Google honored him with a doodle of his likeness on the site's homepage. Kameny filed the first gay rights appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1961 after he was fired from his job as an astronomer based on an executive order that effectively barred members of the LGBTQ community from federal employment. In the early 1970s, he successfully challenged the American Psychiatric Association's classification of homosexuality as a mental disorder; in 1975, the Civil Service Commission finally reversed its ban on LGBTQ employees. **1954: Reri Grist** received an honorary doctorate at Juilliard's 116th Commencement ceremony on June 18, 2021. Grist enjoyed a 30-year operatic career, singing major roles in leading opera houses across Europe and North America and serving as professor of voice in Munich and at Indiana University, Bloomington. She received an honorary doctorate from QC in 2010. **1956: Patrick Bowmaster**, nephew of **Harry J. Schmitt**, is writing a book about his late uncle, a member of the Air Force who died in 1958 after ejecting from an aircraft. Schmitt completed the Air Force ROTC program at QC, where he was a member of the baseball team and Sigma Alpha. You can send recollections to patrickbtemp@gmail.com. **1962: Lloyd Schwartz** had a new book of poems, *Who's on First?*, published by the University of Chicago Press. Schwartz is the recent recipient of grants from the Fulbright Foundation and Academy of American Poets. **1964: Ginger Weiss** was honored with the 2021 Driving Force Award by The Fund for Women (FFW) at the Delaware Community Foundation. The award is presented annually to a founder or FFW group that has gone above and beyond in moving FFW forward in its mission of empowering women and girls in Delaware to meet their potential. In the past several years, Weiss has helped connect FFW with multiple local events, allowing the fund to grow its founder base and

fundraising capability. **1965: Bruce Goldensohn** was named to the 11-member Redistricting Commission in Montgomery County, Maryland, to determine how new boundaries will be drawn for 2022 after the county approved two more council members and two more districts. **1967: Roberta Seret** released her novel, *Gift of Diamonds*, through Wayzgoose Press. The first installment of *The Transylvania Trilogy*, the book combines fictional government secrets and stories from Romania to construct an interchangeable series of self-discovery. **1969: Beverly K. Philip** was named president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA), the nation's largest organization of physician anesthesiologists. Philip assumed office at the Anesthesiology 2020 annual meeting and is serving for one year. **1971: Steven Askinazi** published his first book, *Digging Deep Aiming High*, a memoir of his career as a teacher and administrator in New York City public schools. The narrative follows the challenges he faced in his mission to defy the odds, raise the bar, reject mediocrity, and encourage all children to succeed. **1973: Michael L. Hect (MA '73)** received the University of Illinois Liberal Arts and Sciences Humanitarian of the Year award for his work on substance use prevention, risky sexual behavior prevention, and HPV vaccine promotion. Hecht is president of REAL Prevention LLC, a company devoted to technological innovation in prevention science, and a distinguished professor emeritus at Pennsylvania State University. **1973: Earl A. Fitz (MA)** and **Julianne Fitz** received the Dr. Gail Addlestone Community Building Award from the Nashville affiliate of Gilda's Club, a cancer support organization co-founded by the late Gene Wilder in memory of his wife, "Saturday Night Live" star Gilda Radner. **Douglas Giebel** had an

art exhibit, *Figures in Landscapes*, in March and April 2021 at Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI. **1974: Barry Bass**, a dentist, received the 2020 Nassau County Dental Society Humanitarian Award, which is given to the person who demonstrates "significant contributions to alleviate human suffering and improve the quality of life and oral health of fellow human beings." **1975: Daisy Cocco De Filippis (MA '78)** has been appointed president of Hostos Community College. She had served as interim president at Hostos since August 2020. In a statement CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez said, "Dr. Cocco De Filippis' personal journey from CUNY student to faculty to administrator and her work speak to CUNY's promise to provide students with the opportunity to succeed on a level playing field." **1976: Dov Apfel** was named a partner at the firm Levine & Perconti. Nationally recognized as an advocate for children with cerebral palsy and other neurological and intellectual disabilities, Apfel has litigated these matters throughout the nation for more than three decades. **1979: JoAnn Falletta (MA)** earned her second career Grammy Award, for Best Choral Performance in the Classical category, for conducting Richard Danielpour's *The Passion of Jeshua* with the Buffalo Philharmonic. **Doug Ress** has been recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*, through its exhaustive peer review surveys, as Philadelphia's singular 2022 Lawyer of the Year for bet-the-company litigation. **1979: Amy Losak** released a chapbook, *Poised Across the Sky* (Kattywompus Press), which was written by her late mother Sydell Rosenberg. **1980: Jeffrey Kordower (MA '83)** was appointed founding director of the ASU-Banner Neurodegenerative Disease Research Center and endowed chair as The Charlene and J. Orin Edson Distinguished Director at the Biodesign Institute at Arizona State University. He has conducted innovative studies on Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease and has a particular passion for researching Parkinson's and related disorders. **1981: Jed C. Albert**

