

# QUEENS

THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE



## Elevated Expectations

**Queens College prepares itself and  
its students for the future**





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## 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 Mantsios (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 underserved audiences and expands opportunities for classical musicians of color.

Ira Spar belatedly applied to medical school with a rave recommendation from a QC professor, changing the course of his career. And for Lyn Stiefel Hill (page 26) and Danny Burstein (page 27), Queens College isn’t just their alma mater; it’s their family.

You’re part of the Queens College family, too. We would enjoy hearing from you. Please drop us a line at [qmag@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:qmag@qc.cuny.edu).

Permit me to share a personal observation. It has been wonderful to witness and participate in the return to our beautiful campus. I marvel at the sense of belonging 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 a place with such a sense of community.

Be careful and stay safe!

Sincerely,

President Frank H. Wu

Cover: (From left) Christen De Ocampo, Makayla Noble, Hadassah Allman, President Frank H. Wu, Jessica Alejandro, Devonte Rowe, and Jamal Mark illustrate the idea that with a well-rounded education, individuals’ reach can exceed their grasp.

Cover photo by Lee Weissman.

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## Class of 2022 Graduates in Person

Recommencing 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 '89, 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,



Adams



Casadevall

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.



From left, Danny Burstein, CUNY Trustee Ken Sunshine, President Frank H. Wu

## Neuroscience and Biology Major Wins Salk Scholarship



David Musheyev '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.

Musheyev 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 Tewari 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 Musheyev. 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.

## Furthering Their Studies on Fulbrights

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



Amrami received a Fulbright study/research award to seek a master's in public health at the University of Haifa in Israel; he hopes ultimately 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 Amrami, "and am so glad for having the Queens College community behind me through the entire process."

Farooqi received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant Award, which placed her in Korea to assist English-language teachers in the classroom. She majored in psychology and media studies and minored in Korean and English; her goal is to pursue a master's in psychology and conduct research on child development.

Farooqi 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."



## 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

Last fall, Queens College women's tennis player Maja Makal was selected as the East Coast Conference Player of the Year. For men's tennis, Kareem Rashad was named ECC Co-Player of the Year and Philipp Udde earned ECC Rookie of the Year honors. Somadi Druker was chosen ECC Coach of the Year.

In April 2022, QC junior Seira Larrauri Garcia, a star of CUNY's wheelchair basketball team, was among 29 athletes who vied for 12 spots on the United States Paralympic Wheelchair Basketball Team. Missing the cut, she still made history as the first CUNY student-athlete to be invited to try out for Team USA.

Queens College freshman Marc Cisco earned All-American honors in baseball. He is the second baseball student-athlete in the college's Athletics Program Division II era—and the first since 1998—to be so recognized. Cisco was named to the 2022 NCAA Division II Conference Commissioners Association (D2CCA) All-American Third Team, one of only four freshmen and just the second freshman overall among second basemen.

## 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 sisters Jessica and Danielle Alejandro 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 Félix V. Matos Rodríguez 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 City College of New York.



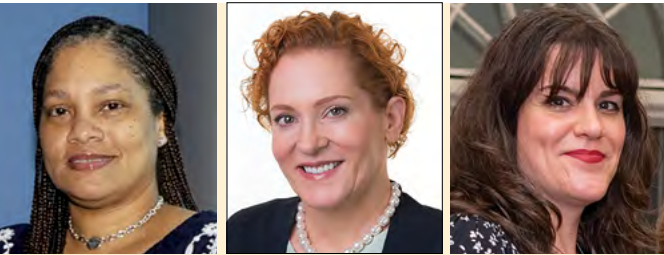
## One for the Books

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.



# Executive Moves

The past year saw changes in the college’s administrative lineup. Jerima DeWese took office as Queens College’s first chief diversity officer and dean of diversity in November 2002. DeWese 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 QC. Patricia Price, formerly associate provost and assistant vice president for academic administration, faculty development, and



**DeWese** research at Baruch College, was named interim provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. **Price** Meghan Healey—chair of the Department of Drama, Theater, and Dance since 2015—was appointed interim associate provost for academic and faculty affairs. She 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.

# 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 want to strengthen the breaking, or breakdancing, community and reverse the past two decades of its cultural erasure. 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.



“The Olympics happens every four years,” noted Kwikstep. “Hip hop happens 365 days a year. It doesn’t stop. What we don’t want to do is pin our hopes on something that happens every four years when you could be involved in it every day of your life.”



# 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 photography, installations, and performance art. “The enormous value of the lifetime of record-keeping, notes, drafts, versions and materials for every project in many media, plus every household and 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.

# 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 Basra, Iraq. “While the bulk of the money will go toward developing my current project on enslaved peoples in Basra, 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.”

# 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 Tempore Jeff Aubrey, and 200 community residents gathered at Hinton Park, 114th Street and 34th 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 the late jazz giant.



City Council Member Francisco Moya and friends found a way to honor a legendary Queens resident.

# 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.

“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.

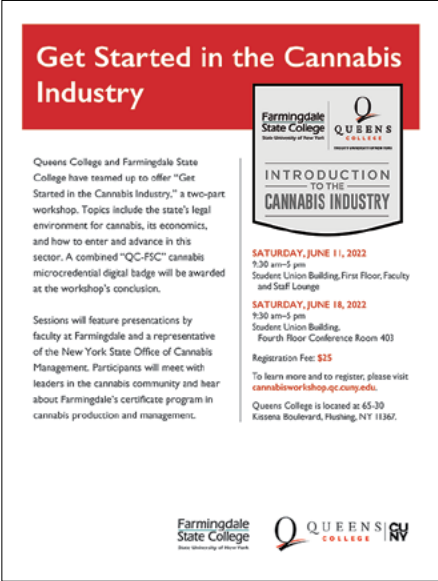
# Lincoln Scholar Donates Archive to New York

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, moving into the political arena as press secretary to Representative Bella Abzug. He went on to serve as public affairs director for WNET and, under the administration of Governor Mario Cuomo, executive vice president of the New York State Urban Development Corporation. Holzer 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.



# 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.



# Campus Opens WETLAB

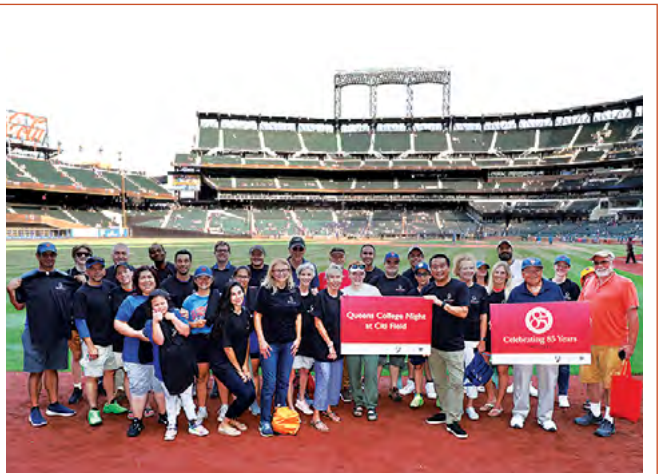
Through Community Project Funding allocated for the borough by Representative Grace Meng, Queens College received \$1,850,000 to establish a Wastewater Epidemiology Training Laboratory (WETLAB) on campus. The new facility



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 Dennehy (Biology), who has been tracking and analyzing COVID-19 through New York City sewage.

# 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 *Chaucer’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.



**Hail fellows, 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!**

# 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 dietician 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.”

Helfand’s on-campus consulting offers individualized plans to those who request her help. Each person is entitled to up to four sessions with her.



## QUEENS IN MEMORIAM

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's merger with J.P. Morgan, 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 credited QC with changing her life and equipping her for professional success. At the Queens College Gala two months later, her son, Reginald, presented her with the President's Leadership Award.

In addition to her role on the QCF, Mullings Bradnock served on the board of governors for the Institute of Internal Auditors New York Chapter and was a member of the board of trustees for the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

### Danielle Abrams '92

Danielle Abrams, an artist whose genres included performance, installation, drawing, 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 a queer woman from a mixed-race family, she used art to explore issues of ethnicity and gender. She performed and exhibited at the ICA Boston; Detroit Institute of the Arts; Bronx Museum of the Arts; the Jewish Museum, New York; Queens Museum; Grand Central Art Center; and at the Live Arts Biennial at the University of Southern California Roski School of Art and Design. Abrams taught at the University of Michigan, QC, and York College CUNY before becoming a professor of the practice in performance at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University in Boston.



### 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, completing a master's 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.-Israeli relations and modern Jewish history, noting that he taught courses in those topics, as well as in Zionism, modern Israel, and 20th-century European diplomatic history.

### Joel Blickstein BS '88, MS

Science educator Joel Blickstein, a research associate in Queens College's chemistry and geology departments and an adjunct at Queensborough Community College, passed away in September 2021. He was 76. A native New Yorker, Blickstein held bachelor's and master's degrees from QC and a doctorate from the CUNY Graduate Center. He enjoyed a long career with the New York City Department of Education, teaching high school science; in retirement, he served as a substitute teacher and tutor. With his wife and colleague Bonnie Blackwell, who predeceased him, he established the RFK Research Institute, immersing high school students in hands-on research in multiple disciplines.

### Eric Cassell '50

Eric Cassell, an internist and a founding fellow of the Hastings Center—an independent bioethics research institute in Garrison, New York—passed away in September 2021 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 Bellevue 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 Block, 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 retail; as one of the four founding partners in Liz Claiborne Inc., he led the sales, marketing, distribution and licensing programs integral to the company's success. Chairman and CEO of Claiborne from 1989 to 1996, he subsequently founded Chazen Capital Partners. Chazen served on the boards of numerous nonprofits, ranging from his alma maters to the 92nd Street Y, the Eugene Lang Entrepreneurial Initiative Fund, and the Lupus Research Alliance.

### Roland Clark '08

Roland Clark, a field technician 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, a longtime instructor in the History 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 film. 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 was repeatedly named one of the best lecturers in its program.

### Raymond Disch

Raymond Disch, a member of the chemistry faculty for 35 years, passed away in September 2021 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 (BLFSA), 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 BA in Economics from Queens College, followed by an MBA from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School and designation as a chartered 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 School, the Lutheran Home at Germantown, the Pension Board of the United Church of Christ, and Abington Memorial Hospital and Lansdale Hospital.

### Leona Dushin '47

Equestrian and educator Leona Dushin died in July 2021 at the age of 95. Dushin—nee Leona Margaret Christina Hauff—spent her childhood in Whitestone riding horseback and taking lessons in acrobatics, dance, and wire walking; she interrupted 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 education. With marriage she settled in Garrison, 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 newscasts about topics important to teenagers. Her coverage of sexual cyberbullying won her a Third Coast Award and recognition from SparkAction, the social impact and storytelling collective of the Forum for Youth Investment. More recently, she worked on the podcasts "Nancy" and the "Takeaway."





