

# QUEENS

THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE



**Building on the Legacy  
of Louis Armstrong**



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- 4 News
- 8 Great Sports
- 11 One College, Many Perspective
- 12 Strength in Numbers
- 14 A Hub for All That's Jazz
- 18 Breaking New Academic Ground
- 20 Alum Blazes Own Trail Publishing Black-Centered Comics
- 22 A Lifetime of Service
- 24 In Memoriam
- 32 Giving Back
- 35 Board Welcomes New Members
- 36 Professionals on Campus
- 37 Alumni Notes

## From the President



What a pleasure it was to participate in this summer's ribbon-cutting for the new \$26 million Louis Armstrong Center, subject of the cover story on page 14. First envisioned more than 20 years ago, the center features space for exhibitions, a jazz club for performances, and the extensive personal archive of Lucille and Louis Armstrong, formerly housed on the Queens College campus. The collection includes 650 home-recorded reel-to-reel tapes in hand-decorated boxes, 86 scrapbooks, 5,000 photographs, and 12 linear feet of papers, letters, and manuscripts. These materials will

enhance scholars' understanding of the musician widely regarded as the first great jazz soloist. The article, richly illustrated with photographs, serves as a tour of the center and captures the thrill of its opening, with the support of New York City and State governments. Do come and visit [www.louisarmstronghouse.org/our-new-center/](http://www.louisarmstronghouse.org/our-new-center/)!

In other exciting news, Queens College Athletics had a banner year: Seven teams made it to the East Coast Conference playoffs and three went to the NCAA tournament. Read about these Knights to remember on page 8.

As it does every year, *Queens* magazine features accounts of accomplished alumni. Manuel Godoy '17 founded Black Sands Entertainment with his wife, Geiszel; the company specializes in comic books, graphic novels, video games, and animation rooted in a Black-centered appreciation of precolonial history. In our article, on page 20, Godoy explains how his major—economics—prepared him to run a business. Dominick Yezzo '75 was recovering from his military tour in Vietnam when he enrolled at Queens College; he credits the college with giving him the education that enabled him to thrive in his multifaceted career as a writer, college professor, attorney, judge, and volunteer advocate for fellow veterans. He is profiled on page 22.

Rounding out this issue are stories about the first Diversity Week on campus (page 11); TIME 2000, a math teacher preparation program offered only at Queens College (page 12); and CUNY Distinguished Professor of Sociology Pyong Gap Min (page 18), whose research has focused on Koreans and Korean Americans.

We want to hear your stories, too. Contact us at [qmag@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:qmag@qc.cuny.edu) so we can share your news with the Queens College community.

Sincerely,

*Frank H. Wu*  
President Frank H. Wu

Cover: The Louis Armstrong Center is a cultural and architectural landmark. Inset: Ready to cut the ribbon are (rear, from left) Community Board 3 Chair Frank Taylor, State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, Louis Armstrong House Museum (LAHM) Board Chair Jay Hershenson, President Frank H. Wu, NYC Commissioner of Cultural Affairs Laurie Cumbo, State Senator Jessica Ramos, LAHM Board Treasurer Stephen Maitland-Lewis, NYC Council Member Francisco Moya, Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation Board Member Jonathan Raskin, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards, CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos-Rodriguez, LAHM Board Members Simona Chazen and Larry Miller, and (center front) LAHM Executive Director Regina Bain.

Cover photos by Andrew Kelly.

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**QUEENS**  
THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE  
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## Congratulations to the Class of 2023

Queens College held its 99th Commencement on June 1, conferring more than 5,100 undergraduate and graduate degrees on candidates from summer and fall 2022, and winter and spring 2023. Students were the stars of the occasion, but they shared the spotlight with alumnus Jon Favreau—writer, creator, actor, sometime director, and executive producer of “The Mandalorian”; director of *Iron Man* and *Iron Man II* and portrayer of the title character’s factotum, Happy Hogan—who delivered the keynote and received an honorary doctorate. President’s Medals were presented to New York Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado and posthumously to Judith Heumann, an advocate for people with disabilities who passed away earlier this year.

Noel Hankin ’68, business and civic leader, author, and champion of African American education and culture, received a President’s Medal at the May 30 Baccalaureate Awards Ceremony honoring student academic achievers.



## Students Win Salk Awards



**Berglas**

Every year, CUNY issues eight Salk Scholarships to graduates who have been admitted to medical school or a graduate program in biomedical sciences, so it’s a big deal for any college to have a single winner. In 2023, QC had two: Eli Berglas ’22 and Amanda Brand ’22. Berglas, who participated in research in the college’s behavioral neuroscience lab under Richard Bodnar (Psychology), is attending the College of Medicine at SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University. Brand,

who worked in the neuroscience laboratory of Carolyn Pytte (Psychology), is attending Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at Rutgers University. Over four years of study, Berglas and Brand will each receive \$8,000 toward the cost of attending school. The Salk Scholarship program honors City College graduate Jonas Salk, who developed the first polio vaccine and made it freely available for worldwide use. When offered a tickertape parade in New York City, he asked that the money go toward scholarships instead.



**Brand**

## Graced by Legislator’s Visits to Campus

Through the government spending package signed in early 2023 by President Joe Biden, Congresswoman Grace Meng earmarked more than \$2 million in federal funds for Queens College’s Business School and Colden Auditorium. On February 15, President Frank H. Wu welcomed Congresswoman Meng to campus to acknowledge her efforts on behalf of the college.

“We are enormously pleased to celebrate this generous support, secured thanks to the outstanding efforts of Congresswoman Grace Meng,” said Wu, who noted that Congresswoman Meng obtained the original support to establish the college’s Small Business Development Center.

“After securing nearly \$2 million last year for Queens College’s WETLAB, I’m proud to once again deliver another big check to the school, this one for more than \$2.2 million for building partnerships with local small businesses and renovating Colden Auditorium,” said Meng. “As New York’s senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, I’m thrilled to fight for Queens College, and I look forward to these projects benefiting the college and borough residents for years to come.”

Half a year later—on August 17, to be exact—Congresswoman Meng returned to Queens College to announce \$1 million in federal funding to help the Queens Chamber of Commerce set up a new program, the Small Business Legal Desk. Through this initiative, local small businesses will be able to consult professionals in human resources, finance and accounting, and legal issues free of charge, and in five languages other than English. The press event highlighted the valuable relationships linking Queens College—and specifically, the School of Business, the Small Business Development Center in Queens Hall, and the on-campus Tech Incubator—to the borough’s business community.



## CUNY Distinguishes QC Professors

Two QC faculty members—Ammiel Alcalay (Classical, Middle Eastern, and Asian Languages and Cultures) and Talia Schaffer (English)—are among the dozen scholars promoted in August 2023 to distinguished CUNY professorships.