was named a "2020 Leading Lawyer" by the 2020 *New York Metro Super Lawyers* and *New York Metro Rising Stars*. Albert is a trusts and estate attorney at Farrell Fritz. **Gabriel Escobar** was promoted to editor and senior vice president at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, overseeing its news operation. In Escobar's new role, he is responsible for driving the newsroom's digital transformation and ensuring that the paper continues to provide innovative and essential journalism to Philadelphia's many communities. **1982: Frank Spangenberg**, a former NYPD lieutenant, ran for New York City's 19th Council District, which includes College Point, Whitestone, Malba, Bayside, Douglaston, Little Neck, North Flushing, and Auburndale. **1984: Jahanara "Jan" Miotto** received the Empowered Woman of the Year Award for 2021 given by the International Association of Top Professionals, a boutique networking organization that handpicks top professionals from different industries. She is the founder and president for Metrendalytics LLC, which provides highly customized and flexible solutions, enabling real-time data access and advanced business analytics. **1985: Peter Archer (MSEd '87)**, a band teacher for more than 30 years at Middle School 74 in Bayside, Queens, served as a consultant on the Disney Pixar movie *Soul*, which features Jamie Foxx voicing Joe Gardner, a middle-aged teacher and musician. Archer helped pinpoint everything from the aesthetic of a middle-school band classroom to the challenge of balancing a passion for music and a love of teaching. *Soul* won an Oscar for 2021 Best Animated Feature Film. **1986: Susan Liebell**, a professor at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, was featured in a *Washington Post* article about returning to teaching during the pandemic. **1987: Peter M. Crisafulli** was named the assistant principal of Sippican School in Massachusetts. Crisafulli has over 19 years of experience as a public school administrator and 10 years working in community mental health and social services. **Christopher Tavella** was appointed the interim deputy secretary for human services and mental hygiene by New York

QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

State Governor Andrew Cuomo. In a statement, Cuomo said about Tavella and other appointees: "I welcome these talented team members to their new roles and can't wait to work with them to continue our economic recovery and deliver for the people of this great state" . . . **1989: Philip Brunetti (MA '93, MLS '15)** wrote his debut novel, *Newer Testaments*, which was released in November 2020 by Atmosphere Press . . . **1992: Elise Kaufman (MFA)** was featured in an article by *The Provincetown Independent* about her mixed media artworks, displayed at Off Main Gallery in Wellfleet, MA. Her collection, *Light Comes First*, featured art that captures light and memory . . . **1993: Vladimir Manuel** was profiled by *The Manila Times* for his work as head of the business development department at Pointwest Technologies Corporation, an IT company with more than 600 employees . . . **1995: Nina Kubota** was appointed president and CEO of the New York City School Construction Authority by Mayor Bill de Blasio in April 2021. She ensures that schools meet the current needs of students and teachers while remaining committed to safety, quality, and integrity. In a statement, de Blasio said, "Nina Kubota has the experience, vision, and tenacity to build on this mission—and deliver a full school return this fall that keeps every student in our city safe in the classroom" . . . **1996: Jessica Earle-Gargan** was elected a Queens County Civil Court judge. She won the Democratic primary in June 2020 with 71 percent of the vote and ran unopposed in the general election last November . . . **1998: Dennett Edwards** was hired as the first director of administration at Maryland Humanities, a statewide nonprofit that creates and supports educational experiences in the humanities. Edwards will seek to increase marginalized groups' access to employment opportunities and representation in the workforce . . . **2000: Dezarie Mayers**, director of Global Health & Social Impact at Pfizer, joined the corporate leadership council of CHC: Creating Healthier Communities as vice chair.