## STEVEN GERARD '67

Former Queens College Foundation Chair Steven Gerard, a trustee for over 30 years, died in April 2022. Most recently, as a co-chair of the board's allocation committee, he was instrumental in ensuring that his alma mater received the support it needed to help counter the effects of the pandemic on campus.

Graduating with a BA in economics, Gerard embarked on a career that would encompass 16 years with Citibank, N.A. in senior positions; seven years with the American Stock Exchange, where his last title was vice president of the Securities Division; and leadership of Triangle Wire and Cable, Inc. as chairman and CEO.

From October 2000 to March 2016, he was the CEO of CBIZ, Inc. Gerard was previously a director, chairman of the Compensation Committee, member of the Compliance Committee and 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 Lennar Corporation and director and member of the Audit and Finance Committees of AutoNation, Inc. Gerard was on the faculty of the National Association of Corporate Directors and earned the NACD Leadership Fellow designation. He also served on many boards, both public and charitable.

## Carol Plaine Fisher '48

Carol Plaine Fisher, co-founder of Wildcat Publishing, died in June 2022 at her home in Westport, Connecticut. She was 94. Graduating from Queens College at 19, Fisher—nee 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 with him in Westport. Together, they launched Wildcat Publishing, which released notable books such as Nechama Tec's *Dry Tears: The Story of a Lost Childhood*, a Holocaust memoir that served as the basis for the film, *Defiance: The Fall of Japan* by historian and novelist William Craig; and the mystery *Murder Most Puzzling* by Lillian Robinson.

## Harvey Fried

Harvey Fried, professor emeritus of English literature, died in December 2021. A lifelong New Yorker, he was an ardent supporter of the arts and literature—he was a contributor to *Shakespeare Quarterly*—but also enjoyed “The Simpsons.”

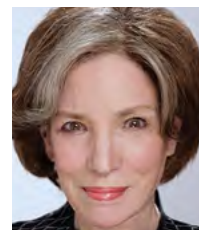
## John Joseph Gates

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 a 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 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.

## 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 in the memoir *My Detroit: Growing Up Greek and American in Motor City*. With Marvin Surkin, he 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*.



## Susan Wallack Goldstein '62

Teacher-turned-actress Susan Wallack Goldstein, a former member of the Queens College Foundation and a member of the Jefferson Society, passed away in June 2022. She was almost 82. After graduating from QC, Goldstein moved with her husband to Washington, D.C., and taught fifth grade in the

Northern Virginia school system. In mid-life, she decided to pursue her dream—acting—performing in both D.C. and New York City.

## Althea Gwyn '74

Women's basketball star Althea Gwyn, a member of the Queens College Athletics Hall of Fame and a Women's Basketball Hall of Fame “Trailblazer of the Game,” passed away in January 2022. A standout at Amity High School on Long Island, Gwyn joined QC's varsity as a first-year student, playing in the first women's college basketball game at Madison Square Garden in 1975. Her performance in the 1977–78 season earned her All-American honors. Eschewing Olympic tryouts in 1980, she joined the New York Stars, part of the Women's Professional Basketball League, precursor to the WNBA. She subsequently played for the league's New England Gulls, leading a labor protest when the team's owners stopped paying the athletes. After leaving professional sports, she served as a firefighter in Fayetteville, North Carolina.



## Penny Hammrich

Penny Hammrich, dean of QC's Division of Education from 2003 to 2010, passed away in August 2022 at the age of 58. Hammrich held a bachelor's degree in biology from South Dakota State University, a master's in biology/genetics at Minnesota State University, and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction,

with a concentration in science education, from the University of Minnesota. While teaching at Temple University, she created Sisters in Science, a children's program added to the curriculum at many East Coast schools. She expanded on Sisters in Science during her time at QC and testified before the House of Representatives on ways to improve education. Moving to Drexel University, she eventually became dean of its Education Department and is credited with launching labs where faculty and students could collaborate on educational research. In addition to publishing extensively, Hammrich established and operated a foundation to support people suffering from cancer.

## Clarice Hoffer '96

Clarice Hoffer passed away in January 2022 about six months short of her century mark. Hoffer had enrolled in City College in 1942, but dropped out due to the start of World War II; she went to Washington, D.C., to work for Voice of America, which began broadcasting that year to combat Nazi propaganda. When the war ended, Hoffer came back to New York. She married, raised a family, and had a career with the New York City school system. Returning to college as a septuagenarian, she earned a BA from Queens College at age 74, more than 50 years after she first pursued a degree.



## 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, majored in history and Jewish studies, and continued auditing classes for decades. Honoring her lifelong commitment to education, family friend 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.



## Ina Plotsky Kupferberg

Ina Plotsky Kupferberg, an attorney and philanthropist, passed away in October 2022 at the age of 66. A graduate of Cornell University and Boston University Law School, Kupferberg practiced labor and employment law before teaching business law at Baruch College. Sharing her time, talents, and resources, she served on the boards of Commonpoint Queens and other organizations as well as on numerous UJA-Federation of New York committees, and is recalled as a “book fair leader extraordinaire” for her children's schools. Together with her husband Mark and the Kupferberg 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 a master's at Teachers College and a doctorate 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 O'Brien '59

John O'Brien, an alumnus who taught history at Queens College for 50 years, died in June 2022. A precocious Stuyvesant High School graduate, O'Brien 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 first study abroad program at the University of Leeds in England in 1967.

## 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 da gamba, and recorder, 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.



## QUEENS IN MEMORIAM

### 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-in-residence at New York University's MusEdLab, passed away in the summer of 2021 at the age of 65. Patchel completed a BFA in music at SUNY Buffalo, where his teachers included John Cage, Morton Feldman, and Lukas Foss. Continuing his education in New York City, he studied at the Juilliard School of Music and earned a master's in composition from Aaron Copland School of Music. Active in punk rock as a guitarist and producer, he was known to a wider audience for his work for the Hayden Planetarium. He wrote the *Pluto Symphony*, which was nominated for a Pulitzer, for the planetarium; his band provided accompaniment for its Mars show. His other projects ranged from chamber opera to film scores.

### Joseph Ponte

Joseph Ponte, a Queens College music librarian from 1963 to 2003, died last winter. "Dr. Ponte was an accomplished musician, pianist, harpsichordist, and music historian," wrote Donald Pirone (ACSM). "He served our faculty and inspired our students with his keen intellect and encyclopedic knowledge." When the papers of composer Karol Rathaus were donated to QC, Ponte organized and cataloged the scores, manuscripts, letters, and biographical materials. This archive helped to pave the way for in-depth studies of Rathaus's life and music. Ponte earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard, where he performed Bach's *Six Partitas* at his final piano recital. For his graduate thesis at Brandeis, he transcribed a ninth-century musical treatise from the original Latin.

### Evelyn Puccini Rolleri '41

Evelyn Puccini Rolleri—seen in the college newsletter *QView* in a cap and gown in 2021, celebrating the 80th 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

John Vogelsang, 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 facilitating conflict transformation. His work encompassed participatory evaluation, board development, strategic planning, small and large group dialogues and deliberations, and alignment of an organization's services and structures with its values and social service/change goals. Prior to the launch of CERRU, Vogelsang was the director of

## 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 newscaster for WEVD—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 Hebrew Immigrant 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 Refugee Council USA Resettlement Committee.

(This writeup is derived from material published in *New Jersey Jewish News* and on the HIAS Blog.)

the college's Michael Harrington Center. The author of many articles and monographs, he taught a course in organization development and social change at American University and for two years was a visiting professor of organizational conflict transformation, and nonprofit, NGO, and social enterprise management at the School for International Training Graduate Institute.

### Sylvia Weinstock '73

Sylvia Weinstock, whom *Bon Appétit* magazine dubbed "the Leonardo da Vinci of wedding cakes," died in November 2021. She was 91. Weinstock, who held a master's in education from QC, taught elementary school while raising a family. As a hobby, she began making desserts, apprenticing herself to pastry chef George Keller and fielding orders from customers referred to her by Manhattan bakery owner William Greenberg, who didn't sell wedding cakes. In her fifties, after surviving cancer, Weinstock turned her sideline into a full-time business. Her creations, with elaborate ornamentation based on flowers she dismantled for intensive study, were sought out by A-listers in sports, entertainment, and both sides of the political aisle: Clintons, Kennedys, and Trumps were among her clientele.

### 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 lit 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 trustee 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 Interim Finance Authority.

### Jay Wolpert '65

Jay Wolpert, a game show creator and producer who reinvented himself as a screenwriter for movie blockbusters, died in January 2022, several weeks before his 80th birthday. Born in the Bronx, raised in a Brooklyn housing project and educated at QC, Wolpert 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 an adaptation of *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 interpreter 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, Zborowsky 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.



### 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. Regarded by 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 Mathematics and Natural Sciences' mission to prepare QC students for careers in science, math, technology, and health.



# Changing Lives by Degrees

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

By Bob Suter



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).

Gregory 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 event, 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.”

“On the 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.”

Mantsios took his first semester of classes evenings at John Bowne High School while working during the day. Despite his initial excitement about beginning college and most particularly, taking a course in Western Civilization, “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 at 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 going to carefully select courses, and I was going to sign up for this guy named Mike Brown in Sociology. I took four courses, two with him and two with another sociologist named Jeff Halley. I finished that next semester with straight A’s. I finished the rest of my career at Queens College without getting anything less than an A.”

As Mantsios’s commitment to opposing the war grew, he became involved in the Student/Faculty Coalition, which allowed him to get to know faculty members in a more personal way. Two of them, Halley and Brown, became lifelong friends.

Upon receiving his BA in Sociology, Mantsios and six fellow student activists formed a collective based in Astoria, planning to share space and do community organizing. One of their faculty advisers, however, convinced him and two other members of the group to return to QC to pursue master’s degrees and join a program called the University Year for Action—“like the domestic Peace Corps,” says Mantsios.

He earned his master’s in Urban Studies and was adjunct teaching when he received a call from Halley, who had moved on to William Paterson University in New Jersey: Would Mantsios be interested

“We met at the bar on the other side of the Long Island Expressway, 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.”

—Gregory Mantsios

in teaching there full-time, subbing for an ailing faculty member? Mantsios accepted. Within weeks of his arrival the faculty called a strike. Volunteering his community organizing skills, he soon found himself becoming secretary/treasurer of the faculty union. “It’s a long story,” he says, “but that’s how I got into labor studies.”

While his efforts contributed to the strike’s success, the administration sacked him for his union activities. A lawsuit to retain his position failed. He moved on to Empire State College, eventually becoming director of its Labor Studies program for over 1,200 electrical workers.

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 . . . The garment workers union offered to provide a quarter of a million-dollar endowment to support their workers who wanted to go back to school, basically to get out of a dying industry in New York.”