“The 12 faculty members who have recently been elevated to CUNY’s distinguished professoriate join a group of extraordinary scholars and teachers who have built international reputations for their scholarship, creativity, and vision,” said Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. “We congratulate these individuals on this latest recognition of their accomplished status as leading lights within their fields.”

Alcalay is a poet, novelist, translator, critic, and scholar with some 30 books to his credit; his next two titles, *Controlled Demolition: A work in four books*, and *Follow the Person: Archival Encounters*, will be published in 2024. He has written for *The New York Times*, *Time* magazine, *The Village Voice*, *The New Republic*, and *Middle East Report*, as well as for such literary journals as *Grand Street*, *Conjunctions*, and *Paper Air*.



In 2017, he received a Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award as the founder and general editor of *Lost & Found: The CUNY Poetics Document Initiative*.



Schaffer has published widely on topics in 19th-century literature and material culture, with over 50 articles on disability studies, noncanonical women writers, popular fiction, aestheticism, and Victorian texts. In her most recent book, *Communities of Care: The Social Ethics of Victorian Fiction*, she uses the feminist philosophy of ethics of care as a way of understanding Victorian social relations. Her

other books include *Romance’s Rival: Familiar Marriage and Victorian Fiction*, which won the North American Victorian Studies Association’s Best Book Prize for 2016 and was selected as one of *Choice’s* Outstanding Academic Books of 2016.

“I warmly congratulate Ammiel Alcalay and Talia Schaffer on their elevation to distinguished status,” said President Frank H. Wu. “They are outstanding members of the QC faculty and deserve this recognition.”

## Changes Near the Top



**(l-r) DeLongoria, Munshi, Pan, Yearwood and Massis-Sanchez**

Just in time for Fall 2023, Queens College announced several executive appointments.

Maria DeLongoria was named interim associate provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs. DeLongoria came to QC from Medgar Evers College, where she served as chair of the Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences, associate professor of History, and executive director of the Caribbean Research Center.

Soniya Munshi was appointed director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Leadership. For the past year, Munshi led the Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AA/ARI) as interim executive director.

Yung-Yi Diana Pan, most recently an associate professor of Sociology at Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center, succeeded Munshi as interim executive director of AA/ARI. At Brooklyn College, Pan served as the director of American Studies and the faculty dean associate of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Simone Yearwood was appointed interim dean of the School of Arts and Humanities. A triple QC alumna, Yearwood is familiar to many on campus from her work as associate dean and chief librarian of the Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library.

Judith Massis-Sanchez, QC’s interim general counsel since April 2022, was given the full title.

## Poetry Foundation Prizes Kimiko Hahn



In other news about the university’s distinguished faculty, Kimiko Hahn, CUNY Distinguished Professor of English, has won the Poetry Foundation’s Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize for 2023. The prize recognizes lifetime achievement and comes with a cash award of \$100,000.

Hahn has taught at QC for 30 years. She is the author of ten poetry collections, including *Foreign Bodies*; *Brain Fever*; *Toxic Flora*; *The Narrow Road to the Interior*; *The Unbearable Heart*, winner of the American Book Award; and *Earshot*, winner of the Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize and an Association of Asian American Studies Literature Award.

The Poetry Foundation publishes *Poetry* magazine and otherwise works to promote poetry and the people who write it.

## Goldwater Scholar



Kirk Persaud ’23, who just received his bachelor’s degree in neuroscience, psychology, and biology and expects to complete his master’s in behavioral neuroscience and neuroscience next year, is one of 413 students to be named Goldwater Scholars for 2023–24. This is a tremendous achievement: winners were chosen from 1,267 students in natural science, engineering, and mathematics nominated by 427 academic institutions. Persaud is the eighth QC undergraduate to date to receive this prestigious award.



## Alumni Entrepreneurs Build on College LaunchPad

Reginald Wills '22 and Sujen Wu Wu '22 have big plans for their small start-up business.

In December 2022, Wills and Wu Wu finished first in the network round of the national Blackstone LaunchPad Business Ideas Competition, under the category of Social and Climate Impact. (They advanced to the national contest upon winning the

same category in the Queens College tier of the competition.) Now, with their prize—a \$10,000 grant from the Blackstone Charitable Foundation—they're developing the company they pitched, Collabiversity. Envisioned as an intermediary between brands and colleges, Collabiversity will create a merchandise and digital assets marketplace for students and alumni and raise scholarship funds for



Wills

students. Wills and Wu Wu came up with the concept after casual wear brand Kith released its first limited QC collection and donated a portion of sales revenue to the college.

"Mr. Wills and Ms. Wu Wu put CUNY and Queens College on the map," says Karl Mitchell (Economics), who taught both students in his Introduction to Business Writing course, encouraged them to work together, and mentored them through the competition. "They beat 45 other universities/colleges, including but not limited to Cornell University, NYU, UCLA, University of Texas, Baruch College, and Syracuse, in only Queens College's second year of competing. It's a huge deal."



Wu Wu

## Aiming for the Moon with the Artemis I Mission

Artemis I got off the ground in November 2022 with the help of computer science major Umar Kagzi '22: He was part of a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) team that developed software for the mission, an uncrewed test flight that orbited and flew beyond the moon.

Specifically, as a software engineering intern for NASA, he helped write test flight software for the SLS (Space Launch System)—Artemis Program. "My primary task was to develop this software for both the Artemis I and Artemis II spaceships using Python and an internal NASA tool," Kagzi explained. "The software tested the internal components and the guidance and navigation systems of the spaceships in a virtual environment to ensure they would work fine in the actual Artemis spaceship." Kagzi worked for NASA as a software engineer for about two years; during much of that period he was studying at Queens College.

Since March 2023, he has been employed full-time as a software engineer for the consulting firm Accenture.



## Discovery Rocks Anthropology



Contrary to popular belief, the world's oldest profession is . . . toolmaking.

Thomas Plummer (Anthropology) is the lead author of a paper recently published in *Science* showing that hominins—a term comprising modern humans and our extinct ancestors—used tools in food preparation 3 to 2.6 million years ago, as much as 400,000 years earlier than previously estimated.

Plummer is part of a team studying a site in Nyayanga, Kenya, where they uncovered bones of hippos that had been carved

up for meat, as well as stone tools that were used in that work. (The team included two QC alumnae who became CUNY graduate students: Frances Forrest '06, now on the faculty of Fairfield University, and Raquel Lamela Lopez '13).

Stone toolmaking is a skill that scientists have attributed exclusively to human ancestors in the genus *Homo*. Intriguingly, two molars discovered alongside the Paleolithic utensils come from the extinct hominin *Paranthropus*, raising the possibility that members of that genus crafted tools, too.