The council, which includes top executives and practitioners from more than 25 global organizations, works closely with CHC to drive change and advance social impact . . . **Catherine Ramirez (MA)** received the McKnight Fellowship for Musicians from the MacPhail Center for Musicians in Minnesota. Ramirez was one of four fellowship winners, each awarded \$25,000. The McKnight program provides annual, unrestricted cash awards to outstanding mid-career Minnesota artists in 14 different creative disciplines. Ramirez is an active solo, chamber, and orchestral musician and teacher . . . **2002: Daniel Maloney** was hired by the New Hampshire State Lottery as the first director of sports betting. Maloney leads strategies and executions for sports betting revenues and will identify potential partners . . . **Leslie Pieters (MSED)**, a physical education teacher at Roosevelt High School, was honored as one of Long Island's top teachers in the Inaugural *Herald* Head of the Class Awards. The awards celebrate the dedication, determination, and lasting influence of Long Island's educators . . . **2003: Denise Connolly (MSED)** has been appointed assistant principal of the New Hyde Park-Garden City Park Union Free School District. Connolly, who previously served as interim assistant principal, started her career with the district in 2005 as an ENL and special education teacher . . . **Nelsa Elias** was the recipient of the National Association for Lay Ministry's 2021 Juan Diego Award. The award honors people in ministry who inspire other laypeople to share the Gospel and recognizes an "outstanding witness to the spirit and values embodied in the life of the lay minister Juan Diego, the first saint of the Americas" . . . **Kristen Hart (MLIS)**, formerly chief librarian at Queens College, was hired as university dean for Libraries and Information Resources at the City University of New York. In this position, Hart facilitates collaboration across CUNY libraries; improves online access to information resources for students, faculty, and staff; continues rollout of CUNY's new library service platform; maximizes the value of the

CUNY-wide collection of scholarly, electronic resources; and advances open educational resources and scholarly communications . . . **2004: Arturo O'Farrill (MA)** won his seventh Grammy award for his album *Four Questions*, which was named Best Latin Album of the Year . . . **Janine Quijije** was named the chief advancement officer at Communities in Schools, a national organization that ensures every student, regardless of race, zip code, or history of marginalization, has what they need to succeed in school and beyond. In her new role, Quijije oversees the fundraising, marketing and communications, and new business development functions for the organization . . . **A'isha Torrence** was elected to the board of directors of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. She serves as president of the society's Manhattan/Bronx Chapter . . . **Simone Yearwood (MLS '07, MA '09)** was promoted to acting chief librarian at QC's Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library. She was previously the deputy chief librarian . . . **2005: Georgia Varidakis Simoes** was appointed executive director of the West Orange Chamber of Commerce. Simoes has more than 10 years of experience in developing events and retail venues that focus on helping small businesses grow and building local connections . . . **Gus Tsekenis (MLS)** was appointed Five Corners Regional Branch Manager by the Jersey City Free Public Library . . . **2006: Anna Caponsacco** has joined Magnus Financial Group LLC as vice president of investment operations . . . **Dominick Tolipano (AD)** was named the new principal of Denton Avenue School in New Hyde Park. He has over 21 years of experience as a school administrator and teacher . . . **2007: Sophia Foglia (MA)** was named the Educational Services Professional of the Year by Oakcrest High School in New Jersey. A paraprofessional within the Special Education Department, she has worked for the last three years with students in the Realizing Educational and Career Hopes program, which teaches life and employability skills through real-life experiences . . . **Jackie Azua Kramer (MSED)**

