Elevated Expectations
Queens College prepares itself and its students for the future
The fund administrator will ask for the EIN (tax number) for your fund, so long as it is issued to us by your required minimum distribution—$100,000 per year to public charities. Your gift counts toward your IRA rollover gifts.

Donors who are 70½ or older may make gifts of up to $100,000 per year to public charities. Your gift counts toward your required minimum distribution—$100,000 per year to public charities. Your gift counts toward your IRA rollover gifts.

IRA ROLLOVER GIFTS
Donors who are 70½ or older may make gifts of up to $100,000 per year to public charities. Your gift counts toward your required minimum distribution—so long as it is issued to us by your fund administrator.

■ No charitable deduction is taken, but there is no income tax to pay on the distribution.
■ It's easy to arrange. You fill out a form for your fund administrator, who sends the gift directly to Queens College.
■ The fund administrator will ask for the EIN (tax number) for your required minimum distribution—$100,000 per year to public charities. Your gift counts toward your IRA rollover gifts.

Appreciated Securities
For stock-transfer instructions, call us at 718-997-3920. We will also need an email or letter from you stating the name of the stock, number of shares, and purpose of the gift (such as general institutional support). We would urge you to check with your broker about cutoff dates and processing time.

Cash and Credit Card Gifts
Checks should be made payable to The Queens College Foundation, Inc. To make a gift over the phone or for wiring instructions, please call 718-997-3920. You can also make a gift online at:

https://qcommunity.qc.cuny.edu/QueensCollege/DonateNow

Queens College Guide to Year-End Giving

Thank you for your ongoing support of Queens College, our students, and programs. As we celebrate our 85th anniversary, we hope to see you at campus events as well as in our virtual spaces.

You are an integral part of our community.

To make it easy to donate, information for year-end giving is provided below.

Thank you for continuing to support a quality education for the next generation of talented students.

From the President

Queens College just celebrated its 85th anniversary, prompting me to reflect on the momentous events of 2021–22. Last November, I had the pleasure of announcing a more than $1 million gift to our new School of the Arts (The Thomas Chen Family/Crystal Windows Endowment is already funding scholarships and arts programs, including Understatements: Lost and Found in Asian America, on display at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum.) In March, Chen—an outstanding immigrant entrepreneur—attended the launch of the Queens College Business School. Two months later, Queens College School of the Arts made its multimedia debut.

You can read about all these exciting developments, and the many campus improvement projects that are underway, in this magazine’s cover story, “The College of the Future Looks to 2037 and Beyond,” starting on page 20. If you missed the anniversary party, you can see highlights of it on page 25.

I can’t mention the business school without thinking of Marvin Milich, a QC graduate, accountant, and lawyer who came back as a faculty member, spending nearly half a century on this campus. He is the subject of a profile on page 29.

This issue is filled with stories about other remarkable alumni whose lives were shaped by the education they received at Queens College. Gregory Mainous (page 16), raised in a working-class household headed by a single mother, nearly dropped out. Inspired to stay in school, he went on to a master’s degree, specialized in labor studies, and became the founding dean of the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies.

Liz Player (page 30) had a bachelor’s degree in computer science when she came to QC to earn a second bachelor’s, in music performance. Now she brings concerts to our students feel as I stroll across the Quad and see them playing volleyball or just hanging out. They are mixing and mingling with one another, forming friendships and gaining experiences that they missed out on for two years and which are integral to college life. Faculty and staff, to a person, stop me to remark on how glad they are to come to be in a place with such a sense of community. Be careful and stay safe!

Sincerely,

Frank H. Wu
President

Queens (From left) Christine De Ocampo, Makayla Noble, Hadassah Allman; President Frank H. Wu, Jessica Alejandro, Devon Rowe, and Jamal Mark illustrate the idea that with a well-rounded education, individuals’ reach can exceed their grasp. Cover photo by Lex Weissman.

Queens College Foundation
Kisely Hall, 9th Floor
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Queens, NY 11367-1597

Thank you for your support! There is no Queens College without “u”!
Furthuring Their Studies on Fulbrights

Two members of the Class of 2022 from Macaulay Honors College—Michael Amrani and Zainab Faroqui—won prestigious Fulbright scholarships for study and teaching abroad.

Amrani received a Fulbright student/research award to seek a master’s in public health at the University of Haifa in Israel; he hopes to become a physician. He already has extensive experience as a medical assistant and an EMT. He majored in neuroscience-biology and psychology and minored in chemistry, health sciences, and biology. “I am very much excited for this unbelievable opportunity,” says Amrani, “and am so glad for having the Queens College community behind me through the entire process.”

Faroqui taught kindergarten at Al-Iman School in Jamaica, Queens. She is looking forward to experiencing “how different cultures approach different subject matters and how that affects the way the child learns.”

Recalling Lives Cut Short by COVID

On April 13, QC became the first college in New York State and the second in the nation to hold a Yellow Heart Memorial, joining a nationwide initiative to commemorate individuals lost to COVID. The names of 123 people who passed away were read aloud during a ceremony in front of Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library. Yellow hearts with the names or pictures of these individuals—friends, family, members of the college community—were displayed on the windows surrounding the main library entrance. QC students and faculty members organized the moving event in memory of their grandfather Joseph Anthony Szalkiewicz, who died from complications of COVID-19.

The following month, CUNY Board of Trustees Chairperson William C. Thompson Jr. and Chancellor Felix V. Matos Rodriguez hosted a university-wide Day of Remembrance in honor of faculty, staff, and students who died in the pandemic. Kimiko Hahn (English) read her ode to individuals who are no longer alive at the May 17 event, held in the Great Hall at Queens. She is looking forward to experiencing “how different cultures approach different subject matters and how that affects the way the child learns.”

One for the Books

The Grolier Club, a society for bibliophiles, visited Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library on Saturday, May 7, to view the Pine Tree Foundation Special Collections and Archives. President Frank H. Wu offered greetings at the event. Szilvia E. Szmuk-Tanenbaum, a member of the Grolier Club who served as a special collections librarian at St. John’s University for 26 years, also spoke at the reception. She and her late husband funded the new Pine Tree Foundation space.

Neuroscience and Biology Major Wins Salk Scholarship

David Mushaney ’22 is the latest Queens College student to be awarded a Jonas E. Salk Scholarship, one of CUNY’s highest honors. Over four years of study, he will receive $8,000 toward the cost of attending SUNY Downstate Medical School.

Mushaney graduated in June from Macaulay Honors College with a double major in neuroscience and biology and a double minor in chemistry and health sciences. He volunteered in New York Presbyterian Hospital’s emergency room and worked under surgeon Ash Tawfik at Mount Sinai’s Department of Urology to help coordinate clinical trials of prostate cancer patients. “I hope to live up to Dr. Salk’s legacy by helping the many New Yorkers who lack access to quality medical care,” says Mushaney. His goals are to uncover immunotherapy treatment options for the one in six men who will develop prostate cancer, and to make clinical trials more accessible to medically underserved populations. “Queens College gave me a platform for addressing this issue, which will be the focus of my studies in medical school and beyond,” he notes.

Class of 2022 Graduates in Person

Recommending a beloved campus tradition after a two-year hiatus, Queens College marked the end of the academic year with in-person ceremonies. Baccalaureate was held on Tuesday, May 31, in Colden Auditorium. Christopher Rosa ’99, president and CEO of the Viscardi Center and former assistant vice chancellor for student inclusion initiatives at CUNY, gave the keynote and received the Queens College President’s Medal, the school’s highest administrative honor.

Diplomas were conferred on over 2,100 graduates two days later, at Commencement. Speakers included New York City Mayor Eric L. Adams, U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., and CUNY Trustee Ken Sunshine. Tony-winning star of theatre, film, and television Danny Burstein ’86, who delivered the commencement address, and renowned microbiologist and immunologist Arturo Casadevall ’79 MD, PhD, a Cuban émigré who arrived in Queens at age 11, received honorary doctorates.

Good Sports

In what has become an annual occurrence for two decades, the Queens College men’s and women’s tennis team each qualified for the NCAA Tournament. The women earned their 21st straight appearance in the tournament as the #3 seed in the East region, but they were upset by #6 Franklin Pierce University in the first round. The men’s team qualified for their 20th straight appearance as the #3 seed and defeated #6 Chestnut Hill College in the East region opening round before falling to the #2 seed, Southern New Hampshire University.

The baseball team recorded its most wins in a season (26) since 1998, reaching the ECC Championship where they lost to top-seeded Molloy College.

Academic year 2021–22 also saw standout performances by individuals.

Seira Larrauri Garcia From left, Danny Burstein, CUNY Trustee Ken Sunshine, Queens College President Frank H. Wu

SUNY Downstate Medical School.

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Executive Moves

The past year saw changes in the college's administrative lineup. Jerina DeWeese took office as Queens College's first chief diversity officer and dean of diversity in November 2022. DeWeese previously served as the chief diversity and affirmative action officer, Title IX coordinator, and ADA Section 504 compliance officer at Purchase College of the State University of New York. A triple CUNY alumna, she holds an MA in Urban Affairs/Public Management from QC, a BS in Public Administration/Human Resources Administration from Baruch College, and an AAS in Business Management/Human Resources Management from the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Field Hendrey retired last spring after 33 years at Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Meghan Healey—chair of the Department of Drama, Theater, and Dance since 2015—was appointed interim provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. Healey succeeds Associate Provost and Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs Alicia Alvero, who stepped down and subsequently became CUNY's associate vice chancellor for academic effectiveness and innovation.

College Acquires Barbara Rosenthal Archives

The archive of influential cross-media artist Barbara Rosenthal ’75, “Old Master of New Media,” was acquired by Queens College in a combined sale and donation facilitated by a generous patron. Rosenthal—no relation to the library’s namesake—completed a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University before earning an MFA in painting at QC. In the decades since she graduated, she has held solo exhibitions and residencies across North American and Europe, winning acclaim for her distinctive moment-to-moment life-recording and professional correspondences meticulously organized by this major artist, is infinite,” said Annie Tummino (Special Collections and Archives). “It is revelatory of the creative process in ways unique among our archival collections.” Students at the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies began processing the Rosenthal archive over the summer.

Jazzed about Jimmy Heath

City Council Member Francisco Moya, President Frank H. Wu, Jazz Studies Director Antonio Hart, New York State Assembly Member and Speaker Pro Tempora Jeff Aubrey, and 200 community residents gathered at Hinton Park, 114th Street and 344th Avenue in Corona on May 20 to unveil James Edward Heath Way, honoring the late Jimmy Heath. A prominent saxophonist, arranger, and composer who lived in Corona for decades, Heath was a full-time faculty member of the jazz program at Aaron Copland School of Music. Hart was one of his students. Political and musical stars and the honoree’s family members were in alignment the following evening for the inaugural Jimmy Heath Scholarship Fund Concert at Lefrak Concert Hall. Aubrey, Moya, and Wu took turns at the microphone before Hart led an ensemble in repertoire written by this major artist, is infinite,” said Annie Tummino (Special Collections and Archives). “It is revelatory of the creative process in ways unique among our archival collections.” Students at the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies began processing the Rosenthal archive over the summer.