## Queens Honors King

Borough leaders turned out for the college's MLK Day Celebration on Sunday, January 15, 2023, in LeFrak Concert Hall: New York City Council Speaker Adrienne E. Adams, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., and Assembly Member Khaleel Anderson '19 joined President Frank H. Wu and student leaders in offering greetings.

The program began with a stirring rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," the Black national anthem, by Aisayma Lennard, an Admissions counselor at QC. Event honoree Jelani Cobb, dean of the Columbia Journalism School and staff writer for *The New Yorker*, delivered the keynote. The program also included the first screening of a video tribute, "The Legacy Connection: Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Queens College." But for many, the most memorable part of the afternoon was a set by jazz vocalist Samara Joy, who brought down the sold-out house. The next month, she won two GRAMMY awards: Best New Artist and Best Jazz Vocal Album.

In 2024, QC will hold its MLK Day Celebration on Sunday, January 14.



From left: Wu, Adams, jazz vocalist Samara Joy, CUNY Board of Trustees Vice Chair Sandra Wilkin, Columbia Journalism School Dean Jelani Cobb, and Richards.



## Bands of Brothers

House plans were a significant part of student life at Queens College from the late fifties to the early seventies. Many students forged lifetime friendships through these social organizations. Alumni of Big House connected in person on campus and over Zoom during a reunion in June 2023.

Roughly two and half months later, an on-campus gathering for Phi Epsilon Pi attracted 27 members of the fraternity, spanning class years 1956–1974. The brothers remain involved with their alma mater through the Phi Epsilon Pi Scholarship Endowment, which to date has given awards to 16 students. Two of them attended the reunion. The 2023 scholarship recipient, Raul Zapata-Tineo, a senior majoring in accounting, delivered remarks.

## Federal Officials Visit QC To Mark AANAPISI Week

On September 22, 2023, President Joe Biden issued the first-ever presidential proclamation designating September 25-October 1 as Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander—serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Week. Four days later, Nasser Paydar, U.S. assistant secretary for Postsecondary Education—the highest-ranking federal higher education official—visited Queens College, highlighting the administration's efforts to strengthen AANAPISIs and support the nation's Asian American and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities.

AANAPISIs are defined as colleges or universities with an undergraduate enrollment that is at least 10 per cent Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander. QC, which hosts the AANAPISI Project, certainly qualifies. Among the project's student services are multilingual tutoring, offered in collaboration with the college's writing center, and opportunities for experiential learning through internships with local AAPI organizations. Faculty have access to workshops designed to strengthen understanding of local AAPI histories and issues and encourage development of AAPI-focused course content.

Paydar toured campus with Stephen Lamb, special assistant, U.S. Department of Education; Phil Kim, senior advisor, the White House; Erika Moritsugu, deputy assistant to the president and

Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders senior liaison, the White House; Ting Wu, special advisor to the chief of staff for Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs), the White House; and Erika Ninoyu, senior advisor, White House Initiative on AANHPIs. These officials met President Frank H. Wu and members of the college administration to discuss federal support for AANAPISIs, affordability and student retention initiatives, maintaining multiple minority-serving institution statuses, and student mental health challenges and support services. In connection with the visit, a panel of students covered topics such as belonging and inclusion, first-generation student status, English as a Second Language, and mental health.



From left: Erika Moritsugu, Frank H. Wu, Nasser Paydar, and Phil Kim



# Great Sports

## In 2022–2023, Athletics Had a Year for the History Books

By John Scarinci

The 2022–23 Queens College Athletics season was one to remember. The program was vastly improved from the previous year, with multiple teams making playoff runs and earning prestigious awards. Some teams even made school history by winning the conference championship, qualifying for their first NCAA tournament, or setting new school records.

### FALL SPORTS

The 2022 men's soccer team had one of those historic seasons. They won a program-record 13 games and hosted their first East Coast Conference (ECC) Semifinal game. Despite the loss in the semifinals, QC earned an at-large bid into the NCAA tournament—its first-ever NCAA Tournament bid.

For the opening round of the tournament, the Knights traveled all the way to Charleston, West Virginia, only to take on Adelphi University, a school located just 13 miles from Queens. Unfortunately, the Knights came up short in a hard-fought match, losing 1-0 to end their season.

Head coach Frank Vertullo was named the ECC Coach of the Year for leading the Knights in their extraordinary 2022 season. Senior defender Thomas Esperoe and sophomore midfielder Adolfo Martinez Paquet were each All-ECC First-Team selections, while junior forward Leo Pinto and senior goalkeeper Dario Giovanni Cruz garnered All-Conference Second-Team honors.

The awards didn't stop there for Paquet, as he was named an All-American by the Division Two Conference Commissioners Association, earning a Third-Team selection.

The women's volleyball team broke a long postseason drought in 2022 as they qualified for the ECC playoffs for the first time since the 2008 season. The Knights finished with 12 wins, the most they've had in a season since 2008. Although they fell to Molloy University in the opening round of the playoffs, the season was a success and step in a right direction for the program.

Freshman Ryann Frontera proved to be a difference maker, as she was named the ECC Libero of the Year after leading the ECC in digs per set (5.13 per game). Additionally, junior Alexis Deodat was voted to the ECC All-Conference Second Team and sophomore Christina Franco was an All-Conference honorable mention selection.

Although the women's soccer team failed to reach the ECC playoffs, finishing with a conference record of 2-4-2, the Knights had two players earn all-conference honors. Senior midfielder Marina Pappas was a Third Team All-Conference selection as was sophomore defender Sarah Anderson.

For cross country, both the men's and women's teams placed fifth at the 2023 ECC Championships. On the men's side, the Knights were led by Njehan Philip, who placed 15th at ECC Championships and qualified for the NCAA East Regional. For the women's side, Rachel Mow also qualified for the NCAA East Regional.

### WINTER SPORTS

The winter season was highlighted by the women's basketball team, who qualified for the postseason for the first time since the 2017–18 season and then earned an upset victory in the ECC playoffs. The Knights came into the playoffs as the #6 seed and went on the road to knock off Mercy College, 66-52, in the opening round. Unfortunately, the Knights season ended in the next game in the ECC semifinals against St. Thomas Aquinas College.

Several student-athletes received post-season honors, led by freshman Brianna Davis, who was named the ECC Rookie of the Year, while also being named to the All-ECC Third Team and All-Metropolitan Second Team. Guards Raven Pitt and Chelsea Reeves received third-team All-Conference honors, too.

The men's basketball team came up just short of qualifying for the ECC playoffs last season. Nonetheless, the Knights had some

President Frank H. Wu welcomes the new Knight mascot. The baseball team (right) poses with the 2023 East Coast Conference Championship banner and trophy. It was the team's first conference title since the 1998 season.

notable individual accomplishments. Senior center Tyler Carey was selected as the ECC Defensive Player of the Year and earned a spot on the All-Conference Second Team and the All-Metropolitan Second Team. Sophomore guard Sunnie Diamond was voted to the All-Conference Third Team.