Mantsios recalls that Queens College President Saul Cohen was supportive but skeptical about this scenario—until leaders of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union showed up with a photographer and handed over the check. “That,” he proclaims, “was the beginning of the labor program at Queens College.” (In 2005, it was named the Joseph S. Murphy Institute to honor the CUNY chancellor who was an advocate for worker education.)

Reconnecting with old faculty friends and meeting new ones, Mantsios became part of the Monday Lunch Group: 30 to 40 faculty members who got together weekly to discuss a topic that was never announced in advance.

A smaller group of about five or six faculty members, including Michael Harrington (Political Science), had dinner on Monday evenings because they taught night classes. On one occasion, all were asked to cite the book that had most influenced them. Mantsios, the last to answer, turned to Harrington and named Harrington’s *The Other America*, which he remembered reading cover to cover in high school while sitting on his fire escape. The book, he told Harrington, made him realize that he wasn’t alone in being poor.

“I 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 dispossessed.

Mantsios says his greatest professional accomplishment “is helping to establish a CUNY school that is dedicated to public service and social justice and is serving 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. “That gives me hope!”

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 (Polygon.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.

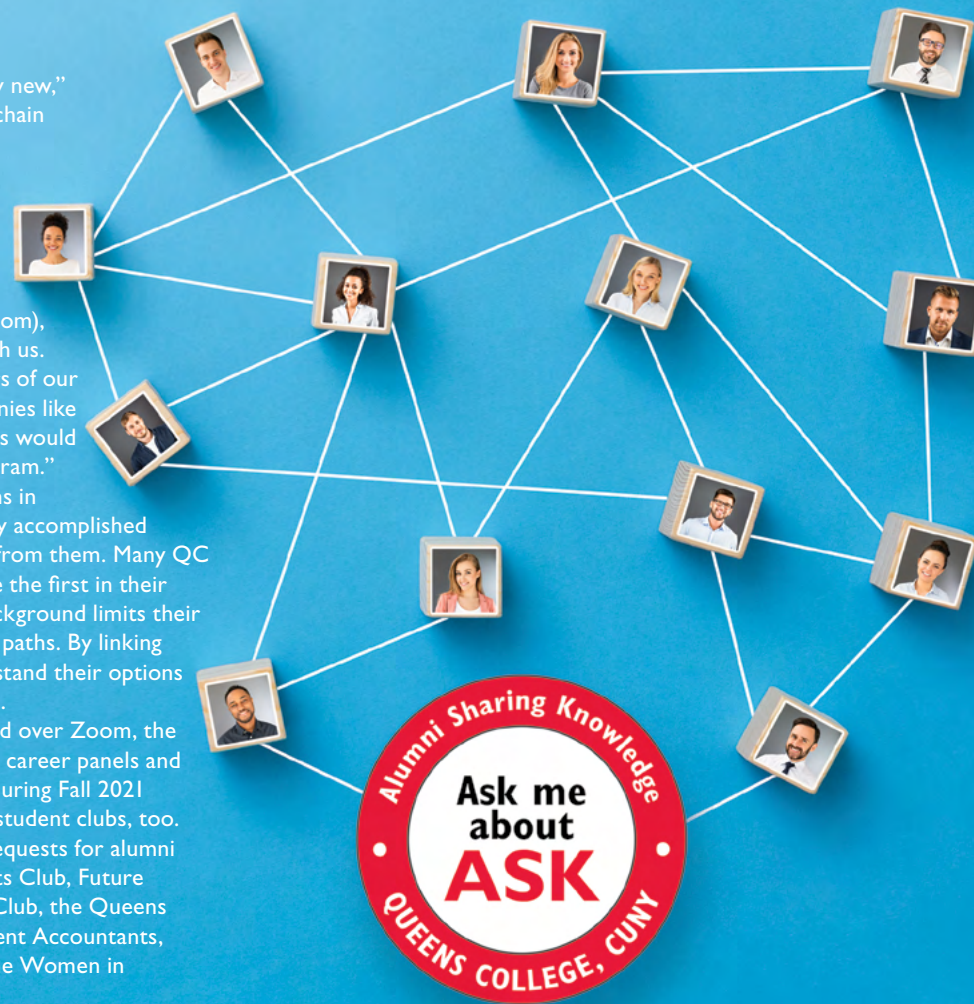
In its first year, through sessions conducted over Zoom, the program arranged for alumni to participate in career panels and serve as guest speakers for remote classes. During Fall 2021 and Spring 2022, ASK extended outreach to student clubs, too. In addition to Blockchain, eight clubs put in requests for alumni speakers: the QC Dietetics Club, the QC Arts Club, Future Healers of America, the Body Improvement Club, the Queens College Chapter of the Institute of Management Accountants, the ISACA Cyber Security Club, Alpfa, and the Women in Science Club.

Speakers highlighted their professional journeys and their current careers. They also fielded questions on topics such as important transferrable skills to acquire in college and after, and how students can make the most of their college experience to set themselves up for career success.

“The ASK program has benefited the Body Improvement Club significantly by connecting us to amazing QC alumni who went on to become dietitians and kinesiologists and returned to their alma mater to make their knowledge available to the next generation of QC students,” says the club’s president, Antonio Tan. Those alumni include Joanne Hynes-Hunter ’90/’92, adds Tan, reporting that “she shared her expertise on kinesiology and exercise science, providing information on how to train like a body builder and detailing workout plans she created helping our members learn the ins and outs of proper weight training and other modes of exercises. Furthermore, by offering to return for future events to speak more on different topics of exercise, she provided a valuable resource to the club to guide future and current members to reach their goals.”

As alumni attest, participating in ASK is a rewarding experience. Jennifer Marie Sanchez ’15, an experienced designer, enjoyed talking to students about her work developing visual designs, technology, products, strategies, and processes with a human-centered approach. “Queens College, and the entire CUNY system, is unique in that it supports students from low-income and disadvantaged families by offering low-cost, high-quality education that is accessible, helping them have a chance at having the future of their choice,” comments Sanchez. “I am a product of that; I identified as a low-income/disadvantaged student who is now a successful professional in the field of my choice. Having the opportunity to give back and contribute to helping students like me achieve the same thing is very important to me.”

Don’t hesitate to ASK! Laura Abrams, senior director of Alumni Relations, encourages interested alumni to reach out to alumni@qc.cuny.edu for a participation form. ASK volunteers need to provide a LinkedIn profile and specify career preparation/industry topics they can speak about.



# Jewish Life at QC

## New Programs and Technologies Enhance the Collective Experience

By Leslie Jay

Online programs. Outdoor gatherings. “Shabbat To Go.” Adaptations like these have kept Jewish Studies, Queens College Hillel, and Chabad of Queens College engaged with communities on campus and beyond—and ready to move forward in the new, COVID-cautious environment.

Jewish Studies, which comprises an interdisciplinary undergraduate department and a center offering public events, was already undergoing a reorganization when the pandemic started. The CUNY-wide shift to remote operations proved advantageous in certain ways, observes Arnold Franklin (History), director of the Center for Jewish Studies (CJS). For example, “a fund was created 20 to 25 years ago to support a visiting scholar from Israel, but it hasn’t been used in some years for logistical reasons,” Franklin explains. “Trying to restart this in the age of Zoom should be theoretically easier.” The department, which offers a major and a minor and for the most part aggregates courses offered by other departments, is exploring the possibility of establishing an augmented Jewish Studies minor, geared for students thinking about teaching at Jewish day schools.

CJS, meanwhile, replaced its glossy brochures with electronic communications and began holding presentations online, during daytime. “Moving things online has been beneficial,” says Franklin, noting that the center’s audience, which skews older, had been finding it difficult to drive to campus at night and find parking. He anticipates that working online will also simplify options for bringing speakers into classrooms. Among CJS events held on Zoom in the fall were “The Land Is Mine: Sephardi Jews and Bible Commentary in the Renaissance,” a lecture by historian Andrew Berns; “White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide,” a classroom conversation with Emory University professor and author Carol Anderson; and a Kristallnacht commemoration featuring a talk by Eliyana Adler, author of *Survival on the Margins: Polish Jewish Refugees in the Wartime Soviet Union*.

QC Hillel has also evolved, comments Executive Director Jenna Citron. “The Hillels of 10 years ago are different from the Hillels of 20 years ago and 30 years ago.” She and her staff focus on mentoring Jewish students and organizations—which at QC include Alpha Epsilon Pi, the Bukharian Cultural Club, the Israel Student Association, the Persian Club, and the a cappella vocal ensemble Tizmoret, open by audition to college students throughout New York City—to help them realize goals and address issues within a Jewish values lens.

In response to the pandemic, Hillel relied on technology to keep in touch with what is one of the largest Jewish campus communities in the nation. Even Tizmoret pivoted, holding rehearsals in a synagogue parking lot. Prior to 2020, Citron had given thought to better serving a population primarily composed of commuter students and night students. She had introduced programs in areas such as wellness and professional development, adding a social



Students in Arnold Franklin’s classroom and on campus

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 Commonpoint Queens, launched a digital kosher food pantry in September. Students place orders through an app on their phone or through an iPad 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.

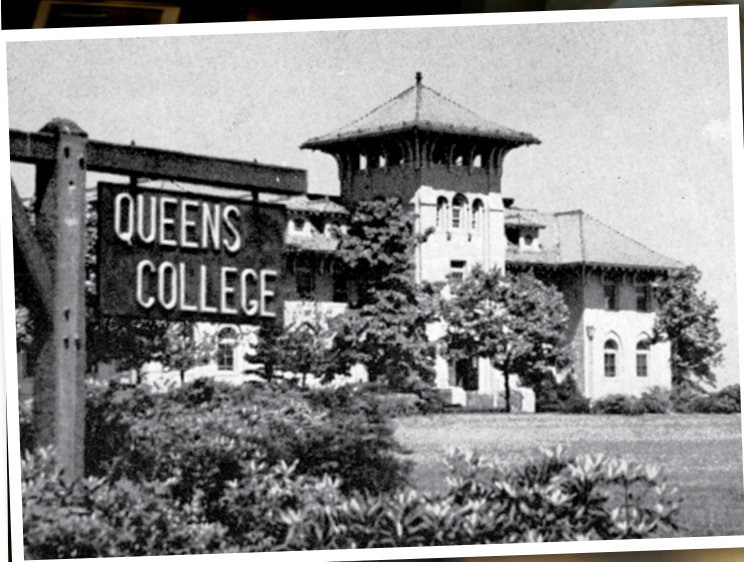
When the threat of coronavirus prompted the Wertheimers to temporarily suspend indoor gatherings, the rabbi took his weekly Torah classes online and, with funding from the children of a generous alumna, set up Shabbat To Go. “We offered Shabbat in a bag: homemade challah, matzoh ball soup, kugel,” says 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 recently held the first yahrzeit for a student I met in 2004,” he recalls. “He suffered from the terrible, terrible disease of drug addiction. I assisted with trying to get him into treatment; I officiated at his funeral.” But there have been plenty of happy occasions, the rabbi concludes. “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



Couples 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.