On Top of Hip Hop

At QC, Gabriel “Kwikstep” Dionisio (Dance) teaches “Hip Hop 101: The Break Down, The Moves and Movement of a People.” Now, with the help of a Ford Foundation grant, he is sharing his knowledge beyond campus. The grant, awarded to Kwikstep’s dance company, Full Circle Productions, supports programs presented by the United Hip Hop Vanguard—a national network of leaders and cultural workers who work to strengthen the breaking, breakdancing, community and reverse the past two decades of its cultural erosion.

Breaking, an athletic style of street dancing, has become so mainstream that it is scheduled to debut as an Olympic sport at the Paris Games in 2024. In light of concerns that the art has gotten too commercialized, Full Circle wants to take breaking back to its roots in the streets (at block parties and park jams) and community centers of Black and Puerto Rican communities in the 1970s. That’s when DJs extracted the instrumental “break,” the most percussive breakdown section, from the middle of funk, jazz, and disco songs and looped them together to create a performance art and culture with its own rules, fashion, and language.

Peak Experience in the Canary Islands

Marc-Antoine Longpré (SEES) and CUNY doctoral students Franco Cortese and Samantha Tramontano had all witnessed volcanic eruptions. But observing Cumbre Vieja (“Old Peak”)—the volcano that began erupting on La Palma in the Canary Islands in September 2021—was like nothing they had seen before.

“Before La Palma, I saw three volcanoes erupting,” says Cortese. “This one by a gigantic margin is the most volcanically intense interaction I’ve had with an active volcano, by far.” Tramontano reports that “we saw ash jetting into the sky and falling from the air; we were able to feel and see the heat from lava flows. It was very exciting to be around.”

Longpré was on sabbatical, but Cortese and Tramontano conducted classes remotely, the balcony of their hotel with Cumbre Vieja in plain sight presented a novel classroom setting from which to instruct their students over Zoom. They also used Twitter to share stunning pictures and videos of what they were experiencing.

Historic Achievement

Kristina Richardson (History) is one of nine outstanding early- and mid-career scholars awarded this year’s Dan David Prize. Sometimes described as the Nobel for history, the Dan David is the largest prize in its field, conferring $300,000 on each of the winners.

Richardson is the first CUNY professor to earn this distinction, which comes in recognition of her latest book, Roma in the Medieval Islamic World: Literacy, Culture and Migration (Bloomsbury), which argues that Roma and other traveling groups played a critical role in bringing print to Europe in the 15th century before Gutenberg invented his press. She is currently writing a book about free and unfree African and Asian manual laborers in early Islamic Baixa, Iraq. “While the bulk of the money will go toward developing my current project on enslaved peoples in Baixa, Iraq, I intend to donate some of the money to famine relief agencies,” says Richardson, who in August became the John L. Nau Professor of History and Middle Eastern & South Asian Languages and Cultures at the University of Virginia. “I also would like to fund symposia about early global medieval cultures. The aim would be to write histories that present European history in line with its contributions and not as the standard-bearer of print. I also will fund research trips.”

It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” says Longpré, who was quick to note that the eruption was a tragedy for local residents. “Thousands of people lost their homes, so that’s pretty sad. Schools also were lost and other public buildings.”

The scientists, who collected samples of ash and cooled lava for analysis, have presented initial results based on their work.

Longpré (above) and Tramontano and Cortese wore protective gear on location.
Godwin-Ternbach and School of Education Collaborate on Curriculum

Through a Library of Congress Teaching With Primary Sources grant, educators will use Godwin-Ternbach Museum (GTM) collections to develop interdisciplinary lesson plans for teaching history in middle and high schools. The two-year, $20,000 grant—secured by Maria Pio (GTM) and School of Education faculty Jay Shuttleworth, David Gerwin, and Susan McCullough—was awarded by the Library of Congress Teaching With Primary Sources (TPS) project. The TPS Consortium compiles primary source sets and innovative lesson plans based on the holdings of cultural institutions around the country such as the GTM. These lessons introduce complex historical subjects from multiple angles, teaching students how to interpret original historical materials and think critically about past events, culture, and causation.

The grant to Queens College will fund work by faculty and students. In the spring semester, McCullough introduced the revised course to students. Over the summer, GTM welcomed an inaugural fellow who is doing research and will develop curriculum guides using the museum’s permanent collection and Library of Congress resources. Those curriculum guides will be featured on the GTM website and shared with the college’s K–12 school partners.

Grassroots Development

“Get Started in the Cannabis Industry,” a two-part workshop offered for the first time by Queens College and Farmingdale State College, provided an introduction to the cannabis industry in New York State. Held on two consecutive Saturdays in June, the noncredit course featured presentations by faculty and a representative from the New York State Office of Cannabis Management. The curriculum touched on the U.S. cannabis industry, the role that medical marijuana played in industry development, and other subjects. “We are pleased to partner with Farmingdale State College on this initiative and to help create a path toward entrepreneurship for populations who had previously been negatively impacted by cannabis legislation,” says President Frank H. Wu, who stopped by during one of the sessions. Space was limited to 25 participants, with preference given to members of communities adversely affected by the state’s previous marijuana laws.

Lincoln Scholar Donates Archive to New York

QC alumnus Harold Holzer, a celebrated Lincoln scholar and historian, has given his extensive personal archive to the New York State Library. Holzer began his career as a journalist, historian, and academic, subsequently spent 23 years in the public affairs office of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. His collection comprises 55 books, 150 lectures, newspaper articles, photos, and recordings of television and radio interviews.

Holzer’s on-campus consulting offers individualized plans to those who request her help. Each person is entitled to up to four sessions with her. Holzer follows, well met: QC Night at Citi Field on August 4 was nothing short of amazin’! Colleagues and classmates filled seats in Sections 141 and 142 to watch the Metropolitans take on the Braves—and win, 6-4, including several home runs by the home team. The season ended less happily, with the Mets eliminated from post-season play. Here’s hoping for next year!

CUNY Distinguishes Professor

Glenn Burger (English) has been named Distinguished Professor by the CUNY Board of Trustees. A member of the QC faculty since 2000, Burger is internationally known for his studies of medieval English literature. In recent work, drawing largely on queer and postcolonial theory, he has continued to contribute significantly to rethinking medieval literature, especially in his books Chancer’s Queer Nation (University of Minnesota Press, 2003) and Conduct Becoming: Good Wives and Husbands in the Later Middle Ages (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018).

Both explore the making of the modern self and community through textual workings and reception. An active scholar, he has also edited five books, published 28 articles and book chapters, given more than 20 lectures domestically and abroad, and delivered over 50 papers.

Campus Opens WETLAB

Through Community Project Funding allocated for the borough by Representative Grace Meng, Queens College received $1,850,000 to establish a Wastewater Epidemiology Training Laboratory (WETLAB) on campus. The new facility supports development of strategies for detecting the presence of dangerous pathogens—such as coronaviruses, noroviruses, and cholera—in wastewater. Students get training on site to participate in high-level research activities. The WETLAB project was conceived and is directed by John Donnelly (Biological), who has been tracking and analyzing COVID-19 through New York City sewage.

Thought for Food

In good news for students, faculty, and staff, a CARES Act grant is supporting two semesters of service by a campus nutritionist—expertly provided by Stacia Helfand. The grant, secured by Ashima Kant (Family, Nutrition, and Exercise Sciences [FNES]), provides for nutrition counseling in person and through telehealth, to anyone seeking help with food-related issues. “There’s a great need for nutrition work, so I’m really excited to be bringing services to the community,” says Helfand, a registered dietitian who has been an adjunct lecturer for FNES since 2017.

The CARES Act supports higher education in meeting pandemic-related costs, including the toll that has been taken in mental and physical health. “Seven of the ten leading causes of death in the United States have something to do with your diet,” observes Helfand, adding that healthy practices took a hit during lockdown. “Nutrition’s not just about the food, but I talk about sleep, hydration, stress, all the things that help keep us well.”

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In these pages, we celebrate the lives and achievements of members of the Queens College community who passed away.

PAULETTE MULLINGS BRADNOCK ’84

Paulette Mullings Bradnock, chief audit executive for BNY Mellon and vice chair of the Queens College Foundation (QCF), died in September 2022 in her native Jamaica. Mullings Bradnock’s family had settled in the Bronx but, impressed by the QC campus and the quality of its accounting programs, she commuted here instead of attending college closer to home. Her degree in Accounting and Information Systems landed her a job at Chemical Bank. Continuing through Chemical’s merger with Chase Manhattan Bank and Chase Manhattan Bank, she accumulated experience and responsibilities. After 21 years, she moved to American International Group, becoming senior vice president and chief audit executive before joining BNY Mellon in 2015. Mullings Bradnock was widely admired in her field. American Banker listed her in its annual top 25 “Women to Watch” from 2017 through 2021. She was also one of Savoy’s “2018 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America.” Speaking at the launch of the Queens College Business School in March 2022, Mullings Bradnock titled her talk “What It Takes to Be a Leader,” and delivered it with grace and energy. She was a member of the board of trustees for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Dannielle Abrams ’92

Dannielle Abrams, an artist whose genres included performance, installation, and collage, died in April 2022 at age 54. Raised in Flushing, Abrams earned her BFA at Queens College and MFA at the University of California, Irvine. Identifying herself as Danielle Abrams, an artist whose genres included performance, she taught at the Central Art Center; and at the Live Arts Biennial at the University of Arts; the Jewish Museum, New York; Queens Museum; Grand MFA at the University of California, Irvine. Recognizing her talents, she was awarded a fellowship from the Jewish Museum, New York, and was one of Savoy’s “2018 Most Influential Blacks in Corporate America.” Speaking at the launch of the Queens College Business School in March 2022, Mullings Bradnock titled her talk “What It Takes to Be a Leader,” and delivered it with grace and energy. She was a member of the board of trustees for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

Isaac Alteras ’66

History Professor Emeritus Isaac Alteras passed away in April 2022. He was 84. Alteras earned his BA from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and continued his education at CUNY, where he completed a master’s in history at Queens College and a doctorate at the Graduate Center. He was well versed in topics ranging from Jewish physicians in late medieval Spain and southern France to the Cold War. On his QC faculty page, he emphasized his research in U.S. and Soviet relations and modern Middle Eastern history, noting that he taught courses in those topics, as well as in Zionism, modern Israel, and 20th-century European diplomatic history.

Raymond Disch

Disch, a member of the QC community since 1967, taught at the college for 54 years as a chemistry professor, earning his PhD from Columbia University in 1965. He went on to earn a second PhD in psychology from the University of Iowa in 1972. Disch was a member of the chemistry faculty at Queens College from 1967 to 1995, where he taught courses in those topics, as well as in Zionism, modern Israel, and 20th-century European diplomatic history.

Eric Cassell ’50

Eric Cassell, an intensive and a founding fellow of the Humanities Center—an independent bioethics research institute in Garrison, New York—passed away in February 2022 at the age of 93. A Queens native, Cassell graduated from QC in 1950, earned a master’s degree from Columbia University, and an MD from the New York University School of Medicine. After two years in France with the U.S. Army Medical Corps, he did his internship and residency at Bellvue Hospital. Cassell taught public health at Cornell’s Weill Medical College and directed its Program for the Study of Ethics and Medicine. He reached a wider audience with his efforts to explain how patients experience illness and dying. Susan Black, professor of psychiatry and medicine at Harvard Medical School, called him “the intellectual father of palliative care.”