Although the indoor track and field team did not finish near the top of the ECC standings at the ECC Championship, two athletes had notable performances. Senior Myles Jackson earned a bronze medal in the 500-meter run at the ECC Championships, while Khareena Primus also placed third in the 200-meter dash. The women's team finished eighth overall while the men were seventh.

The winter season came to a close with the welcoming of a new mascot to Queens College. The old mascot, "Sir Wins-a-Lot," was laid to rest and his successor, "the Knight," was anointed in a campus ceremony in February. The fun and lively event helped set the tone for an exciting slate of spring sports.



### SPRING SPORTS

The spring season was full of thrilling moments and perhaps no Queens team had more thrills than the baseball team. The Knights captured their first ECC title since 1998 in dramatic fashion. Queens defeated rival Molloy University, 9-8, in the championship game, winning on a walk-off error in extra innings. The Knights earned a bit of revenge against Molloy, who had defeated them in the championship game the previous year. The win also automatically qualified the Knights for the NCAA regionals, their second appearance in school history.

The Knights won their first NCAA Tournament game in program history as they defeated Felician University, 7-4, before their season came to end against Goldey-Beacom College. But that didn't take away from an incredible season in which they set a school record for wins with 34.







Seven members of the team earned All-ECC Honors. Sophomore second baseman Mark Cisco, freshman outfielder Jorsixt Jimenez and senior first baseman Anthony Fontana were First-Team selections. Jimenez was also named the ECC Rookie of the Year, the Knights' second consecutive ECC Rookie of the Year Honor. Sophomore Matt Filip, senior Liam Pulsipher, and juniors Danny Gargano and Jordan Sanabria were named to the All-ECC Second Team.

Following the conclusion of the season, Cisco, Jimenez, and Fontana earned All-East Region honors with Cisco and Jimenez being selected to the First Team and Fontana garnering Second-Team honors.

Additionally, Fontana was invited to participate in the MLB Draft League during the summer. Athletes selected for the MLB Draft League refine their skills and receive unprecedented visibility to MLB Club scouts through both in-person observation and state-of-the-art scouting technology.

The men's tennis team put together another fantastic season which resulted in their fifth ECC championship in six years and a trip to the NCAA tournament for the 21st consecutive season. The Knights posted a 15-5 record for the year; in the ECC Championship, they knocked off St. Thomas Aquinas College, who had defeated the Knights in last year's championship match.

In the NCAA tournament, the Knights season ended in the round of the 32 where they lost a hard-fought match to LeMoyne College by a score of 4-3.

The Knights earned numerous post-season awards in recognition of their outstanding season. Sophomore Cameron Henry, who posted an 18-6 singles record and a 15-5 record in doubles play, was announced as the ECC Co-Player of the Year. Graduate student Moritz Borges and senior Lucas Demuth earned All-Conference honors. Borges also showed he excels off the court, as he was named the ECC Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

The women's tennis team once again had a strong season, finishing with a record of 11-8. But the Knights came up short in their quest for their tenth conference title, losing to St. Thomas Aquinas College in the ECC Championship match. Three members of the squad earned All-Conference honors. Maja Makal was named to the All-ECC First Team, her fourth straight All-Conference selection; Gabriela Sciarrotta also earned All-ECC First Team honors, her second straight All-Conference selection; and Caroline Hany-Fawzy was named to the All-Conference Second Team.

The softball team returned to ECC playoffs for the first time since 2015—and they weren't satisfied with just getting there. In the opening round of the tournament, the fourth-seeded Knights upset top-seeded Molloy University by a score of 9-0 to advance into the winner's bracket. However, the Knights fell in their winner's bracket game against St. Thomas Aquinas and were later eliminated by Molloy in a loser's bracket matchup.

In addition to their team success, the Knights softball team received many individual accolades. Graduate student Allyson Dilday was a First-Team All-Conference selection. Dilday pitched a team-high 153.1 innings and finished with a 2.33 earned run average and eight wins. Senior utility player Ann Grimshaw and sophomore third baseman Emma Zumpol were each named to the All-ECC Second Team. Grimshaw batted .297 with a team-high 16 RBIs, while Zumpol batted .368 in conference games.

The outdoor track and field team showed improved results in the outdoor season: The Knights medaled in 12 events at the ECC Outdoor Track and Field Championships compared to two for the indoor season. On the men's side, Damilola Babalola placed second in the 110-meter hurdles, Matthew Castro was third in the javelin throw, and Hakeem Griffiths earned the bronze in the triple jump. The 4x100 relay team also placed second.

For the women, Khareena Primus was third in the 100-meter dash and second in the 200-meter dash, Fatimma Morrobel won the bronze in the 800-meters, Bianca Hiltz finished third in the 100-meter hurdles and triple jump, and Madelyn McMath placed second in the javelin. Additionally, the 4x100 and 4x400 relay teams each placed third.

In all, the Knights sent seven teams to the ECC playoffs and had three teams reach the NCAA tournament; 42 student-athletes were awarded post-season honors, with six receiving major ECC Awards, six named to an All-Region team, and one earning All-American status. The 2022–2023 Queens College athletics season will go down as one for the history books. The future is looking bright for another great season this year.



**The men's tennis team celebrates with the 2023 East Coast Conference Championship trophy. The Knights have won 5 ECC Championships in the last six years.**

# One College, Many Perspectives

Diversity Week enlightens and challenges the campus community

Members of a proudly multicultural institution developed insight into themselves and each other during Queens College's first Diversity Week, sponsored by the CUNY Chancellor's Campus Climate Initiative and the Petrie Foundation.\* Organized by Chief Diversity Officer and Dean of Diversity Jerima DeWese and her planning committee, the "week" was short; events ran from Monday, April 17, through Friday, April 21. But the programming met up to its billing, tackling a new theme each day.

Monday was devoted to climate. Let's Talk about "IT": Race, Gender, Sexuality, Religion, Mental Health, held in the Tanenbaum Room of Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, was modeled on speed dating. Participants were paired for a timed one-on-one conversation in which they could ask each other questions on unfamiliar subjects. Among the other events that day was an interactive exploration of Hebrew and Arabic calligraphy, and Disability Justice 101: Bodily Autonomy, a discussion conducted over Zoom.

In keeping with Tuesday's theme—compliance—the president's cabinet took part in bias and compliance training. For everyone, the New York City Human Rights Commission facilitated a workshop on bystander/upstander intervention.

Culture was the topic on Wednesday. Eugenics and the Roots of Racism in American Culture connected the now discredited work of 20th-century eugenicists—who believed they could improve human beings through genetics and heredity—to systems of racial hierarchy and ideas about biology, behavior, and identity. At free hour, the Quad highlighted food, music, and traditions from countries around the world. Afternoon programs included an exercise in painting LGBTQIAA pride, a presentation on the challenges faced by Italian Americans in higher education, and a workshop on how to realize diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in classrooms, clubs, and departments.