released her latest children's picture book, *I Wish You Knew*, a story about deportation, divided families, and the importance of community in the midst of uncertainty . . . **Imana Mosley** was featured in a *New York Times* article, "5 Minutes that Will Make You Love the Violin." Mosely, a musicologist and assistant professor at the University of Florida, chose *The Lark Ascending*, a piece written by English composer Ralph Vaughn Williams in 1914 . . . **Jessica Pugliese** was named vice president at the Nassau BOCES Center for Community Adjustment, which offers state-of-the-art programs for learners of all ages and abilities as well as cost-effective services for school districts and municipalities . . . **James Zervas (MSEd)** was appointed director of mathematics K-12 at the Herricks Public School District. Zervas brings more than 20 years of experience in teaching math to a diverse population of students to his new role . . . **2008: Jonathan Bonilla and Mike Montali** of the band Hollis Brown performed at the Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown, New Jersey, in April where they recreated the Rolling Stones album *Aftermath* . . . **2010: Gregory Lawson (MSEd)** was named principal of West Genesee High School in Camillus, New York . . . **Vanessa Nastro (MLS)**, an archivist at the Port Washington Library, published her first book, *Along Manhasset Bay*. The book traces the commercial and cultural history of the Manhasset Bay area for over 150 years. She was inspired to write the book by photos she found in the Port Washington Library archives . . . **2012: Christopher Hartigan (MS)** was appointed the principal of Stratford Avenue Elementary School by the Garden City Board of Education. He was previously vice president at the same school . . . **2013: Kristen Crow**, a first-year student at the University of Buffalo School of Law, was named the 2021 Diversity Scholar by Ward Greenberg Heller & Reidy LLP, a law firm focused on civil litigation and business counseling. The Diversity Scholar program offers students the opportunity to participate in a 10-week paid summer appointment . . . **Edward Ilyasov**, a former

adjunct in mathematics at QC, turned his pickle-making hobby into a full-time business during the pandemic. Edik's Pickles <https://www.uncleedikspickles.com> specializes in Bukharian pickles . . . **2015: Mike Papavlou** received the Guitar Teacher of 2020 Award from *Guitar World Magazine*. Throughout the pandemic, Papavlou continued teaching guitar to all ages and began a series of virtual open mic events and concerts . . . **Nelly Unger** opened up a dental practice in Deland, Florida, called Woodland Dental Care. Her mission "is to provide patients with custom-tailored dentistry and plans for life-long dental care" . . . **Joseph C. Pascale** was promoted to senior accountant

at Moore Beuston & Woodham LLP, an accounting firm in Charleston, South Carolina . . . **2017: Madison Rowland**, a former women's basketball star at Queens College, was featured in a *Times Union* article, "From the Court to the Kitchen," that highlighted her transition from professional sports to a career in the culinary arts . . . **2018: Linda Collazo** performed at the Eurasia Cultural Center in May 2021 with Pablo Zinger in *Songs About and By Powerful Women*, a concert consisting of arias and songs sung by the powerful female characters in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *L'Italiana in Algeri*, *Carmen*, *Show Boat*, and *Las Hijas Del Zebedeo* . . . **Emily Gorbach**

(**MLIS**) was appointed the youth services librarian at the Five Corners branch of the Jersey City Free Public Library . . . **2019: Khaleel Anderson** made history by becoming the youngest African American member of the New York State Assembly. At the age of 24, Anderson won the election in the 31st district, comprising parts of Arverne, Brookville, Far Rockaway, Hammels, Rosedale, South Ozone Park, South Richmond Hill, Springfield Gardens, and John F. Kennedy International Airport . . . **Lorenzo Bisogno (MM)**, a tenor saxophonist, won the International 2021 Massimo Urbani Prize in a contest held in Camerino, Italy. The competition gives young jazz

musicians the chance to perform and be judged by experts through rigorous live auditions. Bisogno's prize includes an eight-concert tour and support for a CD recording . . . **Amir Khafagy (MA '20)** was named a 2021 Ida B. Wells Fellow by Type Investigations. The fellows are emerging and mid-career journalists working in a variety of media formats and outlets. Each fellow receives a \$20,000 stipend, plus funds to cover reporting costs for their first substantial piece of investigative reporting. Khafagy is a freelancer who writes about the intersection of labor, race, class, immigration, and urban policy.

SAVE THE DATE

Marvin Hamlisch International Music Awards

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2022 • QUEENS COLLEGE

Join us for a concert featuring the

Queens College Aaron Copland School of Music

and the presentation of the

Marvin Hamlisch International Music Awards

The Marvin Hamlisch International Music Awards are presented in proud partnership with Queens College, The City University of New York, in honor of legendary alumnus Marvin Hamlisch '69.

Additional information to follow.



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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.