Jerome Chazen

Businessman and philanthropist Jerome Chazen, chair of the Louis Armstrong House Museum board, passed away in February 2022 at the age of 94. Chazen earned a bachelor’s degree in economics at the University of Wisconsin, where as a student journalist and jazz aficionado he interviewed Louis Armstrong. Returning to his hometown, Chazen received an MBA from Columbia University. Initially a Wall Street analyst, he moved into real estate, as one of the four founding partners in Luez Chabone Inc., he led the sales, marketing, and licensing programs integral to the company’s success. Chairman and CEO of Luez Chabone from 1989 to 1996, he subsequently founded Chazen Capital Partners. Chazen served on the boards of numerous nonprofits, ranging from his alma mater to the 92nd Street Y, the Eugene Lang Entrepreneurial Initiative Fund, and the Lupus Research Alliance.

Roland Clark ‘08

Roland Clark, a field technique with QC’s Office of Information Technology Services and an alumnus of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies, passed away in August 2021. With glasses affixed to his head by an athletic strap and admirably straight posture—the product, perhaps, of his Navy service—Clark cut a memorable figure as he traveled around campus. At a workplace reliant on computers and internet connections, many faculty and staff could not have done their jobs without him.

Harriet Davis-Kram

Harriet Davis-Kram, an English professor at the Queens College Department, died in the summer of 2021. Davis-Kram earned her MA at Hunter College and doctorate at the CUNY Graduate Center. Teaching women’s history at QC, she covered topics ranging from radical Jewish women to classic Hollywood films. She was also an expert on the history of New York City. Davis-Kram led walking tours and served as a guide for the United States Information Bureau, meeting groups of foreign visitors interested in urban America. In addition, she gave talks throughout the state for the New York Council for the Humanities and QC. She was repeatedly named one of the best lecturers in its program.

Raymond Disch

Disch, a member of the chemistry faculty for 35 years, passed away in February 2022 at the age of 89. Disch completed his doctorate at Harvard University in 1959 and thereafter held an NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Oxford. Moving to New York, he taught at Columbia University for five years. In 1968, he joined the faculty at Queens College and the Graduate Center of CUNY, where his research concerned physical and theoretical chemistry. A stellar lecturer, Disch served for many years as chair of the physical subdiscipline of CUNY’s PhD program in chemistry.

Carol Douglas ’16

Carol Douglas—administrative executive assistant for the School of Social Sciences, a founding member and leader of the Black and Latinx Faculty and Staff Association (BLSFA), and a QC and CUNY alumna—passed away unexpectedly in September 2021. Douglas majored in political science at this campus, earned an MA from CUNY and then a second master’s, in Urban Studies, at QC. Colleagues describe her as a scholar-activist, cherished sister, and devoted friend who worked tirelessly on behalf of students and the educational community. She was passionate about Caribbean literature and enjoyed sharing her experiences in Jamaica. For Black History Month in February 2021, she moderated two college events—a book talk, Class, Race, Culture and Resistance in 1960s Jamaica, and Sociodramas: Popular Theater for Social Justice. Douglas also loved world art and music.

John Durham ’59

John Durham, former chairman, CEO, and controlling stockholder of Philadelphia-based Delaware Management Company, an investment advisory firm, passed away in March 2021. A Dutch immigrant raised in Queens, Durham earned a BS in Economics at Queens College, followed by an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School and designation as a certified financial analyst—a background that prepared him for his 30-year career at Delaware Management. He spent his retirement serving and supporting organizations close to his heart. In addition to the Queens College Foundation, they included Germantown Academy, the Martin Luther King, the Lutheran Home at Germantown, the Pension Board of the United Church of Christ, and Abingdon Memorial Hospital and Lansdale Hospital.

Leona Dushin ’47

Equestrian and educator Leona Dushin died in July 2021 at the age of 95. Dushin—née Leona Margaret Christina Hait—spent her childhood in Whitestone riding horseback and taking lessons in acrobatics, dance, and wire walking; she interpolated her QC studies to tour with the Ringling Brothers Circus. After a year with the big top, she re-enrolled at QC, completing a degree in fine arts with a minor in art education. With her husband, a newspaperman who grew up in New York, and raised five children. In 1957, she started a horse and pony club; 20 years later, she began offering therapeutic riding to people with disabilities. Returning to the classroom in her 50s, Dushin earned master’s degrees in science and special education, as well as accreditation in Spanish. She taught grade K-8 science and conducted special ed evaluations “from pre-school to Rikers Island,” she said. In her spare time, she sang at local open mic nights, accompanying herself on the ukulele.

Temitayo Fagbenle ‘20

Temitayo Fagbenle, a producer at public radio station WNYC, died in July 2021 at the age of 25. At 15, Fagbenle became one of WNYC’s Radio Rookies, developing and producing original podcasts “Nancy” and the “Takeaway.” In 2022, she died in a tragic car accident. Fagbenle’s family has established the RFK Research Institute, immersing high school students in hands-on research in multiple disciplines.
Abuse (now the Division of Behavioral Health and Mental Health, Mental Retardation & Substance Administration Hospital in Palo Alto, California, and a post-doc at Gates, who held degrees from Manhattan College and Florida State University in the 1960s, passed away in January 2022. He was 81.

John Joseph Gates
Quarterly December 2021. A lifelong New Yorker, he was an ardent supporter of Harvey Fried, professor emeritus of English literature, died in in April 2022. Most recently, as a co-chair of the board’s allocation committee, he was director, chairman of the Compensation Committee, and member of the Audit Committee of Las Vegas Sands Company and lead director and member of the Audit Committee of Joy Global, Inc. At the time of his death, he was director, chairman of the Compensation Committee, and member of the Audit Committee of Lennox Corporation and director and member of the Audit Committees of AutoNation, Inc. Gerard was on the faculty of the National Association of Corporate Directors and earned the NACD Leadership Fellows designation. He also served on many boards, both public and charitable.

Carol Plaine Fisher ‘67
Carol Plaine Fisher, co-founder of Wildk Publications, died in June 2022 at her home in Westport, Connecticut. She was 94. Graduating from Queens College at 19, Carol Plaine—worked in book and magazine publishing, eventually becoming an acquisition editor at Pyramid Books. In that capacity, she brought in and edited a book by artist Peter Max and helped secure the U.S. rights to titles by best-selling British romance novelist Barbara Cartland.

At 50, Plaine married Milton Fisher, a lawyer, banker, and teacher, settling in Westport. Together, they launched Wildk Publishing, which released notable books such as Nhemama Tec’s Dry Tears: The Story of a Lost Childhood, a Holocaust memoir by artist Peter Max and helped secure the U.S. rights to titles by best-selling British romance novelist Barbara Cartland.

Dan Georgakas
Activist and academic Renaissance man Dan Georgakas, director of the Greek American Studies Project at QC’s Center for Byzantine, and Modern Greek Studies, passed away in November 2021 at age 83. The son of working-class Greek immigrants, Georgakas described his childhood during the era of the Greek War of Independence (BA II), she went Up Greek and American in Motor City. With Marvin Surkin, she wrote Detroit: I Do Mind Dying: A Study In Urban Revolution, documenting dynamic black radical movements in his hometown in the 1960s and early ‘70s. Georgakas wrote or edited five poetry volumes, served on the editorial board of Cineaste Magazine, helped to found the New York City Greek Film Festival, and was the subject of a documentary made for Greek National Television, Dan Georgakas: A Diaspora Rebel.

John O’Brien ‘59
John O’Brien, a luminous who taught at Queens College for 50 years, died in June 2022. A precocious Stuyvesant High School graduate, he earned a BA from QC at age 15, an MA from Columbia at 20, and a PhD from the University of Southern California at 24. He began teaching at this campus in 1965, covering courses on medieval Europe, the subject of his doctoral research and early publications. Shifting to ancient Greek history, he wrote Alexander the Great. The Invisible Enemy ( Routledge, 1994), interweaving the details of Alexander’s biography with passages of contemporaneous poetry, multiplying the historical perspectives. Translated into multiple languages, the book became the bedrock of a new phase of O’Brien’s pedagogy at the master’s and advanced undergraduate levels. A three-time winner of the college’s Excellence in Teaching Award, O’Brien is also remembered for pioneering the school’s study abroad program at the University of Leeds in England in 1967.

Ina Plotsky Kuiperberg
Ina Plotsky Kuiperberg, an attorney and philanthropist, passed away in October 2022 at the age of 66. A graduate of Cornell University and Boston University Law School, Kuiperberg practiced labor and employment law before teaching business law at Baruch College. Sharing her time, talents, and resources, she served on the boards of Comuniteit and other organizations as well as the board of the U.S. division of New York committees, and is recalled as a “book fair leader extraordinary” for her children’s schools. Together with her husband Mark and the Kuiperberg family, she was an advocate for and generous supporter of Queens College and its students.

O. Bernard Leibman
O. Bernard Leibman, founder of QC’s graduate program in school psychology, passed away in February 2022. Upon graduating from the Bronx High School of Science, Leibman enlisted in the Navy. At the end of his service, he enrolled in City College, completing a bachelor’s in psychology, followed by his graduate degree at Columbia University. In addition to his work at Queens College, Leibman had a private clinical practice for decades and was active in professional boards and organizations; he was elected president of the Nassau County Psychological Association and subsequently, president of the New York State Psychological Association. Perpetuating his memory on campus, the O. Bernard Leibman School Psychology Endowment makes awards to exceptional school psychology students who demonstrate dedication and service in the field.

John Joseph Gates
John Joseph Gates, an assistant psychology professor at Queens College in the 1960s, passed away in January 2022. He was 81. Gates, who held degrees from Manhattan College and Florida State University, completed a clinical internship at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Palo Alto, California, and post-doc at the University of Kansas’s Bureau of Child Research in Parsons, Kansas, before joining the QC faculty. Next he moved to Georgia, where he worked for a public hospital. Appointed director of the state’s Division of Mental Health, Mental Retardation & Substance Abuse (now the Division of Behavioral Health and Mental Disabilities), he began a long collaboration with Rosalynn Carter, Georgia’s former first lady. From 1993 to 2000, he directed the Carter Center’s mental health program at the Carter Center; he subsequently was a member of the center’s mental health task force and the advisory board of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers.

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Ruth Hollander ’77
Ruth Hollander, an exemplary non-traditional student before that term was common, passed away last winter, five weeks shy of her 105th birthday. Hollander followed her sons to the Queens College campus, majoring in history and Jewish studies, and continued auditing courses during the decades. Honoring her lifelong commitment to education, family friends Charles Hennekens ’63 established a Jewish Studies award in her name and, turning grief into action, created the Jeffrey Hollander Memorial Scholarship—for students going to medical school—to commemorate her son, a doctor who died after contracting hepatitis from a patient.