Nontraditional students and first-generation students were the panelists for the opening event on Thursday, which emphasized community. In HAIR-E-HAIR-E, interfaith fellows talked about hair types, care, and styling, as well as religious practices involving hair, such as head coverings and adornments. Over Zoom, players in the game-based platform Kahoots explored the intersections of oppression and sexual violence and learned how to support their communities and peers.

On Friday, under the topic of change, Diversity Week offered an all-day Dismantling and Combating Hate Conference, with a panel discussion, a networking lunch, and breakout sessions on racial healing, antisemitism, and New York City human rights law. Also on the menu that day: a student panel about diversity in



**Top: Julissa Gutierrez, Chief Diversity Officer of New York State (left), seen here with QC Chief Diversity Officer and Dean of Diversity Jerima DeWese, gave the keynote at the Dismantling and Combating Hate Conference. Inset: The conference included a panel discussion with (from left) Nick Smith, first deputy public advocate, Office of the New York City Public Advocate; Wendy Garcia, deputy commissioner of Equity and Inclusion, New York Police Department; and Kajori Chaudhuri, deputy commissioner, Community Relations Bureau, Human Rights Commissioner, New York City Commission on Human Rights.**

neuropsychology research; a screening of a documentary about QC alum Corky Lee, a photographer and activist for Asian American rights; and a CERRU event that used fashion to present social identities (such as race, religion, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, and disability) and combat stereotyping.

(For more information about the Petrie Foundation, see Increasing Opportunity on page 34.)



# Strength in Numbers

Innovative QC program has been preparing math teachers for 25 years

By Jacquelyn Southern



These are memorable times for TIME 2000, Queens College's groundbreaking program in math-teacher preparation. This year, the program has been celebrating its milestone 25th anniversary; on November 3, it hosted its 20th annual Celebrating Mathematics Teaching conference.

Founding director Alice Artzt '68, MS '73, a mathematics education professor, created TIME 2000 after being dismayed by the high dropout rate among mathematics education students. In 1997, the National Science Foundation awarded her and Eleanor Armour-Thomas (Secondary Education and Youth Services, or SEYS) a grant to start a program based on a cohort model of strong students and a faculty mission of "producing excellent mathematics teachers." The program was launched the following year.

Immersion, community, hard work, and high expectations are the backbone of TIME 2000, whose team of SEYS and Mathematics faculty prepare QC undergraduates to become mathematics teachers for grades 7–12. Whether freshmen, transfers, or QC students, applicants to the program must pass a high bar of grades, aptitude, four years of college-preparatory

mathematics, serious commitment to a vocation as a mathematics teacher, and a letter of recommendation from a high school math teacher. Once admitted, they pursue a demanding curriculum of math and education courses. They also receive a tuition scholarship, faculty mentoring, enrichment opportunities, and the benefits of taking carefully sequenced coursework together as part of a close-knit cohort.

"The students benefit tenfold," says TIME 2000 alumna Mara Markinson '12, MSEd '15, an assistant professor in SEYS. "They have an immediate cohort of peers who are becoming instant friends, moving through their courses with them, tutoring each other, there for each other."

Artzt herself works with each student one on one. "It's not like she puts them in the classes and that's that," says Alan Sultan (Mathematics), who helped shape the program. "She sees them again and again during the semester, she's always asking about what's going on in their lives, she takes a real interest in them, and they feel this."

Students are prepared to expect diversity of all sorts in the classroom, and they learn methods designed to respond to a variety of needs. "The thing we try to prepare our students for are the typical 80 percent of all students who do not want to learn math and see no value in it," says Artzt. During fieldwork, students are taken to observe and reflect on excellent teachers. "They all witness the same pedagogy that has been intentionally chosen," explains Markinson. "We know what we want them to see. Then they have deeply reflective assignments that have them analyzing what they saw."

To date, 312 students have graduated from TIME 2000. Most have had stunning success in their careers, with about 9 out of 10 teaching math well beyond their two-year commitment, and several working as assistant principals or principals. "We have an excellent retention record," notes Artzt. "Nationally, the retention record of teachers is dismal. If they make it to five years, it's a miracle. To our knowledge, approximately 88 percent of our graduates are still teaching."

Queens College faculty also benefit from the program's innovative structure, in which conversation, advising, and mentoring are key. Sultan credits TIME 2000 with enriching his own pedagogical experience. "I was a good teacher," he recalls, "but I would go into the classroom, I would do my thing, I would go home, and that would be the end of it. But in the program, I got to know the students. I got to talk to the students. It was a step up."

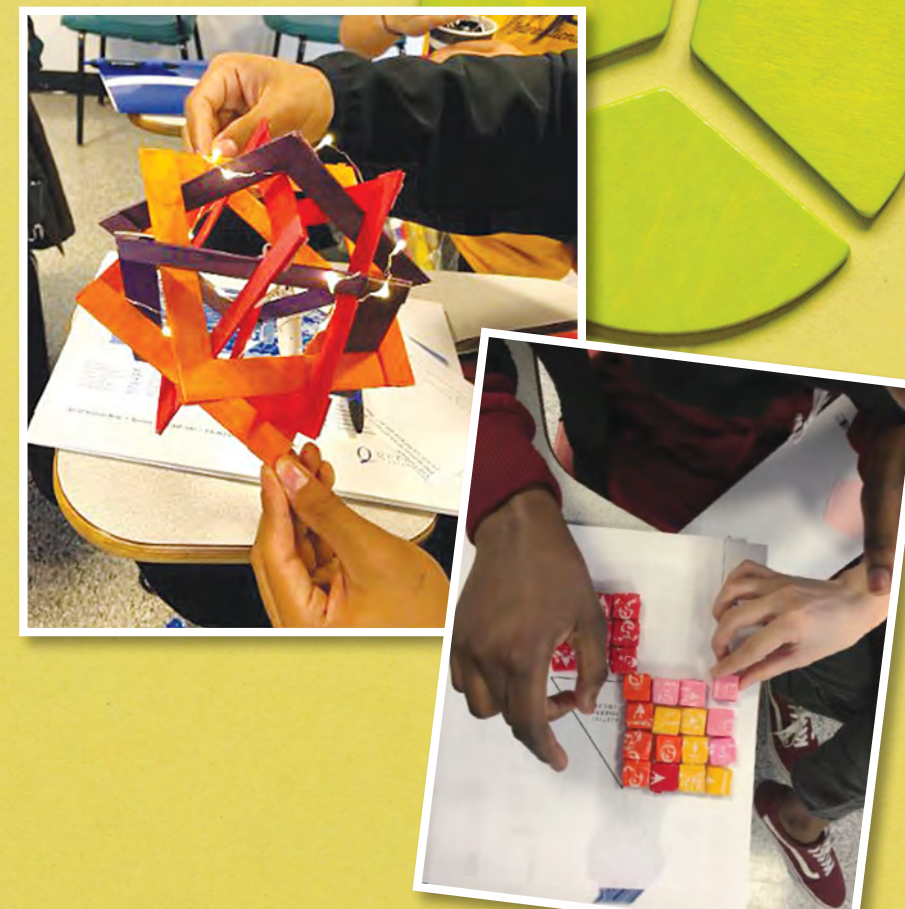
The annual Celebrating Mathematics Teaching conference is a showpiece of the student-centered TIME 2000 community. The event offers attendees—hundreds of high school students and their mathematics teachers along with TIME 2000 students and faculty—a chance to enjoy participating in mathematical explorations presented by exemplary teachers.