Steven T. Abend '79
 Vincent A. Abrahams '60
 Lila A. Abrahamson '49
 Robert L. Agnes '66
 Barbara Schaffer Amdur '70
 Judith G. Kaplan Anchel '63
 Michael B. Atkinson '87
 Judith A. Rissmeyer Azzato '67
 Louis Badinelli '64
 Alice Naomi Benston '53
 William C. Berenger
 Harriet Berg '47
 Beverly Netschert Berke '74
 Dorothy Solemnick Bernstein '54
 Joseph A. Bono '61
 Mitzi S. Bogurski Bowman '66
 Jeffrey N. Boyar '71
 June Marciante Brady '60
 Madeleine Dee Brennan '46
 Michael Brent '75
 Melvin Brez '58
 Harriet Sheveloff Brinen '58
 Marcy L. Bronfman '69
 Joseph R. Brostek '55
 Rose Brodrick Burke '48
 Robert G. Byrnes '16
 Virginia C. Walker Callahan '45
 Ellen Luper Cantor '61
 Loretta Ortaglia Carnese '63
 Sally E. Bennett Carp '57
 Thomas J. Carroll '52
 Dolores T. Madison Cifarelli '84
 Irene Riesenfeld Cohen '51
 David L. Colchamiro '64
 Clare R. Wojcicki Consiglio '85,
 MSED '96
 Vince J. Coppola '91
 Brenda T. Roth Coran '66
 Francoise M. Costa '48
 Robert E. Cowart
 Rita Marie Weisgerber Crannell '59
 Clark Crespi '69
 Richard J. Cunningham '53
 Christina Nestor Pappas Davidson '51
 Morris Dickstein
 Ethel M. Clancey Doyle '43
 Donna M. Giovanniello Dunbar '87
 Alice E. Tolsdorf Duszkiwicz '75
 Robert B. Eaton, Jr. AA'65/BA'68
 Jack Eber '69
 Herbert E. Edlis '57
 Florence Josiah Eich '45
 Stephen J. Eich '48
 Lawrence W. Eisman '55

Margaret Mary Murray English '74
 John Francis Eschmann '51
 Florence P. Esterman '78
 Sheryl Mankofsky Fabi '74
 Anne Moehle Ferrara '63, MS '67
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 Gloria Olga Giobbe Ficalora '50
 Linda Pugliese Fields '72, MSED '77
 Judith Ann Fleischner '60
 Shirley M. Cohen Fleishaker '49
 Elyse B. Schwartz Fleming '48
 Cicely A. Forde
 Henry B. Freye '54
 Sabina May Aron Friedman '52
 Maxine Goldman Garfinkel '57
 Jacquelyn Schillinger Geissman '50
 Lon J. Gellman '93
 Helen T. Picozzi Gentile '41
 John G. Gerber '68
 Marsha Anne Goldberg German
 BA '69, MS '71
 Helene Lachs Ginsburg '50
 Ralph Gismondi '01
 Gary R. Glasser '75
 Ruth Rosen Gold '05
 June Omura Goldberg '55
 I. Jay Goldfarb '55
 Donald M. Goldman '70
 Alan R. Goldrich '63
 Kenneth Goodman '58
 Shirley Slotkin Gorenstein '49
 Bruce Howard Gottlieb '82
 Dirk S. Gould '55
 Ruth Rockmill Green '75
 Edward E. Gross '48
 Suzanne Morel Gross '47
 Theresa R. Grzanka '71
 Burhan Ahmed Hanif '20
 Henry P. Hantgan '63
 Stephen T. Hardiman '64
 Edna Daley Harkins '48
 Loretta Elaine Brown Hawkins
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 Pamela Haynes
 Carl Peter Heisen '68, MSED '72
 Doris Arlene Berkley Herman
 Janice Rice Holdridge '70
 Raymond W. Holland '54, MSED '62,
 MLS '72
 Reva Foier Horowitz '75
 Leonard Horwitz '42
 Antoinette Iemma
 Robert T. Ievers '72
 Stella Hanan Iroff '66
 Gaylord J. Jackson '80
 Thomas A. Jappe '81, MA'86
 Joe Kane
 Myron Kaplan '52
 Comstance Lubin Katz '59, MA '71
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 Norma Neuhaus Kershaw '72
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Alexandra Grinn Grinspun Linett '52
Evelyn C. Yonkus Link '55
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Aline Pascale Lubin '87
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James Richard Meehan '63
Ronald Milland '98, '07
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Kaliopé Kentrotas Papazicos '83
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Patrick R. Patterson '15
James Richard Perlungher '58
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Frederick A. Piulson '81