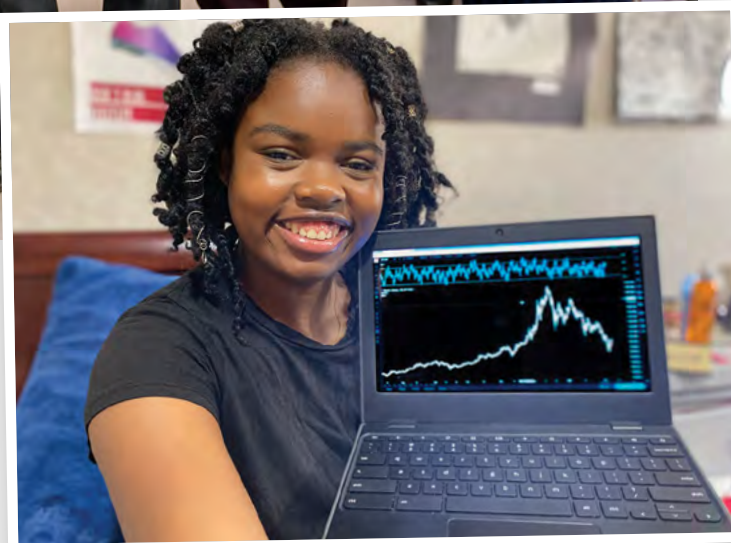


**Above:** President Frank H. Wu accepts an outsized check from the Thomas Chen family and Crystal Windows to the QC School of Arts. **Right:** Zaire Couloute '22 crunches data.

"Since 1937, the college has provided top-tier business training," Wu told people at the gathering. "Building on this foundation, a steering committee brought together faculty members and career counselors to plan the 'business school of tomorrow.' The committee spent two years on this faculty-driven initiative, revising the existing curricula, setting up new tracks, and expanding career services. The resulting school offers all this and more." As examples of new programs developed in response to market demands, Wu cited a master's in taxation and a fintech concentration that involves computer science, economics, and mathematics.

Other speakers included Congresswoman Meng, CUNY Trustee Kevin Kim, Queens Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Tom Grech, and Queens College Foundation Member Paulette Mullings Bradnock '84 (who has since passed away; see p. 10).

QCArts, the most comprehensive arts school in CUNY, made its star-studded debut on May 5. Guests were invited to take a self-guided Arts Walk around campus; the route encompassed stops at the Godwin-Ternbach Museum, art studios, and performance



spaces, emphasizing the reach of the new school. Programs in the QCArts pipeline draw on this interdisciplinary synergy.

Wu spoke at the reception following the walk. "Art is for all members of our diverse democracy," he said. "It cannot—it must not—be limited to a privileged few. That ultimately is why our School of Arts is destined to succeed. It has the most idealistic mission: To promote the participation of all of our students in the fullness of life."

Glenda Grace, CUNY senior vice chancellor for institutional affairs, strategic advancement and special counsel, and members of the New York City Council's Queens delegation also offered remarks; English Department faculty members Kimiko Hahn and

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.

A ribbon-cutting on May 9, held in front of state and city elected officials who provided more than \$9 million in funding, celebrated upgraded athletic fields. "We have a beautiful new main soccer field, a smaller practice field, and a brand-new track for the college and the community to enjoy," observes Krcic.

The main heating plant is undergoing a makeover. "We're removing and replacing four aged steam-generating industrial boilers with new ones," says Krcic. "This project is of special complexity since our original plant must maintain its operation 24/7, while contractors build a new plant inside the existing location."

To allow for ongoing major infrastructure and interior renovations in Razran Hall, swing space was constructed in Remsen Hall to accommodate the Razran vivarium and research areas, and the people who use them. The relocation phase was completed early this fall.

Meanwhile, facilities teams collaborated with contractors on an overhaul of lecture halls 100 and 101 in Remsen. The project began as an LED lighting upgrade and technology improvements but was expanded to include new ADA-compliant fixed seating, floor painting, new whiteboards, and a whiteboard lighting system.

"Of course, you may ask" says Krcic: "why would you not fix the roof before you fix the house," referring to longstanding issues with "stubborn, hard-to-trace" roof leaks at Remsen. With the arrival of warmer weather, a roofing contractor was brought in to trace and repair the leaks.

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:** (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,” Krcic 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, Krcic 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.

**Left: Work underway in the Gertz Building will modernize the Speech-Language-Hearing Center. Below: (from left) students Devonte Rowe, Hadassah Allman, Jessica Alejandro, Jamal Mark, Makayla Noble, and Christen De Ocampo leap at challenges on campus.**



On October 12, 85 years and a day after classes began, Queens College celebrated its anniversary. President’s Medals were presented to alumni Peter Archer and Robert Jacobs. Archer, who taught band for over 30 years at Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School 74 in Bayside, was a consultant for the Academy Award-winning movie *Soul*. Jacobs, president and founder of Health/ROI, established an endowment that supports scholarships at QC. United States Senate Majority Leader Charles “Chuck” Schumer saluted the college; Mayor Eric Adams declared “Queens College Day” in a proclamation presented by Director of Public Service Engagement Andrea Shapiro Davis ’81; and Borough President Donovan Richards brought a proclamation on behalf of Queens County. Since the anniversary occurred during Sukkot, President Frank H. Wu and guests visited the Sukkah on campus. Festivities concluded with a reception featuring performers from the Aaron Copland School of Music.



U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles “Chuck” Schumer joins President Frank H. Wu and CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez.



Performers from the Aaron Copland School of Music provided entertainment.



President Frank H. Wu, QC Hillel Senior Jewish Educator Rav Sara Zacharia, CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, and New York State Assembly Member Nily Rozic make a sukkah stop.



New York State Assembly Member Nily Rozic



Queens Borough President Donovan Richards



Andrea Shapiro Davis gives the mayoral proclamation to President Frank H. Wu.



President’s Medal recipients (from left) Robert Jacobs and Peter Archer flank President Frank H. Wu.



# 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 an undergraduate, 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 ’72, went to graduate school and became teachers. Amy ran a preschool and eventually taught elementary schoolchildren; Jane, who specialized in Spanish and linguistics, taught ESL and bilingual students in the elementary grades. Amy’s future husband, Bruce Cooperstein, graduated from Queens a year ahead of her, went on to earn a PhD in mathematics, and is still a professor at UC Santa Cruz.

Our Queens College family connection didn’t stop there. In 1977, my mother, Erica Gorin, earned a BA in Comparative Literature at QC.

My mother’s high school education had been interrupted in 1938, when she was 15: after witnessing *Kristallnacht*, she left Nazi Germany on a Kindertransport train. She immigrated to the United States and worked as a nursemaid 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 daughters, my mother graduated *summa cum laude* and 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 team-taught a large multimedia course, *The Role of Rhetoric in American Society*.

In the mid-70s, my mother, Forbes, and I were all involved in 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 Methodist 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 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 Media Studies. 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 serves an additional purpose: to honor 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



**The QC Phoenix reported that (from left) Lyn Hill, her mother, her daughter, and her husband sometimes attended Academic Senate meetings together.**

conferences. A plaque in Forbes’ honor hangs outside Room 150 in Kiely Hall, where we taught our multimedia course.

After my mother passed away late 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

## 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 roamed 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.”

His reflections on QC begin with 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 his Actors’ 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 with his students!” he laughs. “But I really enjoyed taking his classes. I learned a lot. He’s a very special human being.”

QC was the family college. Burstein’s mother Virginia earned her BA in fine arts in 1978, working closely with former chair Harold Bruder; his younger brother Matthew completed a BA in philosophy in 1994. “When I finally was ready to go to college, there was no discussion of other colleges,” says Danny Burstein. “It was what we could afford and my dad knew, of course, that it was a great, great school. I got such an amazing education there. It started me off on my path.”

Burstein is thankful to his parents for teaching him to follow that path. “When you’re the child of academics, they really give you this work ethic unlike any other. My mother teaches art and my dad teaches ancient Greek philosophy. They both love, love, love what they do, and their dedication to students is unparalleled,” he says.



**Harvey and Virginia Burstein**



**Danny Burstein**

“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 do that, you’ve gotta get a job because it’s imperative that you start early 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?”

He had a persistent teacher in his father. “I’m sure he wanted me to read, desperately, when I was younger, but I just was not a reader. He’d give me book after book—novels and biographies, and I just could not get into them,” Burstein admits. “Finally he handed me a play, and the world of the theatre opened up to me. I loved the dialogue form, I loved hearing people discuss their ideas and work them out—or not. That’s how I became passionate about theatre.”

This passion for vocation runs strong in the Burstein family. Harvey Burstein, who received the first Queens College Presidential Excellence in Teaching Award in 1990, retired in 2019 after 52 years of teaching at QC; he decided to pursue his writing and scholarship. Virginia Burstein teaches art to senior citizens. “I think that’s been the most meaningful work of her life,” says Burstein. “She loves doing it, and she’s a fantastic painter and amazing artist.”

Today Danny Burstein is internationally known. An always-in-demand actor, he has appeared in films and TV series, voiced books and video games, sung at the Metropolitan Opera, and contributed to cast recordings of popular musicals. On and off Broadway and around the country, he has a distinguished record of performance that has garnered two Drama Desk Awards and four Outer Circle Critics Awards. Nominated for three Grammy Awards, he also has received an astounding seven Tony nominations for roles in such productions as *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. In 2020, the QC community was delighted when he won the Tony Award for Best Featured Actor in a Musical, honoring his work in *Moulin Rouge! The Musical*. Adding to his accolades, Queens College gave him an honorary Doctor of Fine Arts degree at Commencement in 2022.

“Queens College sustained us, literally, and provided the educational community to help us move forward and grow in our lives,” he says. “How grateful I am to all my teachers for the dedication that they had to my education. I take all of them with me everywhere I go.”

– Jacquelyn Southern



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# “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 druthers, 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”), Halsey 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 QC chapter of LEMAR, now known as the National Organization for 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 Brundage, and Richard Covert during these formative 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 fired both its 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.’” Taking him at his word, students 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.”



# Noteworthy Career

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

By Leslie Jay

The Harlem Chamber Players (HCP) [www.harlemchamberplayers.org/](http://www.harlemchamberplayers.org/) fielded its largest ensemble to date—four soloists, a 75-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 Brandie Sutton, mezzo-soprano Krysty Swann, tenor Chauncey Packer, 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. "At Rutgers College in New Brunswick, I studied something practical—computer science—and hated 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 clarinet lessons. She studied with David Glazer, who urged her to enroll in a college-level music program.

"I knew some people attending Queens College," Player explains. "I heard that Queens was friendly to older students going back to study music." A visit to campus confirmed that impression; she applied to the Aaron Copland School of Music and was accepted.