This year, Christine Franklin, an emerita professor from the University of Georgia as well as a fellow of and K–12 statistics ambassador for the American Statistical Association, shared lessons from more than 40 years of teaching experience. In the afternoon, 18 workshops—many led by TIME 2000 alumni—engaged attendees in fascinating, interactive experiences.

The alumni were in familiar territory. TIME 2000 majors begin participating in Celebrating Mathematics Teaching as freshmen. Markinson recalls guiding speakers around, assisting them, and speaking on student panels. She credits the yearly conference with cementing students' sense of themselves as future math teachers. "They look around on Conference Day and they say, 'Wow, look what I am a part of. I'm a part of something tremendous and really special that people care a whole lot about.'"

The need for well-prepared math teachers is more acute than ever, especially with the decline in math skills among secondary students. However, though noting new challenges like the pandemic and artificial intelligence, Markinson takes an optimistic view of the future. "I know that TIME 2000 will react appropriately in a way that supports our students and is in touch with the needs of students in the schools," she says. "I can say with 100 percent confidence that the program faculty are lifelong learners. Nobody is stagnant, everyone is looking to evolve . . . every semester we're tweaking things, changing things, adding things, making them meet the needs of learners in 2023 and 2024. That excites us. We see that as our mission so that when we send our TIME 2000 graduates on interviews and into the classrooms, they know what they have to do."

Students participate in hands-on workshops.







# A HUB FOR ALL THAT'S JAZZ

**The new Louis Armstrong Center houses the archives of its celebrated namesake, as well as exhibition and performance spaces**



Assembled on June 29, 2023, for the opening of the Louis Armstrong Center—part of the Louis Armstrong House Museum (LAHM) campus—are (from left) Community Board 3 Chair Frank Taylor, LAHM Board Chair Jay Hershenson, President Frank H. Wu, LAHM Executive Director Regina Bain, students Edmilson Garcia and Manuel Mejia, NYC Commissioner of Cultural Affairs Laurie Cumbo, State Senator Jessica Ramos, NYC Council Member Francisco Moya, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards,

CUNY Chancellor Felix Matos-Rodriguez, LAHM Board Members Larry Miller and Simona Chazen, and Louis Armstrong Educational Foundation Board Member Robin Bell-Stevens.

Insets at left: Richards; percussionist Joe Dyson and trumpeter Antoine Drye.

All photos by Andrew Kelly except as noted.





Bain



Cumbo

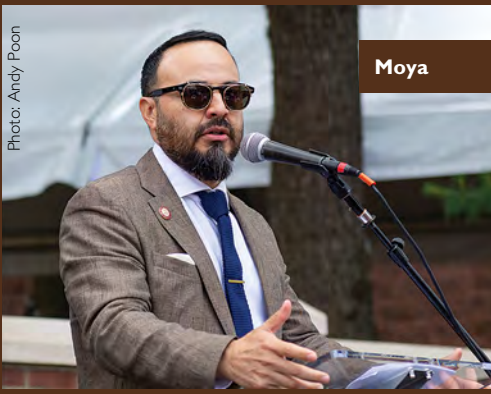


Photo: Andy Poon

Moya



One of Armstrong's instruments



Photo: Andy Poon

Trumpeter Danny Jonokuchi and bassist Jen Hodge



Photo: Albert Vecerka

Armstrong Center architects Sara Caples and Everardo Jefferson



A visitor enjoying the "Here to Stay" exhibit



Frank Sinatra High School for the Arts Jazz Ensemble



Hershenson and ASL Interpreter Brandon Kazen Maddox



"Here to Stay" exhibit explores Armstrong's career

Photo: Dominick Totino



Photo: Dominick Totino

Left-right: Matos-Rodriguez, Director of Research Collections Ricky Riccardi, and Wu



Assembly Member Jeffrion Aubry



Left-right: LAHM Board Members Michele Stoddart and David Bodney; Ramos; Moya; Community Intern Rubi Batista; Cumbo; Richards



Trumpeters (clockwise from bottom) Jon Faddis, Antoine Drye, Rafael Castillo, Summer Camargo, Kali Rodriguez, Waldron Ricks, Dave Adewumi, Riley Mulherkar, Linda Briceño, Steven Bernstein, Danny Jonokuchi, and Bria Skonberg



# Breaking New Academic Ground

CUNY Distinguished Professor of Sociology Pyong Gap Min made QC a center for the study of Koreans and Korean Americans

By Leslie Jay



*“Queens College has been the best of places for me. I enjoy conducting research on Asian Americans and there’s a large Asian community in Flushing, which serves as a natural laboratory.”*

“Immigration and assimilation have changed American society,” observes Pyong Gap Min, CUNY Distinguished Professor of Sociology. Min has had a similar impact on Queens College. The first faculty member to focus on Koreans and Korean Americans, he founded the Research Center for Korean Community (RCKC), which promotes research on Korean Americans and disseminates its data and information to the QC and Korean communities, as well as the Korean government. On a more personal note, in anticipation of his retirement in 2024, he established a scholarship in his name for a sociology student experiencing financial or family difficulties.

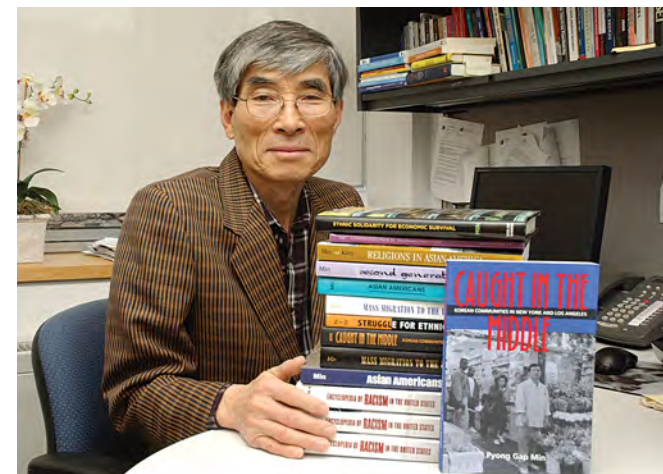
Min understands these issues all too well. He grew up in a rural Korean area where people had lots of children, losing many of them before they reached adulthood. “My parents had seven children; I was the only survivor,” he says. “My mother died when I was eight. My father was a farmer who had only three to four months of education.”