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Jack Orbach
Jack Orbach, a long-term psychology professor, passed away in March 2022 at the age of 94. Orbach joined the QC faculty after working as an experimental psychologist at the Yerkes Laboratory, a primate research center in Florida. Drawing on his experience playing violin, viola, and cello, among other instruments, he explored the impact of music on emotion and reason in a book, Sound and Music. He also designed a course on the psychology of music.
Alex Orenstein
The QC community belatedly learned that Alex Orenstein (Philosophy) died in June 2018 at the age of 82. Orenstein graduated from Hunter College and taught philosophy there for three years before taking a detour into computer programming. Then he entered the philosophy doctoral program at New York University. He joined the QC faculty in 1968 and that of the CUNY Graduate Center six years later, teaching at both institutions until he retired in 2011. A specialist in the influential analytic philosopher W.V. Quine, Orenstein also explored logic and language, among other topics. From 1987 until 2016, he enjoyed a transatlantic career, spending five months of every year as a visiting fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford.

Keith Patchel ’83
Keith Patchel, composer and performer, was born in New York City in the 1960s. In 1980, he was awarded a fellowship to study at the Juilliard School of Music and earned a master’s in composition. From 1987 until 2016, he enjoyed a transatlantic career, spending five months of every year as a visiting fellow at Wolfson College, Oxford. His other projects ranged from chamber opera to film scores.

Joseph Ponte
Joseph Ponte, a founding member of QC’s Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding (CERRU) and a mentor to its staff, died in March 2022. Vogelsang devoted his career to helping refugees rebuild their lives in the United States.

Evelyn Puccini Rolleri ’41
Evelyn Puccini Rolleri—seen in the college newsletter QView in a cap and gown in 2021, celebrating the 90th anniversary of her graduation—passed away that summer at 102. Devoted mother of two and grandmother of three, she was predeceased by her husband.

John Vogelsang
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George Wein
Celebrated music impresario George Wein, founder of the Newport Jazz and Folk Festivals and a board member of the Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation, passed away in September 2021 at the age of 95. Wein was in his 20s when he opened Storyville, a Boston jazz club, it had been in operation for all of three weeks when he invited Louis Armstrong and his friends to drop by after performing in Symphony Hall. Armstrong fit up Storyville with an impromptu rendition of “Sleepy Time Down South,” leading to a decades-long relationship between the two men. Wein often featured Satchmo at his festivals and later in life became an enthusiastic supporter of the Louis Armstrong House Museum.

Howard Weitzman ’67
Howard Weitzman, an alumnus who served as comptroller of Nassau County from 2002 to 2009, died in September 2021 at the age of 75. A Brooklyn native who grew up in that borough’s Brownsville neighborhood and later, Laurelton, Queens, Weitzman majored in accounting at QC. He entered politics as treasurer and mayor of Great Neck Estates, where he lived with his family for 35 years. First elected Nassau comptroller in 2001, he considered himself the county’s fiscal watchdog and led audits targeting financial waste. He lost the office in the 2009 but was subsequently appointed to the Nassau Intern Finance Authority.

Jaw Woltz’65
Jaw Woltz, a game show creator and producer who reinvented himself as a screenwriter for movie blockbusters, died in January 2023, several weeks before his 80th birthday. Born in the Bronx, raised in a Brooklyn housing project and educated at QC. Woltz went to work on game shows after winning “Jeopardy!” and its Tournament of Champions. He became a producer of the original “The Price is Right” as well as “The New Price is Right,” and helped develop “Match Game” and other shows. In his fifties, at the prodding of a former assistant who had become successful in film, he wrote the screenplay for the novel “The Count of Monte Cristo” and then “Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl,” inspired by a popular Disney theme park ride.

Leonard Yohay ’46
Leonard Yohay, co-founder of the Yohay Baking Company, angel investor, and a member of the Jefferson Society, died in March 2022 at the age of 95. Graduating from Queens College at 20, Yohay continued his education at Fordham University School of Law, but never worked as an attorney. Instead, after World War II service in the United States Army as an interrogator of Japanese, he created Yohay Baking Company with his older brother, Oscar. They began with Sweetheart Ice Cream Cones and produced many other Kosher products, including wafer rolls and fudge.

Marvin Zborowski
Former Queens College Foundation member Marvin Zborowski, creator of an endowed lecture series for the Queens College Center for Jewish Studies, passed away in October 2021. He was 93. Born in Zarki, Poland, Zborowski was confined in that city’s ghetto with his mother and siblings, for the last two years of World War II, they were hidden by sympathetic Christians. Immigrating with his family, he settled in Queens and ran the All America Export/Import Company with his brother. One of the founders of the American Society for Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, Zborowski was an active member of its board until he died.

We Remember Harvey Paretzky ’79
Harvey Paretzky, who passed away in 2019, devoted the better part of his career to helping refugees rebuild their lives in the United States. After working as a reporter and novelist for WEDU—a radio station that took its call letters from the initials of activist Eugene Victor Debs—Paretzky joined the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council. He helped plan Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews. That demonstration brought 250,000 people to the National Mall on December 6, 1987, a day before President Ronald Reagan held a summit with USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev, to demand that Soviet Jews be allowed to emigrate. Subsequently, Paretzky focused on refugee resettlement. He worked for the Council of Jewish Federations in Manhattan and then HIAS (originally known as the Harean Immigration Aid Society). Among his many achievements, he was instrumental in setting up the United States’ first matching grant program for refugees. The matching grants help refugees enter the workforce without relying on state or federal assistance. Paretzky also served as chairman of the Refugees Council USA Resettlement Committee.

Barry L. Zaret ’62
Barry L. Zaret, former chief of cardiology at Yale New Haven Hospital and professor emeritus of internal medicine (cardiology) and diagnostic radiology at Yale School of Medicine, died in October 2022 at 82. Encouraged by his father, an immigrant, to pursue a profession, Zaret graduated from QC and then New York University School of Medicine. After his internship and residency at Bellevue Hospital, fellowship training at Johns Hopkins University, and two years of military service, he was recruited by Yale. Regarding many as the founder of nuclear cardiology—which uses noninvasive techniques to evaluate certain heart conditions—he significantly advanced the understanding of coronary blood flow physiology, ventricular function, management and risk assessment of cardiovascular disease, and molecular imaging. Midlife, Zaret made time to pursue the arts he loved, publishing three volumes of poetry and painting landscapes. In 2015, he returned to his alma mater to chair the Queens College Science Advisory Board. In that capacity, he offered his counsel and expertise to further the School of Natural Sciences’ mission to prepare QC students for careers in science, math, technology, and health.

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Gregory Mantsios has made a career of promoting higher education for union members, adult learners, and other non-traditional students.

By Bob Suter

Changing Lives by Degrees

Gregory Mantsios took his first semester of classes evenings at John Bowie High School while working during the day. Despite his initial excitement about beginning college, he was overwhelmed the first year. “I think I was just too tired,” he says. “And I was bored to tears. I got a D in that course, and that was the lowest point for me. I was on the verge of getting thrown out or quitting. That was in 1970 at the end of my first year.”

Mantsios’s personal concerns were subsumed by one of the pivotal events of the Vietnam War era: the deaths of four students shot by members of the Ohio National Guard sent to Kent State University to quell anti-war demonstrations. “There was this huge rally right after the killings of what used to be the old student union building,” he says. “I was on the fringes watching and this guy named Mike Brown came up to the microphone, and he gave one of the most powerful speeches I had ever heard, and I was so moved by that.”

Brown concluded, Mantsios recalls, by asking everyone to march from campus onto the Long Island Expressway and then into Manhattan to join a giant rally at Washington Square Park. “I was so outraged by the news from Kent State and so inspired by the speech I had heard, that I joined that rally. . . . the moment just grabbed me and it changed my life: I decided I was not going to drop out. I was determined to stay. That was in 1970 at the end of my first year.”

Mantsios’s appointment in January 2018 as founding dean of the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies (formerly the Joseph S. Murphy Institute for Worker Education) following his 34 years of service to CUNY that began at Queens College, signifies the better part of a lifetime dedicated to using the tools of education to help working people get ahead.

The programs he has established at CUNY and Empire State College/SUNY have provided thousands of union members and adult learners—many non-traditional students from poor and working-class backgrounds—with the means to better their station in life by earning college degrees.

But for an historic record, Mantsios might not have completed a college degree himself, given the challenging circumstances of his early life.

“I grew up in Jamaica, Queens,” he explains. “I was raised by a single mother. My father had died when I was an infant. It was a rather poor area. I lived on a block with single-room occupancy housing and a lot of alcoholism that later went over to drugs.”

“The on one hand, I came from a very conservative cultural background. On the other hand, I was kind of a street kid,” he continues, “but I managed to do well enough in Jamaica High School that I got myself into Queens College’s evening program, which was at that time called the School of General Studies.”

In 1984, after reaching out to some of his friends among the QC faculty, Mantsios set up a meeting with a faculty member and two union leaders to discuss creating a labor studies program at his alma mater.

“We met at the bar on the other side of the Long Island Expressway,” he recounts, “and we literally, like you read in the books, outlined on the back of a doily an idea for starting a labor program at Queens College.”

SLU’s influence extends beyond CUNY, its national publication, New Labor Forum: A Journal of Ideas, Analysis, and Debate has more than 11,000 subscribers, and its annual conferences, monthly forums, television show, and podcast reach an audience of over 10,000. “We address a wide range of labor issues and attract a large audience of scholars and activists, many of them part of the effort to revitalize the labor movement,” Mantsios says.

Finding evidence of that revitalization in recent successes organizing units at corporate behemoths Starbucks and Amazon, he notes that SLU is about to introduce a credit-bearing certificate in organizing. “Our students have been asking for that . . . because they want the specific skills that go into building a movement for social justice,” says Mantsios.

As a high school student, reading Michael Harrington’s book The Other America while sitting on the fire escape profoundly influenced Gregory Mantsios. Today, he appropriately displays a copy in his office.

“Some 50 years since being on campus together, a 2019 meeting of the American Sociological Association brought Gregory Mantsios (right) together with his one-time teachers and colleagues, Jeffrey Halley (left) and Michael E. Brown (center).”

Mantsios returns to Queens College frequently to meet with students, faculty, and the labor movement. He tells them that SLU’s idea is to help working people get ahead.

“We have a three-dimensional replica of a fire escape in my office given to me by a friend, and in that replica, I have a copy of The Other America,” says Mantsios, noting that the book affirmed his own experience and activated his commitment to advocate for the disfrasosed.

Mantsios says his greatest professional accomplishment is “helping to establish a CUNY school that is dedicated to public service and social justice and is sending the needs of those who aspire to becoming the next generation of labor and community leaders.”

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“We have a three-dimensional replica of a fire escape in my office given to me by a friend, and in that replica, I have a copy of The Other America,” says Mantsios, noting that the book affirmed his own experience and activated his commitment to advocate for the disfrasosed.

Mantsios says his greatest professional accomplishment is “helping to establish a CUNY school that is dedicated to public service and social justice and is sending the needs of those who aspire to becoming the next generation of labor and community leaders.”

SLU’s influence extends beyond CUNY, its national publication, New Labor Forum: A Journal of Ideas, Analysis, and Debate has more than 11,000 subscribers, and its annual conferences, monthly forums, television show, and podcast reach an audience of over 10,000. “We address a wide range of labor issues and attract a large audience of scholars and activists, many of them part of the effort to revitalize the labor movement,” Mantsios says.