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Maureen Reilly Prefer '54
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Frank Puppola
Claire J. Devoy Puttre '57
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Martin Rogoff MEd '67
Dezann K. Romain '09
Marilyn A. Ross '67
Reynold Ruffins
Fay Huletsky Ryan '46
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Kathryn E. Enners Schaller '65
Claire Shulman

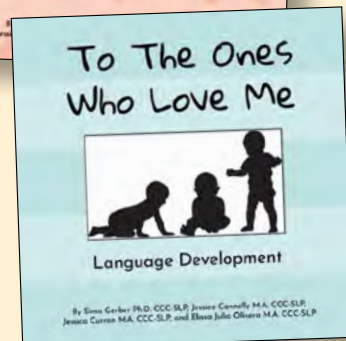
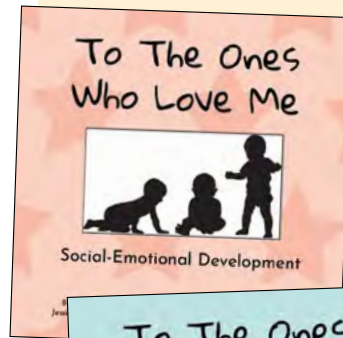
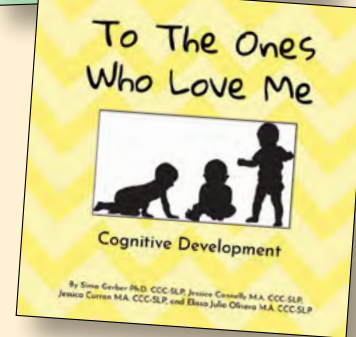
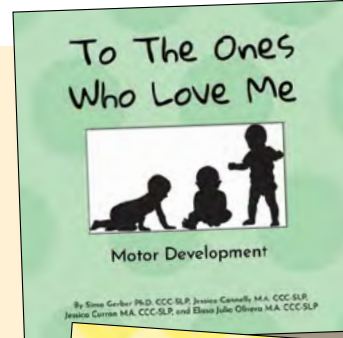
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Miriam Stern-Wolfe '58
Marilyn Moskowitz Stone '56
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Arlene R. Kirschenbaum Zide '61
Mary R. Silverman Zinober '47, '64

Look Who's Writing Now

If infants could produce texts about their first six months, the results would probably resemble *To The Ones Who Love Me*, a series of four books by Sima Gerber (Linguistics and Communication Disorders) and three former graduate students in the MA program in Speech-Language Pathology—Jessica Connelly, Jessica Curran, and Elissa Julia Olivera. Written

in the voice of a baby and illustrated with the students' own baby pictures, each of the books tackles a different topic:

cognitive development, language development, motor development, and social emotional development. "The series will be of particular interest to first-time parents," says Gerber, who is confident of the appeal books still hold in a digital age. *To The Ones Who Love Me* is available on Amazon; proceeds are earmarked for a foundation that will be created in honor of the late Joel Stark, director of the Speech-Language-Hearing Center on campus and long-term member of the LCD faculty.



All in a Day's Walk

In May 2021, a campus resident encountered (from left) QC President Frank H. Wu; Borough President Donovan Richards; Phil Ballman, the borough president's director of Cultural Affairs and Tourism; Deputy Borough President Rhonda Binda; QC AVP of Facilities, Planning, and Operations Zeco Krcic; Ludy Thenor, assistant to the deputy borough president; QC AVP of External and Governmental Relations Jeffrey Rosenstock; and Andres Vargas, member of the borough president's staff.

SAVE THE DATE

Queens College's 31st Gala

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 • Guastavino's

QUEENS COLLEGE'S 30TH GALA, hosted remotely on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, was a virtual success! We showcased talented QC alumni such as Jerry Seinfeld '76, Ray Romano, Fran Drescher, and Ted Alexandro '92. President Frank H. Wu spiced things up in the kitchen with renowned chef and alumna Lidia Bastianich.

Our next Gala will be held in person in 2022. We hope to see you there!