To attend high school, Min moved to Seoul. “I had no money,” he recalls. He slept in an unheated room, walked to school instead of taking a bus, and skipped lunch, which the school didn’t supply. “While the other kids were eating, I walked around campus.” The reward for his discipline: “I was accepted into the best university in Korea.”

At Seoul National University, Min earned a bachelor’s degree in history, supporting himself by tutoring high school students from rich families in English, in preparation for their college admission tests. He spent six months as a general reporter with the *Korea Herald*, an English-language newspaper, and two years teaching English in high schools and private academies before deciding to go back to school himself. “I wanted to be a scholar,” he says. “I liked to study.” Weighing options in the United States, he applied to the institution with the lowest tuition—Georgia State University—and was admitted.

In Atlanta, Min juggled minimum wage jobs and graduate school, earning a master’s degree in history and a PhD in educational philosophy. Unable to land a job, he completed a second PhD in sociology, becoming an instructor and a research associate at Georgia State. A tenure track position proved elusive. “The job market for sociology was terrible,” he notes. “I submitted more than 100 applications.” His sociology doctorate came from a brand-new program at Georgia State, which left him at a competitive disadvantage.

On the suggestion of a sympathetic committee member, Min applied for a National Science Foundation grant. In 1986, the NSF awarded him \$78,000 to research “Some Positive Functions of Ethnic Business for an Immigrant Community: Korean Immigrants in Los Angeles,” a project that strengthened his curriculum vitae. When QC’s sociology department opened a search for an expert on the Korean and Korean American community, Min was among the five candidates interviewed. “He was very active, had two PhDs and an NSF grant,” reports Andrew Beveridge, sociology emeritus. “It was a no-brainer to hire him.”



Appointed an assistant professor in 1987 at age 45—“late,” Min says—he advanced quickly. Within nine years, he was promoted to full professor; he established the RCKC, serving as its director, in 2009. The following year CUNY named him a distinguished professor. “Assembling his materials, it was plain that Min’s work was recognized as seminal by a dozen international recognized scholars in Asian and Migration Studies who reviewed his work,” comments Beveridge.

“I feel very lucky,” says Min. “Queens College has been the best of places for me. I enjoy conducting research on Asian Americans and there’s a large Asian community in Flushing, which serves as a natural laboratory.” Exploring topics such as immigrant entrepreneurship, religious and ethnic identity, and redress for Korean “comfort women” enslaved in Japanese military brothels, he has written seven books, edited or co-edited 15 more, and released a steady stream of chapters, journal articles, and book reviews.

Not surprisingly, Min has accumulated honors and distinctions, including fellowships, book awards, a second NSF grant, and recognition from the New York City Comptroller’s Office for his tremendous contributions to the city. In 2012 he was the first Asian American to receive the Distinguished Career Award from the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association. Five years later, the government of Korea gave him the Presidential Award. He was recently nominated for membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

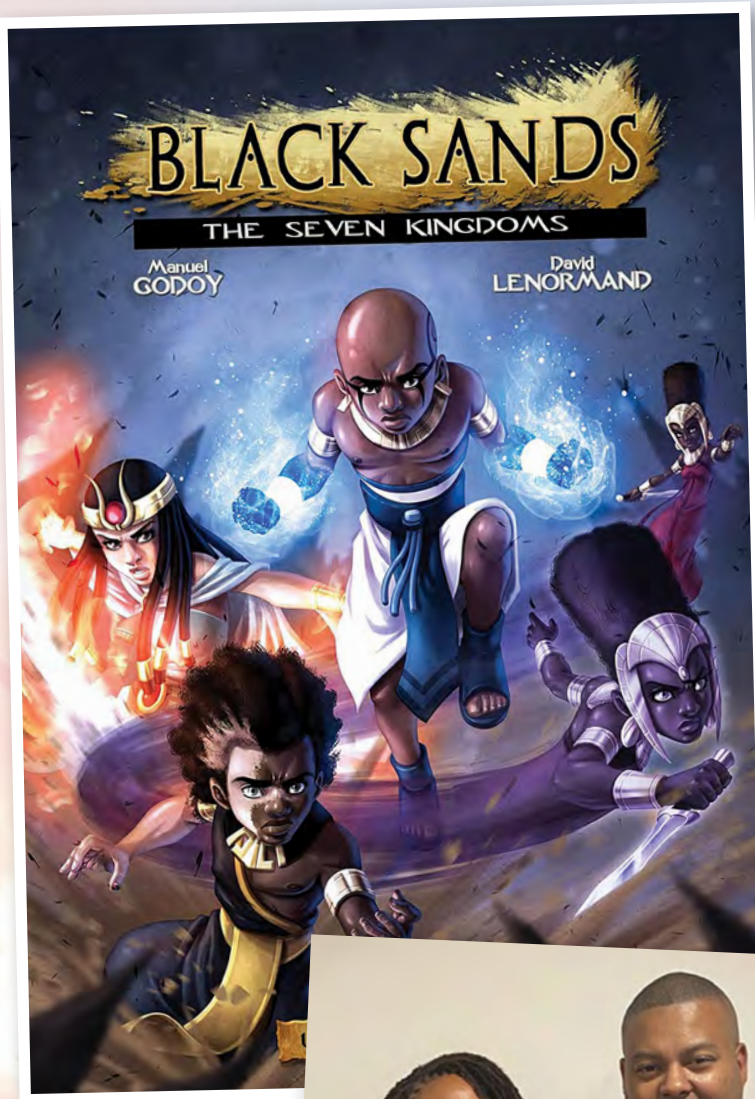
For Min, retirement represents just another phase in a remarkable career. “I cannot stop doing research,” he declares. He gets up at six in the morning, goes to the park, and regularly plays tennis. “You have to continue your work to be healthy, and you have to keep healthy to be able to contribute.” He hopes he’ll be succeeded at the RCKC by another immigrant Korean sociologist, whom he can assist by getting grants, collecting donations, and inviting visiting scholars from Korea. His next book will tackle a subject he knows intimately: He plans to write his autobiography.



# Alum Blazes Own Trail Publishing Black-Centered Comics

*Keeping Control of His Company, Manuel Godoy '17 Rejects Shark Tank Offer*

By Bob Suter



When Manuel Godoy '17 and his spouse Geisel walked onto the set to face the “shark” investors on ABC’s “Shark Tank” show in January 2022, it appeared that all the stars were in alignment for the couple to move forward with their dream to turn their company, Black Sands Entertainment, into a dominant purveyor of comic books, graphic novels, video games, and animation grounded in a Black-centered appreciation of history before colonialism.