Finding evidence of that revitalization in recent successes organizing units at corporate behemoths Starbucks and Amazon, he notes that SLU is about to introduce a credit-bearing certificate in organizing. “Our students have been asking for that . . . because they want the specific skills that go into building a movement for social justice,” says Mantsios.

As a high school student, reading Michael Harrington’s book The Other America while sitting on the fire escape profoundly influenced Gregory Mantsios. Today, he appropriately displays a copy in his office.
ASK Around
Virtual Program Taps the Expertise of Alumni

"The industry that our club focuses on is very new," says Faheem Hoosain, president of the Blockchain Club at Queens College. "It is difficult to find current practitioners in the field or mentors to help guide and advise students. But the ASK (Alumni Sharing Knowledge) program helped us out tremendously and put us in touch with some amazing alumni, Yuling Ma (Polycom Technology) and Brian Fung (Brave.com), who shared their stories and experiences with us. Inspired by their words, some of the members of our club have gained employment at web3 companies like Polygon. These connections and opportunities would not have been possible without the ASK program." Launched by the Office of Alumni Relations in September 2020, ASK connects professionally accomplished alumni with students who are eager to learn from them. Many QC students come from immigrant families or are the first in their families to attend college; sometimes, this background limits their access to adults familiar with different career paths. By linking students to alumni who can help them understand their options and make good decisions, ASK levels the field.

In its first year, through sessions conducted over Zoom, the program arranged for alumni to participate in career panels and serve as guest speakers for remote classes. During Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, ASK extended outreach to student clubs, too. In addition to Blockchain, eight clubs put in requests for alumni speakers: the QC Dance Team, QC Art Club, QC Chickelin, Future Healers of America, the Body Improvement Club, the QC ATV Club, Future alumni@qc.cuny.edu for a participation form. ASK volunteers and night students. She had introduced programs in areas such as wellness and professional development, adding a social worker to her team. But COVID and its attendant economic stress exacerbated existing issues, such as food security. "Most of our students live at home," she reports. "Some parents won't go to a food pantry, but students might. However, QC's food pantry doesn't always have kosher food." In response, QC Hillel, in partnership with the Metropolitan Council and Commonwealth Queens, launched a digital kosher food pantry in September. Students place orders through an app on their phone or through an i Pad at QC Hillel, and then pick up their food every week.

Similarly, Rabbi Shaul Wertheimer has steered the Chabad of Queens College through challenges. He and his wife established Chabad in a house near campus in 2004, and are grateful for the opportunity to work with students at a critical time of their lives. "We're creating a beautiful, lifelong bond with students' heritage and the campus," he comments. His children have grown up alongside QC students, developing lasting friendships.

When the threat of coronavirus prompted the Wertheimers to temporarily suspend indoor gatherings, the rabbi took his weekly Torah classes online and, with funding from the children of a generous alumnus, set up Shabbat To Go. "We offered Shabbat in a bag: homemade challah, matzoh ball soup, kugel," says Wertheimer. "Students and alumni could call, ask for a bag, and pick it up. In-person operations were resumed as soon as safely possible. After two doctors established guidelines, we opened physically," he continues. "We rented a tent and set it up in the backyard. For most of 2020, we had Shabbat dinner and Torah classes outside."

Because of his connections with students, Wertheimer is routinely asked to officiate at weddings, baby namings, and funerals. "I performed more QC weddings during COVID than during the previous 16 years, almost."
The College of the Future Looks to 2037 and Beyond

By Leslie Jay and Bob Suter

C ouples fortunate enough to reach their 85th anniversary are urged to mark the date with wine, symbolic of a relationship that has improved over the years. Keeping that thought in mind, it’s time to open a well-aged red and toast Queens College on the occasion of its 85th anniversary, which officially fell on October 11, 2022. The year or so leading up to that date was momentous.

At a reception on November 10, 2021, President Frank H. Wu announced the Thomas Chen Family/Crystal Windows Endowment, the first major gift to help establish the Queens College School of Arts, QCArts for short. (QC’s plan to establish two new schools, one for business, the other for arts, was covered in the 2021 edition of Queens magazine.) Specifically, the $1,105,000 Chen/Crystal Windows fund was created to support Asian contemporary art at the college through exhibitions, student scholarships, and a visiting artist program.

Queens College Foundation President Lee Fensterstock, U.S. Congresswoman Grace Meng, and New York State Senators Toby Ann Stavisky and John Liu joined Wu in thanking Chen, a Taiwanese immigrant and art lover who founded Queens-based Crystal Window and Door Systems, growing it into a nationwide business. “Queens College is profoundly grateful for the generous support of Thomas Chen, whose endowment will enable the college to offer exciting new programs and scholarships,” said Wu. “At the same time, Chen’s remarkable life and outstanding career will inspire our students, showing them that with vision and hard work, the American dream is attainable.”

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., represented by Tiffany Eason, issued a proclamation in honor of the Chen family and Crystal Window and Door Systems. “The people of Queens warmly thank Thomas Chen for his generous donation to Queens College and salute the Chen family and Crystal Window and Door Systems for its deep and ongoing commitment to our borough,” wrote Richards.

Chen, identifying himself as someone who never had the chance to attend college, expressed pride in being able to support higher education and QCArts. “This is the first major gift to help establish the new School of Arts, a subject near and dear to my heart,” he commented. “This makes the endowment all the more special to me and a wonderful legacy for my family.”

Chen was in attendance on March 3, 2022, for the launch of the Queens College Business School, which unites six departments—accounting, actuarial studies, economics, finance, international business, and risk management—strengthening connections among them.
Nicole Cooley read original poetry. But the emphasis was on QC students, who were showcased along the Arts Walk, during the reception, and at a dance concert that evening.

On September 28, nearly a year after the Chen Family/Crystal Windows Endowment was announced, the Godwin-Ternbach Museum opened Understatements: Lost and Found in Asian America, the inaugural exhibition funded by that gift. Organized by Herb Tam (Museum of Chinese in America), the show features the work of eight artists exploring the evolving layers of identity represented by the term “Asian American.” Understatements will be on view through January 6, 2023.

In addition to creating two new schools in the most significant restructuring in QC history, the college has been steadily improving campus facilities.

In the Gertz Building, the Speech-Language-Hearing Center is getting a long-planned overhaul, reports Zeco Krcic (AVP, Facilities, Planning and Operations). The completely renovated center will contain conference areas, student lounges, a library, therapy rooms, research laboratories, faculty offices, and augmentative communication and preschool language units as well as areas for clinical training and treatment. “The entry area will also be redesigned to make the center more welcoming and functional,” says Krcic. “The design was very carefully developed with the center’s expert faculty team.”

Safety concerns motivated several projects completed in recent months, such as work on the sidewalks along the campus perimeter, repairs to the exterior façades of Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library and Kiely Hall, and replacement of some bricks and windowsills at FitzGerald Gymnasium.

At Jefferson Hall, erected in 1907, a team of specialized craftsmen and engineers completed structural repairs to a wooden truss in the attic that runs the length of the building. The beam was

Below left: (From left) New York State Assembly Member Nily Rozic, President Frank H. Wu, New York City Council Member Francisco Moya, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, and former Council Member Rory Lancman cut the ribbon at the track.

Below left: In April, QC presented The Merry Widow.
exhibiting cracks caused by the building settling over time. “The sheer size and evident engineering mastery,” marvels Krcic, speak to the quality of the construction and craftsmanship that went into these period buildings. “But like everything else, buildings shift with time, and require care and upkeep.”

Over at the Dining Hall, roof replacement is in full swing. The project is expected to be substantially completed by the end of the year.

The dramatic reduction of campus population during lockdown offered a strategic opportunity for facilities teams to plan and execute numerous proactive improvements. “We’ve learned things and responded accordingly,” Kricic says, describing the new water fountains being introduced across campus. “They’re completely touchless. You can bring your favorite water bottle and fill it with water that’s UV light-treated, 24/7.” An initial 45 water filling stations have been installed, with plans to continue replacing older fountains each year.

UV light, as a proven technology, he notes, is also being used for air disinfection in hundreds of offices and classrooms. Two campus buildings were retrofitted with whole-building HVAC system UV solutions, with more building systems to be retrofitted in the next year or two.

Energy savings and labor efficiencies are being achieved by replacing fluorescent lighting fixtures with more energy-efficient, longer-lasting LED bulbs and fixtures. “Instead of replacing bulbs frequently, you get a decade of lifespan, if not more, with LED bulbs,” Kricic explains. “Labor time saved on frequent repetitive maintenance is then utilized on other preventive maintenance tasks.”

These projects and others involve tremendous group efforts, he says, expressing tremendous appreciation for facilities teams, “from managers to all classified trade shops teams in Buildings and Grounds, the custodian’s team, campus Planning Design and Construction, and the Environmental Health and Safety team. Thanks to Public Safety, Human Resources, and Information Technology Services for their steady support, too.” In addition, he recognizes QC’s partners at CUNY and DASNY; project contractors; state, city, and borough funding agencies and representatives; and the college administration.

Last but not least, Kricic extends “special thanks to members of our campus community for their great understanding and patience throughout the past and ongoing necessary campus renovation activities.”

As QC approaches the century mark, these activities help keep the college of the future in shape for the future.
Queens College Legacies

An Alumna Reflects on Her Family’s Many Links to QC

Like so many Queens College alumni, I was the first one in my family to go to college—but I was far from the last family member to find a home at QC.

The decision to choose Queens was easy. An out-of-town college was not affordable for my family. Queens College had an excellent academic reputation. I was interested in theatre and Queens had a robust theatre program. As a freshman, I worked on costume design and construction for several plays performed at the college. Theatre students and faculty were a close-knit group. I earned a bachelor’s degree in Communication Arts and Sciences (now Media Studies), with a concentration in theatre, in 1967 and a master’s degree from the same department in 1972. (Later I completed a PhD at the CUNY Graduate Center.)

I enjoyed my time at Queens. When my two younger sisters were ready to consider colleges, QC was a natural fit for them as well. Both my sisters, Amy Stiefel Cooperstein ’71 and Jane Stiefel ’76, went to graduate school and became teachers. Amy ran a well. Both my sisters, Amy Stiefel Cooperstein ’71 and Jane Stiefel ’76, went to graduate school and became teachers. Amy ran a

My mother’s high school education had been interrupted in 1936, when she was 15, after witnessing Kristallnacht, she left Nazi Germany for a Kindertransport train. She immigrated to the United States and worked as a waitress and a secretary before getting married and starting a family. Once her three children had graduated, she completed a GED. Then, she enrolled in QC’s Adult Continuing Education (ACE), an undergraduate program for adults who had not had the opportunity to attend or finish college. A better student than any of her children, my mother graduated cum laude and in 1984, was invited to Phi Beta Kappa.

My time at QC didn’t end with my graduation or my sisters’ and mother’s graduations. After I began my PhD, I became a full-time instructor in Communication Arts and Sciences, teaching basic courses. My future husband, Forbes I. Hill, was also a faculty member in the department. Although he generally taught more advanced courses, for several years, we taught a large

In the mid 70s, my mother, Forbes, and I were all involved as the Academic Senate; my mother was the ACE student representative, Forbes represented Communication Arts and Sciences, and I represented the Arts Division. We didn’t always agree on issues that came before the Senate. Occasionally, we canceled out each other’s votes—which made for some interesting dinner-table conversations after Senate meetings!