"QC opened up a whole new world for me," she says, citing faculty such as celebrated oboist and chamber music coach Ronald Roseman and Queens College Orchestra conductor Maurice Peress. "Getting a chance to perform Claude Debussy's *Première Rhapsodie* with the Queens College Orchestra was a highlight of my life." She thrived academically, too. "Morey Ritt recommended me for a Mellon Minority Fellowship," Player continues. "It gave me an opportunity to do research on tonal versus atonal music for ACSM faculty member Joseph Strauss." Making Dean's List every semester, she completed all the requirements for a bachelor's in music by 1999, apart from the mandatory physical education courses. Finishing those later, she received her diploma.



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 violist Charles Dalton, 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 Dalton in 2010, she teamed up with fellow clarinetist Carl Jackson, an East Harlem native. Renaming their 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 all 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 Baisley Powell Elebash Fund awarded HCP for capacity building—foundation talk for work, apart 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.

After earning a degree in music performance from QC, Liz Player established a thriving arts organization.

Photo credit: Simbarashe Cha, *New York Times*

Inset: The Harlem Chamber Players presented the world premiere of *Tulsa 1921 (Pity These Ashes, Pity This Dust)* to commemorate both Juneteenth and the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa race massacre. Seen at the Harlem School of the Arts in June 2021 are mezzo-soprano soloist J'Nai Bridges, conductor Amadi Azikiwe, and members of a chamber orchestra.

Photo credit: Bob Curtis



# 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 to 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 open up 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 133 veterans who are studying at QC. Pre-pandemic, the number was more typically 250, says Erazo.

VSS has an academic adviser 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, couches, 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 that? 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 continues, “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.”



**Sergeant First Class Sharon Rimal as she appeared in boot camp in 2002. She had not yet married and was then Private Sharon Chen.**

# Professionals campus

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

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

We are proud to recognize the exceptional participants for the 2021–2022 academic year.

**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 '75**, Senior Counselor, Abernathy MacGregor; Adjunct Instructor, NYU School of Professional Studies

**Michael Freudenstein '82**, Partner, PJT Partners

**Celeste Guth '82**, Partner, PJT 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 Klausner '75**, CEO, Graduation Alliance

**Dr. Andrew Kolodny '94**, Medical Director of Opioid Policy Research, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University

**Jeffrey Kordower BA '80, MS '83**, Founding Director, ASU-Banner Neurodegenerative Disease Research Center, Arizona State University

**Dr. Beth Lieberman '68**, Physician; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, NYU Grossman School of Medicine

**James Mitarotonda '77**, Chairman, President, and CEO, Barington 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 Negron '03**, Senior Program Officer, Pinkerton Foundation

**Dr. Olivier Noel '11**, Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Resident, Yale University School of Medicine; Founder, DNAsimple

**Sara Radicati '77**, President and CEO, The Radicati Group, Inc.

**Lawrence Statsky '76**, 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 '76**, Managing Director and Senior Portfolio Manager, Straus Group, Neuberger Berman Private Asset Management



# Supporting Bioscience Research



**Above: Ira Spar and President Frank H. Wu cut the ribbon at a June 29 ceremony unveiling a plaque in the first-floor common area of the Science Building, honoring the doctor for his generous support of QC students and bioscience research.**



**Inset: A fan of the original “Star Trek” television series, Captain Ira Spar is seen in the Mekong Delta in the fall of 1969 during the Vietnam War alongside his jeep on which he had emblazoned: The Sparship Enterprise. To his disappointment he says out of 1,000 troops only one, the battalion executive officer, had seen the series and understood the reference.**

Listening to Ira Spar ‘64 recount how he became a physician, it becomes immediately apparent that he possesses two qualities that have served him well: practicality and a sense of humor. He also admits that on more than one occasion he’s been lucky.

Born in Brooklyn, Spar grew up in Bayside attending local public schools. “I was literally a stone’s throw from Queens College,” he says.

Always interested in the sciences, Spar enrolled at QC as a biochemistry major, belatedly deciding in his senior year that he wanted to go to medical school. That meant seeking the recommendation of the pre-med committee. “If they recommended you,” he explains, “you were pretty much sure of getting in somewhere. If they didn’t, you were not getting into a school in America.”

He was interviewed by Donald Lansfield, then chair of the Biology Department. Asked what medical schools he’d applied to, Spar replied only one, Downstate Medical College, “because my aunt and uncle live a few miles away and they have an empty bedroom.”

Lansfield persuaded Spar that he should also apply to George Washington University Medical School in Washington, DC. He wrote GW, got an interview, and was promptly accepted. Ironically, he was never admitted to Downstate.

Drawing on this experience, Spar says it’s better to be lucky than to be smart. “To be lucky, you have to be prepared,” he commented at a recent QC gathering. “When the opportunity presents itself, you have to act . . . Dr. Lansfield recommended me to GW. I had a great four years at the medical school . . . they kind of molded what happened later.”

Later included two years’ Army service as a battalion surgeon and E.R. doctor in Vietnam. Orthopedic issues were common; to help him treat them, he asked his mother to send him his surgical textbook.

Once, a soldier presented with a dislocated shoulder, his tenth such episode. “I administered Valium,” Spar recalls. “Then I went into my little compartment and quickly read the chapter on how to reduce a dislocated shoulder, because I’d never done it before by myself. [The soldier] said ‘Okay, try.’

We tugged and pulled and it popped right in. It was like a miracle and the heavens opened.” Spar had found his specialty.

Upon completing his service, he spent a year at Fort Monmouth in New Jersey. Needing a year of general surgery, he returned to Hartford Hospital where he had interned. He also spent three months at the Massachusetts General Hospital as a hand surgery fellow. He returned to George Washington University Hospital as an orthopedic resident.

In 1976, after serving in the new orthopedic department of the UCONN Health Center, he opened his private practice of orthopedic and hand surgery, which continues today. “Most doctors are no longer solo practitioners but work for insurance companies, hospitals and large medical groups.”

Discretionary income allowed Spar to pursue his passion for photography and buy prints of images by great photographers. In a Swann Gallery catalog, he saw *The Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*.

“I didn’t know what that was, but it was filled with albumen prints, which I was starting to collect,” he says. Bidding the minimum \$150 won him possession of six volumes weighing about 50 pounds.

Opening a volume, he came to the monthly reports of the regimental surgeons. “The regimental surgeons of the Civil War did what I did 130 years later, from which I have gained empathy from often identical experiences.”

Fascinated by medicine in the Civil War, Spar began buying medical textbooks from the period. He also acquired medical school bulletins from the 1850s and 1860s, telling what the schools offered and how many operations they performed. He traveled to places that could advance his research, such as the National Archives in DC, the Army’s library in Carlyle, Pennsylvania, Yale University, and the Connecticut State Archives in Hartford.

Eventually, Spar joined the Hartford Medical Society. In its library he found a bound volume containing a year’s publication of *The Knight Hospital Record*, a weekly newspaper written by patients, nurses, doctors, and the regimental chaplain at Knight U.S. General Hospital in New Haven; the facility’s construction was partially financed and overseen by William Buckingham, Connecticut’s “War Governor,” to treat the state’s flood of sick and wounded coming from

Southern battlefields. Similar 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.

Actually, he would produce two—*New Haven’s Civil War Hospital: A History of Knight U.S. General Hospital, 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.

Grateful for the education that prepared him to be a surgeon and a scholar of medical history, Spar takes tremendous interest in Queens College students who aspire to become physicians. In 2012, he established the Ira Spar MD Scholarship Endowment Fund; nine years later, he created a fund to support research in the Ira Spar Biosciences Laboratory.

QC has dedicated the first-floor common area in the Science Building in his honor. Perhaps future Ira Spars are sitting there today, grappling with whether or not they want to become physicians. Spar would probably tell them the road to becoming a doctor can be challenging, but it’s an avenue to a career that’s well worth pursuing and has a fascinating history.

—Bob Suter

## Honoring 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 around the world. When he suddenly passed away of a heart attack in September 2021 at the age of 65, it was a profoundly sad and shocking time for so many people whose lives he touched.

One of those people greatly affected by Lachmann’s passing was Ruth Becker ‘56—Lachmann’s aunt—who graduated from Queens College with a degree in comparative literature.

“We were very close since the day he was born. He was more like my child,” said Ms. Becker. “It was such a shock. It’s like a part of me is gone.”

Lachmann was an innovative researcher and the author of multiple award-winning books and articles, which have been translated into nearly a dozen languages.

“He is one of the most fiercely original thinkers in macrosociology. His work fit into no standard school,” said Samuel Cohn, 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, right.”

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 equaled 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 showings and off-Broadway theatre, often with his Aunt Ruth.

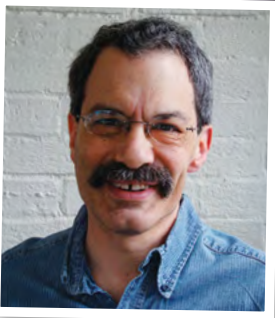
“Everyone thought I should set up the endowment at Albany. I thought, his grandchildren and his son live in Manhattan. It should be in New York City then,” added Ms. Becker. “I loved Queens College, and I always felt attached to it. It would be a good place, and his grandchildren could go visit there 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.

“The endowment will give us an opportunity to hire a star sociological theorist with empirical research interest in the socioeconomic and political issues in contemporary America,” said Shige Song, chair of the Sociology Department. “My colleagues and I have very high hopes that this new colleague will enhance our program by bringing new perspectives and research traditions.”