I eventually left teaching, using my communication background as a public relations professional. I retired after 30 years at NewYork-Presbyterian/Brooklyn Hospital, as vice president for communication and external affairs.

After her graduation, my mother studied comparative literature at the CUNY Graduate Center. Active in her community well into her early 90s, she gave lectures to local groups on topics in literature, history, and politics.

Forbes had a successful career at QC, teaching courses ranging from Classical Rhetoric to Media, Law and Ethics for over 40 years. He loved the work so much that after retiring in 2003, he went back to QC as an adjunct. He was still teaching just a few weeks before his death in 2008.

In addition to teaching, Forbes published in the area of his

My father was a persistent teacher in his father’s footsteps. He published in the area of his

How the Campus Nurtured an Acclaimed Actor

Tony Award winner Danny Burstein ’86 grew up at Queens College. The son of recently retired philosophy professor Harvey Burstein, and painter and art teacher Virginia Vega Burstein ’78, he dissolved the halls in his childhood and adolescence before going on to earn a degree in drama, theatre, and dance. “Queens College was my neighborhood,” Burstein recalls. “My folks still live very close. I see it as a very vital community that still feeds my life.”

In his reflection on QC, Burstein also notes his father’s initial appointment as a lecturer in the 1960s. “I remember running around the Quad and going into the philosophy department with my dad; hanging out in his office, all the books. I knew all the teachers,” he remembers. “They literally knew me since I was 6 or 7 years old. Queens College always felt like home to me; it always felt like a safe, fun, exciting place.” It also helped launch his career. A graduate of the legendary High School of Performing Arts, Burstein was already a veteran performer when he started college, but credits Edward M. Greenberg, then a professor of Drama and Theatre, with getting him into QC. His father’s Equity card and his first job as a professional actor at age 19.

His father’s position enhanced his intellectual curiosity. “I took three classes with my dad. He didn’t give me any special treatment at all. He would ask me, ‘Have you done your paper? Have you finished your paper?’ Really hard on me when he was oh-so-kind to his students!” he laughs. “But I really enjoyed taking his classes. I learned a lot. He’s a very special human being.”

Burstein recalls with delight. “It opened me up to think that I can really do anything, so what do I love to do?”

In addition to teaching, Forbes published in the area of his specialty. Aristotelian rhetoric. He also served for many years as chair of the QC chapter of the Professional Staff Congress and, for a few years in the 1980s, as chair of the Department of Media Studies. A collection of some of his books, pamphlets, news clippings, and correspondence is archived in Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library.

Forbes and I had three children who have, to date, produced ten grandchildren and a great-grandchild. In 2008, our children and I established the Forbes I. Hill Endowed Scholarship to mark my husband’s 80th birthday. The scholarship was designed to provide tuition awards to deserving undergraduate students majoring in Communication Arts and Sciences. Subsequently, at the department’s request, the award was redesignated to assist graduate students.

Forbes passed away a few months after his special birthday, so the scholarship was established and the address of his memory. A few years later, we created a second memorial fund—the Forbes I. Hill Faculty Development Fund—to give needed financial assistance to young faculty members for research or travel to academic conferences. A plaque in Forbes’ honor hangs outside Room 150 in Keihi Hall, where we taught our multimedia course. After my mother passed away last year at the age of 98, I asked Christa Spreizer (German) whether the department might want part of my mother’s collection of German books. Spreizer offered to take some books for faculty members and students. Now I’m working with the Queens College Foundation to set up a fund in my mother’s name to benefit students and faculty in the German department.

The college meant a great deal to me and to my whole family. I’m happy to be able to help Queens continue to give a great education and support to a new generation.

– Lyn Stiefel Hill ’67, MA ’72, CUNY PhD ’85

They taught me about preparation: Success comes down to the work you do before you walk into that class. For me, now, before I walk into that rehearsal room, I’m super, super, super prepared. It allows me to be in the moment because I’m so ready for whatever is thrown my way. Doing what he loved was key. “I had so many friends where their parents were going, ‘you’ve gotta do this, you’ve gotta get a job because you’re not really making money.’ My parents were not like that at all. My dad would say to me things like, ‘wouldn’t it be wonderful to be a poet?’” Burstein recalls with delight. “It opened me up to think that I can really do anything, so what do I love to do?”

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Harvey and Virginia Burstein

Danny Burstein
"Helping People Is in My Blood"

Marvin Milich devoted decades to teaching and advising students

By Leslie Jay

Alumnus and faculty member Marvin Milich (Accounting and Information Systems), age 76, retired last spring after accumulating nearly half a century on campus. "I was at Queens College for 48 out of the 85 years it existed," he says. Ironically, given his duties, he would never have matriculated at QC.

The son of European Jews who immigrated before World War II—his father left Poland in 1932, his mother escaped Germany in 1939—Milich was born in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. In 1955, "one week after the Dodgers won," he recalls, his family moved to Forest Hills. Educated at PS 220 ("I was a member of its first graduating class"), Bayside Junior High, and Forest Hills High School, he would have preferred to leave the city for college. However, he says, "European parents don’t like their children going to school out of town."

Milich agreed to attend Queens College on the condition that he would get a new car and be allowed to lead an independent life. Early on he returned home in his 1964 Mercury Comet Caliente at 1:30 am and found his mother waiting up for him. "I told her that if she ever did that again, I would give back the car and go to school out of town," he says.

Without further interference, Milich stayed at QC. Building on years of working at Miller and Berkowitz Furriers, a business owned by his father and uncle, he majored in accounting and economics. "Accounting came easily to me," he notes. "From age 14 I had been keeping my father’s books.”

Milich immersed himself in extracurricular college activities. Appalled by the Rockefeller Drug Laws, which could get someone a five-year jail sentence for possession of a single joint, he founded the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). "I became known as the biggest drug dealer on campus," he says with a laugh, adding that he never sold drugs. He was chief officer of the Student Senate, was elected as a National Student Association delegate, and served as treasurer for Central House Plan.

"Helping people has always been in my blood,” he continues. "When I was an upper classman at Queens, I volunteered several hours a week in the Office of Student Activities, then located in Room 110 in the Social Sciences Building, now known as Powdermaker Hall (coincidentally, where my office was later located). I manned the front desk and would answer all kinds of questions from students. I knew the bulletin from cover to cover, and even at such a young age I derived extreme satisfaction from helping my fellow students. I think my efforts were the impetus behind the Peer Advisement program that started after my graduation. I enjoyed working with Helen Hendricks, Donald Brandage, and Richard Covert during these formulative times in my life."

Upon graduation, Milich enrolled at New York University School of Law. "My intention was to be a tax attorney," he comments, "but it didn’t work out that way.” Passing both the CPA and bar exams, he spent two years at the accounting firm of Arthur Andersen. Then he was hired by a Medford, Long Island-based real estate company that had hired both his accountant and its attorney. Subsequently he became in-house counsel for a real estate developer. In 1978, "It went bankrupt," Milich says. "I had a small private practice, but it wasn’t enough to support myself."

One of his closest friends, Leonard Schultz ’68, was teaching at QC, and alerted Milich that the Accounting Department had an opening for a substitute assistant professor in business law. He filled the spot, eventually gaining tenure and the title of associate professor, which doesn’t quite capture his status as an elder statesman in the department. Milich played a critical role in the development of the master’s program in accounting, directing it for the past 18 years. "Every student was required to see me every semester," he says. "I registered them all personally and was able to successfully resolve most problems faced by them."

His efforts weren’t confined to his department. "For over a decade I was chair of the Faculty Student Disciplinary Committee working with Dean Burt Bochner in adjudicating disputes concerning plagiarism, cheating, and even assault," he reports. "This work gave me the opportunity to combine both my legal and advisement skills for the betterment of the college."

More recently, he helped win approval for the master’s in taxation, a signature initiative of the Queens College Business School. The program will officially launch this fall.

"To have a great department, you need various types: teachers, researchers, advisers,” Milich observes. "Advisement is where I thrive. I told students, ‘If you want to come and talk to me, it doesn’t have to be about accounting.’ I have consulted him about having another child, or pursuing a career outside accounting.’ His response? ‘You only go around once. You have to do what you love to do.’"

Milich loves tennis; he is on the court four times a week. "I hope to still play singles at 80," he says. He enjoys travel, too. Before the pandemic, he and his wife, Judi, booked seats on a river cruise from Paris to Normandy. Their trip was postponed twice because of the pandemic, but they finally sailed this past June. Milich looks forward to spending more time with his children and grandchildren; he and his wife have a large, blended family, most of whom live in New York. He also loves the institution where he spent so many years, saying, "My heart will always be with Queens College.”
The Harlem Chamber Players (HCP) www.harlemchamberplayers.org/ held its largest assembly to date—four solos, a 72-member choir, a 62-piece orchestra, and a 28-person dance troupe—to present R. Nathaniel Dett’s oratorio The Ordering of Moses to a packed Riverside Church on Friday, June 17. The New York Times praised the singing of soprano Brandi Sutton, mezzo-soprano Kristy Swann, tenor Chinery Puckor, and baritone Kenneth Overton. Despite all the talent on display, the concert, held during Juneteenth weekend, had a welcoming atmosphere, reported the paper. “The only thing stuffy about the evening was the weather outside.”

That’s the goal, says Liz Player ’08, HCP’s founder, executive director, and artistic director. “I love creating communities and opportunities for people to perform.”

A self-described “Army brat,” Player lived in multiple places, including Japan and Korea, until she was in third grade, when her family settled in New Jersey. At age 11, emulating her best friend, she took up clarinet and joined the school band. Soon music was more than a hobby. “I started checking out albums at the library,” Player recalls. “I bought albums at the record store—Beethoven, Shostakovich. I joined a youth orchestra.”

Nonetheless, she didn’t pursue a degree in performance. “My parents did not want me to be a broke musician,” Player says. “I applied to Rutgers College in New Brunswick, I studied something practical—computer science—and lusted it the whole time.” Upon graduating, she became a programmer analyst. Eight years later, still working in that field, she moved to New York City with the goal of resuming music. “I heard that Queens was friendly to older students going back to study music.” A visit to campus confirmed that impression; she was accepted. “I knew some people attending Queens College,” Player explains. “I bought a program at a concert and saw a mention of the quilting project, so I went there.”

A musical career proved elusive. “My love was chamber music, but there’s no work,” Player explains. While working at the New York Stock Exchange and then temping, she taught, freelanced, and founded a woodwind quintet, the West Harlem Winds. In collaboration with violinist Charles Dolson, she started and played in Music at St. Mary’s, a four-concert summer series at St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, a historic West Harlem congregation. With the departure of Dolson in 2010, she teamed up with fellow clarinetist Carl Jackson, an East Harlem native. Renaming the project the Harlem Chamber Players, they expanded programming, in the process building audiences for classical music and creating outlets for classically trained musicians of color.