—John Scarinci



**Ruth Becker endowed a chair named for her late nephew, Richard W. Lachmann (inset).**



# QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

**1954: Evelyn P. Mahairas** received a Lifetime Achievement award from Marquis' *Who's Who in American Women* for her leadership in health care and higher education ... **1959: Marian Kaplun Shapiro's** latest collection of poetry, *At the Edge Of The Cliff* (Plain View Press), was published in 2021. It experiments with visual form and edgy content to disrupt fundamental givens and generate transformative experiences ... **1962: Nathan Billig** announced the publication of his memoir *Untangling Lives: A Psychiatrist Remembers*. The book focuses on the importance of the therapist separating his own life narrative from that of his patients in the treatment situation ... **1967: Cary Silverstein** recently published his second book, *The Mayor of Jackson 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

and the lives of others ... **1968: Susan Wettenstein Berliner** has written a memoir, *Do the Write Thing*. The memoir contains several stories about her time at QC: early registration, commuting to college on the Q44 bus, and attending a houseplan party where she met her husband ... **Gary Feldman**, who passed away last year at the age of 73, was honored by the Fairwold Academy, a private school in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, that serves students with disabilities and accessibility needs. Feldman was its school psychologist for seven years. In a ceremony on June 10, Fairwold's school building was renamed the "Dr. Gary Feldman Center for Education" ... **Steven Nahmias**, an author and professor at Santa Clara University's Leavey School of Business, recently retired after 43 years at the university. An active musician, he plays trumpet with several Bay Area jazz bands ... **1969: Howard Elson**, a member of QC's

Athletics Hall of Fame, participated in the age 73+ division of the 2021 Men'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 year at the South Park Theatre in Pennsylvania ... **James R. Giebfried** received the American Physical Therapy Association Societal Impact Award in recognition of lifelong service to community and the profession at a ceremony held at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts ... **Peter Sachs** was recognized by *South Florida Business and Wealth* (SFBW) with a Lifetime Achievement Award in January. The SFBW awards recognize success, growth, and professional accomplishments, as well as charitable and civic achievements ... **1970: Harvey Brenner** was elected president of the North American Association of Synagogue Executives, the peer organization of

executive directors working within the Conservative Jewish movement throughout the United States and Canada ... **1971: Jessica B. Harris** (MA) was named one of *TIME's* 100 Most Influential People of 2021. She is the author of 12 critically acclaimed books documenting the foods and foodways of the African Diaspora. Her best-selling title, *High on the Hog: A Culinary Journey From Africa to America*, inspired the Netflix series of the same name ... **Jane Breskin Zalben** released her latest children's book, *A Bear for Bimi*, a picture book about a refugee family immigrating to America ... **Jerry M. Kantor** published *Sane Asylums: The Success of Homeopathy before Psychiatry Lost Its Mind*. The book examines the history of homeopathic psychiatric asylums in the United States from the 1870s until 1920 ... **1972: Ricardo Cortez** was featured on the cover story of *CIO Views* magazine earlier this year. The publication offers insights on

business strategies and innovation and highlights successful business leaders. Cortez is the co-CEO at Broadmark Asset Management LLC ... **1974: Karen Cortellino** received the inaugural Irene LeFebvre Excellence in Boardsmanship Award at a meeting of the Morris County School Boards Association at Parsippany Hills High School on June 16. The award honors a local school board member who provides dedicated service, leadership, commitment, and significant contributions to the education of students in Morris County, New Jersey ... **Lori Langsner** was among the artists featured in *By the Light of Day* at the West Windsor Arts Center in New Jersey. The exhibit showcased plein-air painting, the practice of painting landscapes outdoors ... **David Penchansky** has written his sixth book, *Solomon and the Ant: The Qur'an in Conversation with the Bible*, published by Wipf and Stock in 2021. The book examines stories from the Qur'an, their drama, characters, and meaning ... **Michael Sackheim** published *Mask Murder* (Palmetto Publishing 2021), a mystery and political thriller about a deranged killer who targets women on the Upper West Side of New York wearing COVID-19 masks ... The late **Art Seiden**, illustrator of more than 300 children's books, had his work on display at a showcase at the Zimmerli Art Museum at Rutgers from March 9 through July 31, 2022 ... **Marlene Wiedenbaum** had a gallery showing of her landscape art at Mark Gruber Gallery in New Paltz, New York, in September 2021 ... **1975: Fran Drescher** was elected the third national president of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists Union ... **1976: Camille Eskell** (MFA '79) retired from her 21-year career as an art teacher at Staples High School in Westport, Connecticut. She hopes to spend her retirement creating her own artwork and expanding her art career ... **Michael Mell**, who spends time as a theater consultant, recently took part in the renovation of the historic Warner Theatre in Erie, Pennsylvania. The theater reopened in January 2022 ... **1977: Ira Cohen**, a lawyer in New York and Florida, was

appointed chair of the Intellectual Property Law Section of the Federal Bar Association. Additionally, his latest legal article, "Florida's Early Federal Legal History (1824–1940)," was published in *The Federal Lawyer* ... **Mark Perlman** and **Martin Rubin** were featured in an article in *Long Island Business News* for their work in the renovation of the Argyle Theatre in Babylon. The Argyle hosts a full roster of musicals, concerts, comedy, and other performances throughout the year. During the 2021–22 season, its main stage programming included *Footloose*, *Mamma Mia*, and *An American in Paris* ... **1979: Gerard Passaro** retired last year after four decades as a highly respected and influential executive in regional sports television. He spent time at Cablevision, SportsChannel, and MSG Networks ... **Stuart Steckler** was named to the board of directors of the Boca West Children's Foundation, which assists children and their families in need in the area through its support of more than 30 local charities ... **1981: Jed C. Albert**, an estate and probate attorney, was named a "2021 Leading Lawyer" by *New York Super Metro Lawyers* and *New York Metro Rising Stars* ... **Gabriel Escobar**, editor and senior vice president of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, was elected to the Pulitzer Prize Board. The 19-member board is composed mainly of leading journalists or news executives from media outlets across the United States as well as five academics or persons in the arts ... **Jonathan Pershing** stepped down from his role as the Biden Administration's No. 2 global climate envoy. Pershing played a vital role in getting 200 nations to reaffirm their commitment to limit global warming by 1.5 degrees Celsius at the U.N. Summit in Glasgow in 2021 ... **Andrea Shapiro Davis** was named to New York City Mayor Eric Adams' administration as senior advisor for talent and appointments ... **1986: Gina Greenlee** co-authored *The Business of Race: How to Create and Sustain an Antiracist Workplace—and Why It's Actually Good for Business*. The book outlines the inner and outer work organizations must undertake to create a racially equitable workplace

... **1987: Lisa DeLoria Weinblatt** had her art exhibit, *SCHOOL LUNCH*, displayed at Oculus World Trade Center and at University of North Carolina-Wilmington in spring 2022. The show will be at Central Piedmont College in Charlotte, North Carolina, in December 2022. *SCHOOL LUNCH* comprises paintings that present images concerning the nature and passions of relationships ... **1988: David Everett** and his series of landscape paintings were featured in *Remembered*, an exhibit at the BankRI Pitman Street Gallery in Providence, Rhode Island ... **Wayne Golding** was featured in an article in the *South Florida Caribbean News*. Golding is a leading immigration attorney based in Orlando, where he heads the Golding Law Group ... **1989: Jennifer Croson** (MFA) had a solo exhibit, *Jennifer Croson: New Encounters, Resetting the Stage*, at the Contemporary Art Center in Bedminster, New Jersey from April to June 2022 ... **Sandy Preizler** has joined Bandwith Inc, a leading global enterprise cloud communications company, in the newly created position of chief revenue officer ... **1991: Carl Christian** was named the interim executive director of the CUNY Athletic Conference, where he will oversee the daily operations of the conference office. Christian previously served as York College's athletic director ... **Pamela T. Little-Hill** was named director of human services at the Chesapeake Department of Human Services in Virginia. She is responsible for overseeing all aspects of social services, child welfare, juvenile detention, and adult protective services ... **1993: Andrea della Cava** had her paintings on display at the Gardiner Library in Gardiner, New York. The exhibit, titled *Uncover*, is a series of works that explores the elements of surprise in nature, exposing its anomalies and irregularities ... **1994: Jason Katmis**, a writer for the hit shows *Parenthood* and *Friday Night Lights*, was the writer behind the television show *As We See it*, which premiered on Amazon Prime on January 21, 2022. The half-hour "dramedy" follows three 20-something roommates who are all on the

spectrum ... **Lisa Meyer** was appointed president of Western Asset Mortgage Capital Corporation, in addition to her role as its chief financial officer. She brings over 23 years of financial experience to the position ... **1995: Carla Carter** (MA) was hired as the managing director of the Beverly Arts Center, a not-for-profit organization serving the Chicago metro area with high-quality programs in dance, visual arts, music, film, and theater. Carter will lead the business areas, including operations, facilities, development and marketing ... **1997: Zizette Deutsch** was named special education supervisor assigned to Lincoln-Titus Elementary School in Crompond, New York, and to Lakeland Copper Beech Middle School in Yorktown, New York ... **1998: Arash Barkhordar** joined Mazars, 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 ... **Mark G. Carpentieri**, president of M.C. Records, saw two of his artists nominated for 2022 Grammy Awards in the category of Traditional Blues. The nominations were for the recordings "Take Me Back," by Kim Wilson, and "Be Ready When I Call You," from Guy Davis ... **Steven Mandel** was named one of "New York's Top 25 Software Leaders for 2022" by *The Software Report*. Mandel is the co-founder of Litify, an all-in-one technology platform that revolutionizes the way legal services are delivered ... **1999: Stephen D. Zide** was named a partner at Dechert LLP, a leading global law firm. Zide specializes in corporate restructuring and bankruptcy ... **2000: Kerry Farrell** (MSEd '03) has been appointed principal of Plainview-Old Bethpage Middle School. She was promoted after serving five years as assistant principal ... **Kia Lindsay** was named chief human resources officer at Versant Health—a leading national managed vision care company and wholly owned subsidiary of MetLife—in April 2022. She brings more than 20 years of human resources experience to the position ... **Catherine Ramirez** (MA) was named principal flutist with the



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





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 nonprofit dedicated to ensuring live, classical music for underserved and low-income communities in Minnesota ... **Kristina M. Wesch** joined Wiggin and Dana as partner in the Health Care Department of the firm's New York office. Her focus is on health care transactions, and she advises clients within the health care industry on bankruptcy and out-of-court restructuring and reorganization matters ... **2001: John W. Stenger** was appointed to the Rio Grande County Court in the 12th Judicial District by Colorado Governor Jared Polis ... **2002: Anil Persad** has been promoted to managing director at MorganFranklin's New York office. He has 20 years of experience working on client engagements in technical accounting, financial reporting, IPO readiness, M&A, and more ... **Tina Weiss** (MLS '03) was named head librarian at Yeshiva University's Mendel Gottesman Library of Hebraica-Judaica. The library has specific

strengths in rabbinic literature, Jewish history, and the Bible ... **2003: Benedict Beckeld** wrote his latest book, *Western Self-Contempt: Oikophobia in the Decline of Civilizations*. The book is a work of political philosophy that introduces the term "oikophobia"—the disparagement of one's own culture, essentially the opposite of xenophobia ... **Brett M. Gelbord** joined Dykema, a leading national law firm, as senior counsel to its labor and employment practice in their Detroit office. His practice focuses on providing practical and efficient guidance to employers on workforce-related issues ... **Nafesa Khan** has been named assistant principal at Nassau BOCES Barry Tech in Westbury. In this position, she'll be responsible for building relationships with all of the school's stakeholders ... **Abigail Smith-Lockett** has been named Program Coordinator, in-District Programs at Nassau BOCES Barry Tech. The new position is responsible for the five in-district