In the ensuing years, HCP has performed at significant New York City venues—the Apollo Theater, the Cotton Club, and at three stages at Carnegie Hall—and as far afield as the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The organization’s work is sustained by a mixture of public funding, arts partnerships, corporate grants, and individual donors, such as Player’s parents, who resigned themselves to her career choice. (Her mother even provided catering after some events, preparing sushi, cellophane noodles with vegetables, fried chicken, and potato salad—dishes reflecting the family’s Korean and African American heritage.)

For years, Player in effect held two jobs, overseeing HCP while doing something else to support herself. From 2016 through last spring, she was employed at the Ford Foundation, most recently as a grants manager; she enjoyed the position, but had to give it up. “I got so busy I couldn’t keep up with both,” she admits. “It’s lots of responsibility.” But she didn’t sacrifice a steady paycheck to join the ranks of broke musicians. A grant, the Bailey Powell Estabish Fund awarded HCP for capacity building—foundation talk for work, start from programming, that strengthens an organization—includes a salary for Player, proof that it’s possible to pursue a path you love and eventually get paid for it.

Noteworthy Career

Liz Player ’08, founder of the Harlem Chamber Players, presents concerts for underserved audiences

By Leslie Jay

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Uniformly Successful Veterans and Students on Active Duty Thrive at QC and Beyond

By Bob Suter

In recent years, Queens College has won plaudits for its work assisting veterans pursuing a college education. Military Times rates QC “Best for Vets.” The college has been designated a “Military Friendly School” by Military Friendly, a company that evaluates organizations’ commitment to serving the military and veteran community.

QC student and veteran Sharon Rimal readily agrees. The Political Science major and active member of the New York National Guard credits Veteran Support Services (VSS) with getting her on track to pursue a meaningful career when she re-enters civilian life upon retirement in five years, when she will have completed 25 years of service.

“I always wanted a college degree,” says Sergeant First Class Rimal. “For various reasons, I was not able to complete my bachelor’s pursuit. So, this is 20 years in the making, on and off, throughout various different colleges.”

Her first connection with Queens College was 2017–2018 when she was majoring in Chinese. (Born 37 years ago in Fuzhou, China, she came to the United States with her parents when she was 11. Other than two deployments with the Guard to Kuwait, she has lived almost entirely in the New York City area.)

About to embark on her third deployment to Kuwait, Rimal wanted to resume her studies at QC. In particular, she needed a track that would allow her to take courses online.

This fall semester, Lt. Col. Erazo helped me re-enroll at QC, says Rimal, referring to Janet Erazo, a lieutenant colonel in the NY National Guard, then serving as interim associate director of VSS. (Associate Director Dennis Torres was on family leave.)

Erazo had Rimal submit her civilian and military transcripts and resumes and, with the assistance of Academic Advising Director Laura Silverman, helped determine options that offered online study and would fit her careers that interested Rimal. She is taking one online course with the intention of adding additional online courses next semester, once she’s settled in Kuwait.

Erazo, a citizen-soldier, is a finance officer assigned to Joint Forces Headquarters, Division of Military and Naval Affairs in Latham, New York (headquarters of the adjutant general). She mentors other soldiers the way she does at VSS so that they can maximize what they’ve learned in the military in the civilian sector.

She notes that soldiers acquire specific technical skills, field skills, and leadership skills. She shares with them, she says, how to become their own career counselors, determining areas of experience they might want to emphasize to make them more valuable to employers. Of the benefits of military service, she tells them, “Where else can you go where they pay you to learn a skill, and pay you while you learn it?”

Erazo says her own military experience over 23 years, with multiple deployments for 9/11 and to Iraq, Kuwait, and Ukraine, helps in assisting veterans. “You can share experiences with them. It gives you more credibility.”

VSS is currently assisting 135 veterans who are studying at QC. Pre-pandemic, the number was more typically 250, says Erazo. VSS has an academic advisor specifically dedicated to veterans’ needs, as well as a school certifying official who verifies the Veterans Administration (VA) educational benefits available to them under the GI Bill (the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008). The VA also funds work-study positions for student veterans to work at VSS.

Additionally, through PROVE (Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans Education), master’s-level interns from the Hunter College Silberman School of Social Work provide support to students currently in the military and those who’ve completed service, connecting them to the resources they need as they transition from or integrate their military and college life. Student veterans have their own lounge in the Student Union, which features computer workstations, a refrigerator, and a TV.

A former PROVE intern herself, Erazo assesses their overall skills, aptitudes, lifestyle, and dreams. “How can we help translate these into an education plan that sets them up to reach their future goals?” she continues. “They come in and I’ll say, ‘What’s your major?’ They’ll say, ‘Economics.’ And I’ll say, ‘Are you good at it? It looks like you got all Cs.’ And they’ll say, ‘I want to work for the MTA.’ And I’ll say, ‘You don’t need that to work for the MTA, but if that is what you want, let’s develop a plan so you’re successful.’”

When needed, Erazo interfaces with different departments—from academic areas to tutoring and day care—to help make adjustments in student veterans’ courses of study that will help set them on a more productive path. “It takes the whole team sometimes,” she notes. “It’s not always so cut and dry. And it feels really good.”

Referring to Rimal, Erazo interested her in a course of study that she could pursue while deployed, emphasizing that she needed to get more “bang for the buck” than she was getting studying Chinese, a language in which she was already fluent. Rimal ultimately chose Political Science, and received a minor in Chinese for her previous coursework.

Reflecting on her experience at QC, Rimal says she likes the faculty and the support she receives and says it’s why she’s committed to completing her studies at QC.

With a Political Science degree, she concludes, “I see the possibility of a career with government entities or working with a nonprofit organization. Having the option of online courses while I’m away ultimately contributed to my decision.”

“Overall,” she concludes, “I’m very, very happy and grateful for the support I’ve received at Queens College.”

Dr. Richard Barakat ’81, Physician-in-Chief and Director of Cancer Services and Research, Northwell Health Cancer Institute

Bill Blancato ’80, Mediator and Arbitrator, Blancato Legal Services PLLC

Eileen Cohen ’78, Senior Counselor, Abraham MacGregor; Adjunct Instructor, NYU School of Professional Studies

Michael Freudentstein ’82, Partner, PFT Partners

Celeste Guth ’82, Partner, PFT Partners Strategic Advisory Group

Jason Katims ’84, Creative Development Producer, Apple TV+

Zena Kaufman ’77, President, ZGK Quality Consulting

Dr. Martin Kessler ’76, Chief of Plastic Surgery, South Nassau Community Hospital

Ronald Klauser ’75, CEO, Graduation Alliance

Dr. Andrew Koldony ’94, Medical Director of Opioid Policy Research, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University

Dr. Jeffrey Kordower BA ’80, MS ’83, Founding Director, ASU-Banner Neurodegenerative Disease Research Center, Arizona State University

Dr. Beth Lieberman ’88, Physician; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

James Mitarotonda ’77, Chairman, President, and CEO, Barlington Capital Group LP

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

The past year included events with alumni Sara Radicati and Jason Katims (seen here speaking to students).

Jenny Nagren ’03, Senior Program Officer, Pinkerton Foundation

Dr. Olivia Nuel ’11, Plastic and Reconstrucy Surgery Resident, Yale University School of Medicine; Founder, DNASimple

Sara Radicati ’77, President and CEO, The Radicati Group, Inc.

Lawrence Statsky ’75, CPA, Partner-in-Charge of Financial Services, Raich Ende Malter and Co. LLP

Stephanie Stiefel ’80, CPA, Managing Director of Neuberger Berman and Head of Client Development for the Straus Group, Neuberger Berman Private Asset Management Division

Dr. Eric Treiber ’72, Dermatologist, Treiber Dermatology Associates

Rico Viray ’79, Chairman and Global CEO, The BlocPartners

David Weiner ’78, Managing Director and Senior Portfolio Manager, Straus Group, Neuberger Berman Private Asset Management

Dr. Dr. Michael Freudenstein ’82,  Partner, PFT Partners

Dr. Jason Katims ’84,  Creative Development Producer, Apple TV+

Sara Radicati ’77,  President and CEO, The Radicati Group, Inc.
L
and uncle live a few miles away and they have an empty bedroom.” Spar replied only one, Downstate Medical College, “because my aunt somewhere. If they didn’t, you were not getting into a school in recommendation of the pre-med committee. “If they recommended biochemistry major, belatedly deciding in his senior year that
he says.
public schools. “I was literally a stone’s throw from Queens College,”
admits that on more than one occasion he’s been lucky.
that have served him well: practicality and a sense of humor. He also
bioscience research. Similarly, newspapers were published at eight
of the other 192 Union military hospitals. “When I found this, I said to myself: ‘I have a book here,’” says Spar.
Dr. Lachmann’s house in Tappan, New York, where his alsamus is buried. It was there he grew up. He was 13 at the time of his death.
Spar says. Actually, he would produce two—
New Haven’s Civil War Hospital: A History of Knight U.S. General, 1862–1865 and Civil War Hospital Newspapers: Histories and Excerpts of Nine Union Publications. He’s currently at work on a book about
Governor Buckingham.
Space of orthopedic and hand surgery, which continues today.
practice of orthopedic and hand surgery, which continues today.
regimental surgeons. “The regimental surgeons of the Civil War did
companies, hospitals and large medical groups.
that I have a book here,” says Spar. What did I do 130 years later, from which I have gained empathy from
frequently original thinkers in macroeconomics. His work fit into no standard school,” said Samuel Cohen, a development sociology professor at Texas A&M University, in a blog post on his website. He used no other previous historians or social scientists as templates on which to fit himself. And yet—he was always strangely, uncannily, tight.” Lachmann’s most famous work, Capitalists in Spite of Themselves: Elite Conflict and Economic Transitions in Early Modern Europe, was published in 2000 and won multiple awards from the American Sociological Association. He published four
other books and had three more in the works at the time of his death.
Despite his outstanding research career, his contributions as a
friend, colleague, and mentor equalled his work as a sociologist. His
students loved attending his classes and he was a dedicated mentor
to many young sociologists all over the world, teaching courses and
workshops in Portugal, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and China.
They put on a whole memorial for him at Albany,” said Ms.
Becker. “The entire morning, the students talked about him. His
office was filled with tribute letters, which I think is wonderful.” In
a tribute posted online, one former student wrote, “He is the
most intelligent, knowledgeable, supportive, and humblest professor I have ever met in my life. I am just wondering how one person could be such a combination of these great qualities.” But Ms. Becker wanted to do more to honor her nephew’s
memory. So she reached out to her alma mater and worked with the
Office of Institutional Advancement and the Sociology Department to establish the Richard W. Lachmann Endowed Chair of Sociology at Queens College.
“I wanted to do something for him just to keep his name alive. It
was the only thing I could still do for him, and it was a way to be there for his grandchildren, Jonah and Reed,” she observed.
Although Lachmann never attended or taught at Queens College (he studied at Princeton and Harvard and also taught at
the University of Wisconsin), Ms. Becker thought establishing the
chair at QC was most appropriate. She fondly remembers her time
at Queens College. Additionally, Lachmann grew up in Queens and
lived in Manhattan at the time of his death. He loved living in New
York City where he frequented independent film screenings and off-
Broadway theatre, often with his Aunt Ruby. “Everyone thought I should sit up the endowed chair at Albany. I thought, his grandchildren and his son live in Manhattan. It
should be in New York City.” added Ms. Becker. “I loved Queens
College, and I always felt attached to it. It would be a good place, and his grandchildren could go visit there if they are still living in New
York.”
It was evident in our conversations with Ruth that she loved her
time at Queens College, and so being able to honor her nephew’s
memory in this way at her alma mater is especially meaningful,” said Laurie Dorf, vice president of Institutional Advancement.
The endowed chair will create exciting opportunities for Queens
College and will carry on the tradition of groundbreaking research that Lachmann established. We have very high hopes that this new
colleague will enable our program with new perspectives and research traditions.
—John Scarcini