Career and Technical Education programs located in the Baldwin, Hicksville, Roosevelt, Uniondale, and Westbury school districts ... **2004: Musa Ali Shama, Jr.** was elected vice president of Virtual Enterprises International, a national nonprofit that transforms students through authentic business experiences which prepare them for fulfilling, financially secure futures ... **2005: Costa G. Constantinides**, a former New York City councilman, was nominated by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards to serve on the Board of Directors of the New York City Economic Development corporation representing Queens ... **Edward Kemnitzer** (MA) was named the new assistant superintendent for curriculum and personnel for the East Williston School District. He also serves as director of technology, innovation, and information services ... **2006: Anet Abnous** is the founder of Anet's Collection, artistic scarves sold in museum shops in the United States and a showroom in Europe. Recently she has expanded

the brand by going into jewelry, leather goods, and other accessories ... **Eric DeVito** performed for Cinco de Mayo at Louie's on the Avenue in Pearl River, New York, playing a mix of traditional Mexican folk songs and Latin guitar music ... **Tara Drouin** (MA '08) released her third children's book, *Starlight: An Adventurous Lullaby*. It is written for children from birth to age 8 and is a great option for parents to read to children who have trouble falling asleep ... **Andrea Nicolay** (MLS) was unanimously appointed the executive director of libraries in Arlington, Massachusetts. She was described by the board president as a "seasoned library director, who is a compassionate leader with experience serving diverse communities" ... **2007: Andrew Klein** (MSEd) was named the first-ever Foot Levelers Chair in Biomechanics and Human Performance at Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington, Minnesota. In this position, Klein will look to advance

the biomechanic field by further researching how the human spine, bones, joints, feet, and other parts of the body work efficiently and effectively together ... **2008: Jacqueline Atkins** (MSEd) debut children's book, *From Panama to New York: Jacquelin's Story*—which depicts a young immigrant girl who must find her identity, voice, and purpose—won a "2022 Mom's Choice Award." The award program evaluates thousands of products and services created for children, families, and educators ... **Tong Chen** was named assistant conductor of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. She made her subscription series debut in November 2021 ... **Mike Montali** and **Jonathan Bonilla**, members of the band Hollis Brown, recently released a new album, *Ozone Park*. In October 2021, they performed at a free concert at Fort Totten Park in Bay Terrace as part of the "Queens Live" series organized by Queens Borough President Donovan Richards and the Kupferberg Center ... **Peter M. Russo** was named the 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 artist specializing in public installations, was recently featured in an article in the *Patch* for her latest public sculpture, which was created in a creek in Hudson Valley ... **Michael Webb** joined Farrell Fritz in its Uniondale office as real estate counsel ... **2009: Yago Cura** (MLS) was recently profiled in a story in *The Argonaut*. Cura is the founder of HINCHAS Press, a publishing house that focuses on building a bridge between U.S. and Latin American writers, providing a platform for underrepresented writers, and providing an opportunity for readers to access a greater diversity of voices ... **Thomas P. Scarola** (MSEd) was named the new coordinator of career and technical education at Lindenhurst School District ... **2010: Yvette Heyliger** (MFA) has contributed theatrical articles, monologues, and plays to many publications. Most recently, she

contributed to a new performance studies textbook, *Performing #MeToo: How Not to Look Away*. In 2018, when the theatre industry was silent on this explosive issue, Heyliger put out a call for theatre women to submit their stories of sexual harassment. These stories were performed in a theatrical event she produced at The National Action Network ... **Wesner Pierre** (MA) was named the CEO of Partnership with Children, a 114-year-old nonprofit whose pioneering social work and community school programs support the mental health and wellness of New York City schoolchildren ... **2011: Augusta Turner** (MLS) was appointed the new director of the Town of Pelham Public Library. Formerly the adult services librarian, Turner has worked at the library since 2014 ... **2013: Robbie Bernstein** has been performing stand-up comedy on national tours this year and has been a recurring performer at several festivals ... **Zakia Henderson-Brown** was named a *Publisher's Weekly* "Star Watch" finalist in 2021. The award honors the rising stars of book publishing. She is an editor and strategic partnerships coordinator at The New Press ... **Devika Sewpaul** was one of 15 public school educators selected for the 2022–24 Hawai'i State Teacher Fellowship. She was one of 10 fellows recognized for collaborative, innovative, and solutions-oriented leadership. The fellowship will provide opportunities for peer and community engagement, tools to facilitate focus groups, and strategies for communication and public education advocacy ... **2014: Naomi Blemur** won the Democratic primary in Florida for commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services and was on the ballot for the November 8 general election. Blemur has been involved in the North Miami community for years, winning election to several city boards, commissions, and advisory committees ... **2016: Julieta Eugenio** (MA) released her debut album, *JUMP*, on Greenleaf Music in March 2022. A tenor saxophonist with a deep, dark tone, Eugenio composed eight original compositions for the album ... **Edward Hardy** (MM), a composer

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## QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

and music director, wrote the song cycle *BORN FREE*, commissioned by the Wolf Trap Foundation of the Performing Arts. Composed for soprano, violin, and piano, the piece is inspired by Margaret Walker's poems "Sorrow Home," "Lineage," "The Struggle Staggers Us," and "Southern Song" . . . **Victor Murillo** performed in 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 Yamanaka** (MM) performed on the piano at The Django, a downtown Manhattan jazz club, as part of its Women's History Month celebration, which hosted more than 20 female artists last March. Yamanaka is the current pianist in the Philip Harper Quintet, the Roxy Coss Quintet, and the Antonio Hart Group . . . **Mirana Zuger** (MFA) had her art exhibit, *SRCE I RUKU*, on display at Sivarulasa Gallery in Ottawa in Summer 2022. The paintings pay homage to her French-Canadian and Croatian roots . . . **2017: Joseph Haynes** became one of the newest residents to join the Yale Neurosurgery Residency. The seven-year program trains outstanding physicians to achieve confidence and success in all neurosurgical domains . . . **2018: Linda Collazo** performed at the II Festival Under The Stars at Opera Naples in March 2022 in the role of older Alyce in Cipullo's *Glory Denied* . . . **2020: Rishab Rikhiram Sharma** performed at a sitar concert on June 25 in Andover, Massachusetts. The program paid tribute to the late musician and composer Ravi Shankar, who helped popularize the sitar all over the world. Sharma, the last student Shankar saw before dying, was his youngest disciple . . . **2021: Danielle Dulligan** was hired as a field hydrogeologist at P.W.Grosser Consulting, a multidisciplinary engineering firm in Bohemia . . . **Danny Jonokuchi**, an award-winning jazz musician, performed with his swing band, Danny Jonokuchi and the Revisionists, at the Grunin Center for the Arts in New Jersey in

April 2022. The concert featured music from 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, **Kishauna Givens**. The money will help to defray the cost of day care for Givens' son, so that she can continue to pursue her master's degree in public health at the CUNY School of Public Health . . . **2022: Dana Komsky** partnered with Discover to design the art for the company's student credit cards. As part of the campaign, Komsky designed three potential card designs: "Go with the Flow," "Rainbow Frogs," and "For the Foodies," with the winner to be determined by voters at Discover's website . . . **Shannon Gibbons**, who competed in season 18 of *American Idol*, 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 medalist Nancy Kerrigan.

### 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.

Danielle J. Abrams '92  
Jeffrey Alexander '69  
Frank Angelo Acquavella '72  
Lewis E. Allen '58  
Jean Hillman Almirall '55  
Warren A. Almond '57  
Joan Rosenzweig Alpert-Rowen '56  
Isaac Alteras '66  
James Francis Althoff '72  
Sharon Weinrib Arisohn '65  
Carole Bertin Aronow '59  
Audrey Orth Arnold '55  
Thomasina N. Tarpay Astarita '74, MS '86  
Andrew Bailis '68  
Ruth Distenseld Ballaban '61  
Eugene "Gino" Barcone '52  
George W. Bauer '52  
Alice Maloney Beagles '46  
John W. Beckhard '54

Patricia Papp Behan  
Winifred B. Mones Bell '48  
Gloria W. Starkman Berger '53  
Judith Goldberg Berger '61  
Shirley Dorothy Bergman MS '58  
Carol Metz Berque '59  
Edward L. Birnbaum '61  
Robert S. Bindiger '82  
Joel I. Blickstein '88, MA  
Sheila MacAvoy Block '52  
Camille L. Castaldi Blok '61  
Anita Bloom '50  
Paulette E. Mullings Bradnock '84  
Anneliese Lustig Branden '53  
Judith Edelson Broadwin '55, MEd '61  
Alan J. Brostoff '57  
Daniel J. Brovey  
Ethel Manuelian Brez '59  
Sheldon Bunin '56  
Robert A. Burggraf '51  
Doris Claire Renz Byrne '50  
Susan Anne Borello Camarata '71  
Kathleen A. Kenney Capuano '91  
Freda Beckerman Carfagna  
Eric J. Cassell '50  
Deborah Schneider Chapman '76  
Jerome A. Chazen  
Ruthanne Gardner Cherouny MA '71  
Edith Chevat MEd '65  
Selma S. Citrin '86  
Celia Ruth Cizes '65  
Roland Clark '08  
Virginia Van Pelt Cleary '57  
Gail S. Levine Coffey '74  
Martin Cohen '60  
Morton Cohen '49  
Paul J. Cohen '68  
Stanley G. Cohen  
Thomas J. Connors '85  
Lorraine S. Presnick Cooper '72  
Irene Stevens Craft '47  
Susan D. Stoykovitz D'Angelo '96  
Agnes Sabatini DeMauro '82, MEd '86  
Mark DeNat  
Nicholas DeNezzo '73, MEd '88  
Ann Noel Seton Brennan Denion '52  
Barbara R. DeVito MEd '00  
John Phillip Dietzel '52  
Sydelle Eisenberg Diner '60  
Norman Dishotsky '62  
Thomas M. Donnellan '62  
Albert Charles Doskocil, Jr. '53  
Lois E. Springsteen Doskocil '54  
Carol A. Douglas '16  
Richard Dubin '66  
John H. Durham '59  
Leona Margaret Hauff Dushin '47  
Patricia A. Wohlever Eden MEd '62  
Dorothy Joseph Egan '76  
Harold Eisenstein '80

Blanche Benson Eisman '54  
Thomas H. Engelhardt '78  
Elizabeth Anne Sicard Fabara MEd '09  
Temitayo Fagbenle '20  
Carole Anne Fuchs Fahey '65  
Gail M. Willis Farrell '73  
Kenneth D. Feigenbaum '53  
Sherman E. Feller '53  
Jack Peter Ferraro '50  
Carol Plaine Fisher '48  
Edward C. Foley  
Anne Berman Foner '41  
Arthur Daniel Forster '61  
Henry B. Freye '54  
Harvey Fried  
Edith Schwartz Frieder '76  
Lucy Marie Engelbrecht Gabriel  
Camille T. Scarinci Gagliano MEd '98  
Patricia Ellen Gallagher '77  
James A. Ganetis '75  
Jay L. Gardiner '75  
Alan K. Gaynor '58  
Sheila Simon Geltzer '61  
Dan Georgakas  
Steven L. Gerard '67  
Charlotte M. Kimberg German '48  
Marsha Anne Goldberg German '68, MS '71  
Gloria Agnes Post Giannola '55  
Gerard Giardina '79  
Marie Elise Gimblet  
M. Emily Sobenko Giris '56  
Dorothy Shaffer Godett '50  
Barbara Garfinkel Goldlust '61  
Susan Wallack Goldstein '62  
Rita Kaplan Gollin '49  
Rima Phyllis Goodman '49  
Blanche R. Rosen Goodwin '57  
Paul Gottlieb '67  
Charles Grabine '76  
Edward N. Graham '79  
Patricia E. Grant '52  
Greta Hirschhorn Greenbaum '48  
Ann Adler Greenberg '60  
Edward E. Gross '48  
Jane F. Gannon Gross '57 MA '86  
Nancy Anne Guarino '99  
Catherine R. Sabella Guarnera '65  
Jessie Littman Guido '49  
Arnold Marvin Gussin '58  
Hadassah Guttman '76, MA '78  
Althea R. Gwyn '74  
Rolf W. Haag '50  
Paul Frederick Habighorst '52  
Jeanne M. Halley MA '83  
Rudolph J. Haluza, Sr. '53  
Irma Ruby Handel '56  
Howard R. Handler '64  
Edward Charles Hansen  
Henry P. Hantgan '63  
Richard Francis Hattan '53