Honing a Beloved Nephew
Richard W. Lachmann was a sociology professor at the University of Albany who was beloved by his students and respected by his colleagues. “He is one of the most fiercely original thinkers in macroeconomics. His work fit into no standard school,” said Samuel Cohen, a development sociology professor at Texas A&M University, in a blog post on his website. He used no other previous historians or social scientists as templates on which to fit himself. And yet—
be in New York City then,” added Ms. Becker. “I loved Queens
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colleague will enable our program with new perspectives and research traditions.
—John Scarcini

Ruth Becker endowed a chair named for her late nephew, Richard W. Lachmann (inset).
1954: Evelyn P. Mahairas received a Lifetime Achievement award from Marjul’s White Women of American Women for her leadership in health care and education projects... 1955: Marian Kaplan Shapiro received the publication of her memoir Unequal Lines: A Psychologist’s Remembering. The book focuses on the importance of the therapist separating his own life narrative from that of his patients in the treatment situation... 1967: Gary Silverstein recently published his second book, The Mayor of Jhatione Heights, Growing Up Jewish in New York in the 1950s. The book shares Silverstein’s stories of growing up in Jackson Heights and why it had such a profound impact on his life.

From left) Christen De Ocampo, Jessica Alejandro, Hadassah Allman, Makayla Noble, and Devonte Rowe release confetti.

1970: Harvey Brenner was selected president of the North American Association of Synagogue Executives, the year organization of executive directors working within the Conservative Jewish movement throughout the United States and Canada... 1971: Jessica B. Harris (PA) was named one of TIME’s 100 Most Influential People of 2021. She oversees a team of 12 critically acclaimed books documenting the foods and foodways of the African Diaspora. Her best-selling title, Pig at the Haggis: A Journey from Africa to America, inspired the Nefesh series of the same name... 1972: Jerry M. Kantor released his latest children’s book, A Bear for Bims: a picture book about a refugee family immigrating to America... 1973: Howard Elson, a member of QC’s Athletics Hall of Fame, participated in the 73rd 7+1 division of the 2021 Man’s Senior Baseball League National Championships in Phoenix, where he was named Most Valuable Player. Elson also starred in a production of The Sunshine Boys this season at the South Park Theatre in Pennsylvania... 1974: Karen Shapiro was awarded the inaugural Ines LeFebvre Excellence in Boardmanship Award at a meeting of the Morris County School Boards Association at Parsippany Hills High School on June 15. The award is open to board members who provide dedicated service, leadership, commitment, and significant contributions to the education of students in Morris County, New Jersey... 1975: Laura Langner was among the artists featured in the Light of Day at the West Windsor Arts Center in New Jersey. The exhibition showcases plein-air paintings, the practice of painting landscapes outdoors... 1976: Rachel Poonch has written his sixth book, Saloon: In the Bar. The Qur’an in Conversation with the Bible, published by Wipf and Stock in 2021... 1977: The book examines the history of homeopathic psychiatry in the United States from the 1870s until 1920... 1978: Riccardo Cortez was featured on the cover story of QG Views magazine earlier this year... 1979: The show will be at Central Connecticut State University in 2022... 1980: Lisa DeLoria Weinblatt has joined her school, SCHOUL, LUCHN, as its 2022“Metro Rising Stars” honoree. The show will be at Central Piedmont College in Charlotte, North Carolina, in December 2022. SCHOUL LUCHN comprises paintings that present images concerning the nature and evolution of relations between men and women in dance, visual arts, music, film, and theater. Cortez will lead the business areas, including operations, facilities, development and marketing... 1997: Elizabeth Foxwell was named a special education supervisor assigned to Lincoln-Tisco Elementary School in Croxton; New York, and to Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School in Xenon... 1998: Anwar Barkhordar joined MPA, a leading audit, tax and advisory firm, as a principal, leading the insurance tax practice. He brings over 20 years of experience delivering U.S. and international tax services to insurance companies... 2000: William M. Golding was named special counsel at Dechert LLP, a leading global law firm. He specializes in corporate governance and bankruptcy... 2002: By the Light of Day... 2005: Kia Lindsay was named a partner at Versant Health—a leading national management consulting firm. Zide specializes in corporate development and marketing... 2008: Michael Sackheim was named a partner at Dechert LLP, a leading global law firm. He specializes in corporate governance and bankruptcy... 2010: Andrea Shapiro Davis was named an interim executive director of the CUNY Athletic Conference, where she will oversee the daily operations of the conference office. Christian Walters served previously as York College’s athletic director... 2012: The show will be at Central Piedmont College in Charlotte, North Carolina, in December 2022. SCHOUL LUCHN comprises paintings that present images concerning the nature and evolution of relations between men and women in dance, visual arts, music, film, and theater. Cortez will lead the business areas, including operations, facilities, development and marketing... 2015: The show will be at Central Piedmont College in Charlotte, North Carolina, in December 2022. SCHOUL LUCHN comprises paintings that present images concerning the nature and evolution of relations between men and women in dance, visual arts, music, film, and theater. Cortez will lead the business areas, including operations, facilities, development and marketing... 2022: By the Light of Day... 2022: The theater reopened in January...
Jamal Mark, elected Student Association president in June 2022, aspires to have a career in a STEM field.

Minnesota Sinfonia, a professional orchestra and community-supported non-profit dedicated to ensuring live, classical music for underserved and low-income communities of Minnesota. Kristine M. Weoch joined Wiggen and Dana as partner in the Health Care Department of the Firm’s New York Office. Her focus on health care transactions, and she advises clients within the health care industry on bankruptcy and reorganization matters.

John W. Stenger was appointed to the Rio Grande County Court in the 12th Judicial District by Colorado Governor Jared Polis. He has 20 years of experience working on client engagements in technical accounting, and he has 20 years of experience working on client engagements in technical accounting.

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It’s Never Too Early to Start Saving

Yago Cura, a Queens College graduate, was named the new assistant principal at Great Hollow Middle School. He began his new role in February 2022 after previously serving as coordinator of special education for Long Beach High School and Middle School. Yvonne Shortt, a Queens College graduate, was named assistant conductor of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. She made her subscription series debut in November 2021.

Queens College is proud to announce the expansion of its Online Distance Learning program with the recent addition of the following courses:

- ECON 201: Principles of Microeconomics
- ECON 202: Principles of Macroeconomics
- MATH 101: College Algebra
- STAT 102: Introductory Statistics

For more information, please visit the Queens College website or contact the Office of Online Distance Learning at 718.990.8990.
and music director, wrote the song cycle JENifers, commissioned by the Villa Farnesina Foundation of the Performing Arts. Composed for soprano, viol, and piano, the piece is inspired by Margaret Walker’s poems “Sorrow Home,” “Jenapes,” “The Struggle Staggers Us,” and “Southern Song.” . . . Victor Murillo performed at a solo concert on January 25, 2022 at the Kupferberg Center for the Arts. In his 30-minute set, he experimented with different types of orchestrations and presented some of his arrangements and interpretations of folk songs from the region of Veracruz, Mexico . . .

Miki Yamamoto (MM) performed on the piano at The Django, a downtown Manhattan jazz club, as part of its Women’s History Month celebration, which honored more than 20 female artists last March. Yamamoto is the current pianist in the Philip Harper Quintet, the Roxy Coss Quartet, and the Antony Hart Group. . . . Miriam Zucker (MPA) had her art exhibit, SRCE I RUKU, on display at Sivarulrasa Gallery in Ottawa in Summer 2022. The paintings pay homage to her French-Canadian and Croatian roots.

. . . 2017: Joseph Haynes was hired as a field hydrogeologist at P.W. Grosser Engineering Firm in Bohemia, New York. . . . 2018: Susan D. Stoykovitz D’Angelo (MFA) had her art exhibit, BORN FREE, in Naples in March 2022 in the role of Festival Under The Stars at Opera Naples. The paintings pay homage to her French-Canadian and Croatian roots.

. . . 2019: The seven-year program trains outstanding physicians to achieve confidence and success in all neurosurgical domains. The seven-year program trains outstanding physicians to achieve confidence and success in all neurosurgical domains.

. . . 2020: Patricia Papp Behan (MM) performed at a sitar concert on June 25 in Andover, Massachusetts. The program paid tribute to the late musician and author Ali Akbar Khan, the oldest Alyce in Cipullo’s seven-year program trains outstanding physicians to achieve confidence and success in all neurosurgical domains.

. . . 2021: Selma S. Citrin (MM) performed a solo concert on January 25, 2022 at the Kupferberg Center for the Arts. In his 30-minute set, he experimented with different types of orchestrations and presented some of his arrangements and interpretations of folk songs from the region of Veracruz, Mexico . . .


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.

. . . 2023: . . .

Danielle Dulligan was hired as a field hydrogeologist at P.W. Grosser Consulting, a multidisciplinary engineering firm in Bohemia, New York. . . .

Danny Jonasik, an award-winning jazz musician, performed with his swing band, Danny Jonasik and the Rockabillians, at the Grunin Center for the Arts in New Jersey in April 2022. The concert featured music by Count Basie and Duke Ellington . . . Josephine Rose, founder of the Kathleen Mullally Foundation, which offers scholarships intended to help college students with young children finish their degree, granted a $1,000 scholarship to another QC graduate, Kishuanna Giovins. The money will help to defray the cost of day care for Giovins’ son, so that she can continue to pursue her master’s degree in public health at the CUNY School of Public Health . . .

. . . 2022: Dana Kennedy partnered with Design to design the art for the company’s student credit cards. As part of the campaign, Kennedy designed three potential card designs: “Go with the Flow,” “Rainbow Frogs,” and “For the Foxies,” with the winner to be determined by voters as Descover’s website. . . . Shannon Gibbons, who competed in season 18 of America’s Got Talent, was a featured singer in Gateway’s “Holiday Spectacular on Ice” at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts from Dec. 17, 2021 to Jan. 1, 2022. The performance was hosted by Olympic medallist Nancy Kerrigan.

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QUEENS COLLEGE’S 31st GALA was once again in person. We honored three distinguished alumni: Paulette E. Mullings Bradnock ’84, Matthew T. Higgins ’98, and Steven L. Gerard ’67 (posthumously).

Our wonderful emcee, alumna Gail A. Marquis ’80, led the night’s festivities, which also showcased music from our talented students, faculty, and alumni.

Brilliant alumni Danny Burstein and Howie Rose helped launch our celebration of the college’s 85th anniversary with compelling reflections.

Join us for our next gala at Guastavino’s!