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QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

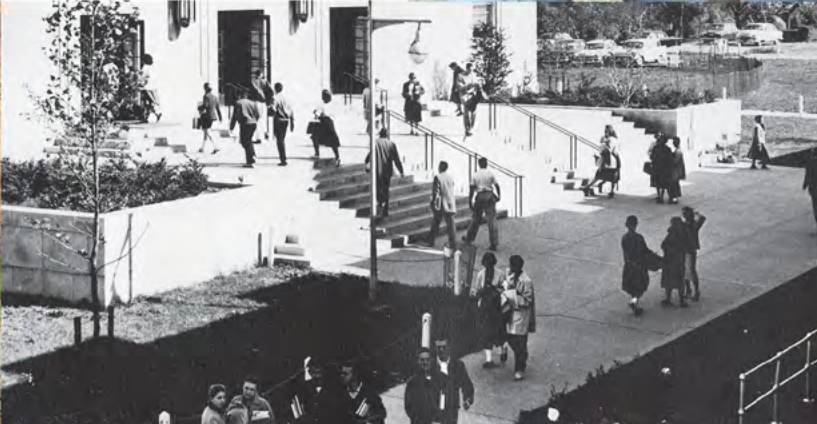
John R. Henebry '50  
Raymond W. Henn '74  
Abby Iglitzin Herrmann '49  
Adriane Meyer Hertzendorf '63  
Clarice Eisenstadt Hoffer '96  
Ruth G. Hollander '77  
Annette J. Kolsky Horowitz '53  
Elizabeth Petez Horvath '42  
Juliette Marie Houser '72  
Sylvia Byrne Higgins '57  
Ruth G. Hollander '77  
Georgene J. Lukes Huber '65  
Shelly Goldberg Iorfida '68  
Ellen Skorneck Isler '63  
Raymond W. Jackson '81  
Louis Joel Jacobson '63  
David G. Jarmon '66  
Ethel K. Pearson Jensen '43  
William Desmond Jockle '55  
Anna Marie Daniels Johnson '96  
Babette Josephs '62  
Harvey Kaminsky '84  
Joe Kane  
Albert Martin Kaufman '51  
Lee M. Auerbach Kaufman '67  
Gloria S. Berkowitz Karin '62, MS '64  
Eileen G. Kaveney MEd '89  
George H. Kehm '51  
Ruth E. Corbin Kern '53  
Tecla M. Kern '43  
Robert Jack Kessler '56  
Janice Gould Kiel '55  
Edward A. Kilkelly '70  
John Carl Kirsch '50  
Eleanor M. Dorsey Korade '52  
Alexander Kouguell  
Arthur H. Kraft '50  
Claire Malkevitch Kranzer '57  
William Henry Krause MA '04  
Ruth R. Borenstein Kullman '72  
Paul David Kurnit MA '72  
Susan N. Moss Kutell '67  
Elsbeth Langgut '92  
Judith P. Griebel Laporta '47  
Roslyn Lashinsky '55  
Roxanne Bonnie Latimer  
Marlo Rene Laws '72  
Carol J. Greifer Lazarus '46  
Louis Lema '77  
Judith T. Liebman MLS '95  
O. Bernard Leibman  
David D. Leto '62  
Dick Farrel Levitt '79  
Stuart E. Levy  
Celine Liefbrig '90  
Ronald John Lofaro  
Louis Renner Loth  
Dorothy Newton Lott '48  
Karen Marcianite Loweth '03  
Albert P. Maitner, Jr. '61

Marjorie Katz Mandel '72  
Helena Lysyi Mann-Melnitchenko '60  
Eleanor Dour Marshall '43  
Eleanor V. Mazeika '81  
Mary McRae McCaskey '51  
Regina C. Gegenwarth McEvoy '55  
William F. McGovern '77  
John E. McIntyre II '58  
Joan Bath McManus '64  
Michele Angela Fiordelisi McNally  
Betty Mechler '88  
Nazen Merjian '54  
Perri Hochhauser Merns '72  
Sonia Handelman Meyer '41  
Lawrence J. Milbauer '47  
Donna Rosen Miller  
Karen Joan Milza MEd '96  
Barbara A. Boltson Mintz '54  
Ralph J. Molé  
Alfred F. Monaco '65  
Ralph W. Monaco '74  
Madeline Nicoll Lawrence Moran '50  
Gail Ann Wefer Moreno '63  
Arthur A. Morrison '57  
Patricia Morrison '73  
Rose Epstein Mosner '71, MS '74  
Kothesa Janut Bhuya Murphy '67  
Anita M. Soldo Murray '49, MS '63  
Olga Nunns Neuhaus '47  
Martin Nuruddin '78  
Dorothy O'Brien '69  
John M. O'Brien '59  
Mary Kathleen Elsassner O'Loughlin '76  
Clare O'Neill '04  
Jack Orbach  
Marie J. Carleo Orioli '80  
Selma Kutner Ostriker '42  
Thomas J. Ostrowski '19  
Violet V. Lutheran Palumbo '53  
Annette V. Carpentier Pascual '48  
Keith D. Patchel '83  
Patrick R. Patterson '15  
Vilma M. Patrucco '57  
John S. Pavone '89  
Josette Herupe Percival '80  
Frances Katherine Peterson MLS '75  
Susanne M. Petito-Eglielski '75  
Esther B. Friedman Pines '46  
Richard A. Plant '73  
Albert M. Portagallo  
Nettie Liss Price '52  
Barbara Anne Ortner Punzi MEd '76  
Cary M. Rachell '75  
Linda M. Radziewicz '85  
Madeline McDermott Rappelt MLS '62  
Roger W. Raskopf '58  
Helen M. Rausch '51  
Donald T. Rave, Sr. '50

Hans R. Reinisch '54  
Lorraine L. Feiner Resnick '57  
Eleanor A. Hanson Rieder '50  
Mabel Dunn Ritchie '45  
Mary Dorothy Jezik Roche '70  
Evelyn Puccini Rollieri '41  
Rosemary C. Rorke '96  
Vita Himber Rosenberg '44  
Gabriele A. von Gutfeld Rosenfeld '53  
Carol Einhorn Rothbell '65, MEd '73  
Lewis R. Rothstein '42  
Gerald A. Rubinfeld '64  
Jacqueline Francine Rubino '75  
Reynold Ruffins  
Mercedes R. Torres Ruiz '82  
Marie Vafiadis Rummo '56  
Andrew Salgo '70  
Marilyn T. McKeegan Sansone '78  
Johann Schaffa '85  
Helen Schecterson '78  
Marvin Schoenwald '58  
Constance Riva Wain Schwartz '71  
Eric G. Schwartz '65  
Marc R. Schwartz  
Stanley D. Schwartz '64  
Joan R. Metsch Schwarz '66  
Joan R. Waidelich Secor '62  
Debra Danis Seiden '76, MLS '79  
Gloria Funk Shapiro '46  
Joel L. Shapiro '64  
Claire H. Hisler Shefftz '54  
Charles Sheldon '61  
Betty Stine Shuler  
Eleanor Barkan Siegal '64  
Norma Sileo  
Alan J. Simon '62  
Jerry Simon '72  
Robert William Simpson  
Dorothy Rau Sinclair '57, MS '60  
Lawrence J. Slattery  
Paul J. Smaldone, Jr.  
Jenny M. Anderson Smith '65  
Vernon Smith '01  
Philip Smukler '64  
Matthew Lewis Sofer '67  
Dorothy Sepp Sommer '51  
Jean Kann Sonder '51  
Joel Stark  
Michelle Z. Starr  
Eleanor R. Blum Steffen  
Steven B. Stein '66  
Suzanne Steuerman '66  
Daniel Mark Strandberg '92  
Muriel Mendelson Stitt '70  
Kathleen Weinman Stockhamer '48  
Ernest H. Stockhoff '51  
Robert L. Stone '58  
Daniel Mark Strandberg '92  
Mary J. Streett '57

Monte Robert Sugarman '75  
Robert Susser '75  
Bruno Sutley '82  
Margaret M. Brannigan Swendsen '49  
Joan Sonberg Tabor '72  
Emily Siegel Taitz '58  
Joan E. Merlo Thorseth '76  
Hadassah Neulander Thursz '51  
Sonia Katz Tscherny  
John J. Tucker '65  
Irmgard L. Kiefer Tuechler '57  
Howard B. Turetsky '67  
Ernest M. Urvater '56  
Helen Danoff Volkman '66  
Geraldine Shannon Wade '85  
Wilma Polofsky Walter '85  
Robert A. Wallstein '48  
Barbara R. Walzer MLS '94  
Dorothy Pauline Recksiek Wargo '47  
John E. Watkins, Jr. '65  
George T. Wein  
Sylvia Weinstock '73  
Susan Zeller Weiss  
Howard S. Weitzman '67  
Martin H. Wexler '61  
Janet Burton Wilkes '86  
Alfred G. Williams III '61  
Marilynn Grace Turnbull Wochinger MS '71  
Joanne P. Poucher Wojtusiak '66  
Arelene Eyerman Wolinski '55  
Jay Wolpert '65  
Roger Michael Antonio Wolff '56, MA '57  
Adam Yager '22  
Leonard Yohay '46  
Barry L. Zaret '62  
Michael S. Zarin  
Helen Mazanec Zeman '82  
Bonnie E. Ziet '87  
Margaret Wuensch Zimmer '43  
Marvin Zborowski  
Charles Zolot  
Philip A. Zuchman '65

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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!



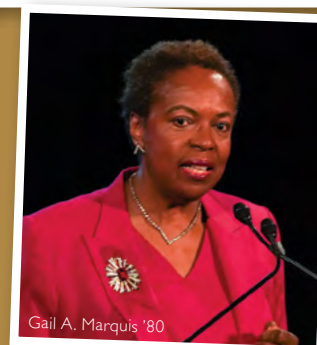
Paulette E. Mullings Bradnock '84



Matthew T. Higgins '98



Lea Fensterstock '68 and Andrew Heller



Gail A. Marquis '80