Appearing that evening as a “guest shark” was the comic actor and entrepreneur Kevin Hart, one of three people Manuel Godoy has said he most admires for their savvy in marketing, managing, and continuing to own their intellectual property—the others being filmmakers Tyler Perry and George Lucas. As Godoy had anticipated since learning two weeks prior of Hart’s appearance, the comedian was very interested in what he had to pitch.

Offers and counter-offers ensued; the Godoys walked away with a tentative deal in which Hart and fellow shark Mark Cuban would receive an equity stake in Black Sands Entertainment. In return, Hart’s Hartbeat media company would offer its considerable resources to help Black Sands expand its portfolio of offerings, grow their distribution, and possibly move into film, television, and video game production.

But the partnership was not to be. Negotiations ended, with Manuel Godoy recently telling *Birmingham Christian Family Magazine*, “It just wasn’t for us. There’s a lot of red tape with celebrities. . . It had to be either-or, and we had to go with what we already knew.”

What Manuel Godoy knew was that there was an audience for what he and Geisel had to offer, an audience they considered themselves part of: African Americans looking for works of historic fiction that feature Black characters but don’t involve slavery or the civil rights movement. Works that parents of pre-teens like the Godoys would be happy to have their children read.

The original “Black Sands” comic is set in ancient Egypt, an Egypt, which according to history buff Manuel’s research, was populated by far more Black people than has been depicted in the Eurocentric creations experienced by generations of moviegoers. It follows the adventures of a young Black boy, Ausur, who wants to prove to his grandfather that he has what it takes to become pharaoh.

In a February 2022 appearance on “The Breakfast Club” radio show (105.1 FM in NYC) and podcast, the Godoys explained how Manuel’s original ambition to create a “Black

**Launching a new publishing genre: Manuel and Geisel Godoy, founders of Black Sands Entertainment.**

*“It just wasn’t for us. . . It had to be either-or, and we had to go with what we already knew.”*

Sands” video game was undone by the prohibitive amount it would cost to produce: “So, I was like, ‘Let’s pivot. Let’s make a comic book off of the same series.’ Then we went to Kickstarter and raised \$20,000 off of a \$4,000 Kickstarter. The rest was history.”

In 2017 Manuel opened a kiosk in a mall in Hoover, Alabama, to sell the original “Black Sands” comic book. He sold \$6,000 worth at the kiosk while during the same period he sold \$45,000 online at Shopify. Clearly, online merchandizing was the way to go. It was also where Manuel could leverage his social media savvy to build a fan base. As he told “The Breakfast Club,” “Online you know who your audience is and you can start laser focusing on them with your marketing strategy.”

As CEO of a company he created, Manuel Godoy is plainly proud of the independence he continues to enjoy. (Geisel is CFO.) He has used online platforms, principally Patreon, to raise capital from small investors to sustain and grow Black Sands Entertainment. As of June 2023, the website [wefunder.com](https://wefunder.com) reported Black Sands Entertainment had raised \$2,159,771 from 5,126 investors. In 2021, the company did more than \$2 million in sales continuing to issue

titles under the Black Sands brand featuring Black characters in historical settings before the advent of European colonialism. A departure from that formula are titles written by Geisel called “Mori’s Family Adventures” and “Ineola.”

As Manuel explained on “The Breakfast Club,” he hoped to avoid the pitfalls experienced by Milestone, an earlier Black-owned publisher of comics with Black superhero figures: “Milestone did some things that were great, but they didn’t have the tools that are available to us today. They didn’t have the social media platforms to literally build their own audience, because if they did, they probably would have made different choices.” One choice, to broaden their audience by becoming part of powerhouse DC Comics, ultimately led to Milestone’s demise: DC killed the brand for failing to meet anticipated sales figures.

That historic failure may have contributed to the decision to walk away from the “Shark Tank” deal, as Manuel explained in a phone interview from his home in Delaware: “The main thing was just simply control. At the end of the day, you give up a lot of control with these ‘Shark Tank’ deals. Of all the major causes that were deal-breakers for us was that I couldn’t raise capital through my fans anymore . . . I’m not trading in my freedom for the chance of success.”

By his standards, Manuel Godoy already is a success, ticking off the capital he’s been able to raise through investments and sales and projects he has in the pipeline, which include an anime deal with Carl Reed and Composition Media and production of the video game he’s always wanted to create: “I can afford it now. I might be able to get an Xbox distribution deal to go with it . . . I’m pretty comfortable.”

Manuel, who grew up in Kew Gardens and Flushing, attributes his success in large part to his education at Queens College, where he earned a BA in Economics. “My years of studying economics have brought me to think of everything as supply versus demand . . . I didn’t have an internship or anything. I learned most of what I know about finance and business administration through college, and that was it.”

Education, specifically the education of middle schoolers, is an area where the Godoys have been making inroads with a deal to sell their publications to Birmingham public schools. Manuel also mentioned a recent conversation with a librarian who was ordering books for public libraries in three New York City boroughs.

Parents, Manuel told “The Breakfast Club,” complain their children aren’t reading enough. With our publications, he says, “You can get them interested in reading first, and then you give them *Charlotte’s Web*.”



# A Lifetime of Service

**After seeing action in Vietnam, Dominick Yezzo '75 became a writer, literature professor, lawyer, judge, and advocate for fellow veterans**

**By John Scarinci**

In the summer of 1969, just 10 days after returning to his Bayside home from Vietnam, wounded veteran Dominick Yezzo visited the registrar at Queens College, hoping to get a fresh start on life.

“Queens College looked to me like a real university,” recalled Yezzo. “It had a fence around it. It was surrounded by a community. There were trees on it. It had those old tile roof buildings. I understood that something university-like went on there. I wanted to be part of that.”

Yezzo didn’t have the academic credentials to be accepted—he had a 73 average in high school—but upon learning that he had just returned from war, a kindly woman at the registrar admitted him on the spot.

“It was a very significant moment in my life,” said Yezzo. “It began with an understanding, a willingness to accept me. There was a deeply rooted will and patience with me from the administration first and from all of the teachers from Queens College as well.”

A year earlier, Yezzo had been on his way to Vietnam. The Army drafted him at the height of the war, when each month, 19,000 young men from New York State alone were being sent to fight. The furthest he had been from home was a weekend trip to Boston; at the age of 21, he was traveling 8,500 miles away to Southeast Asia.

Ten days into his tour, Yezzo was critically wounded by a grenade explosion. He was medevacked by helicopter to a field base and stabilized, but doctors could not remove shrapnel from his right shoulder. After recuperating on the USS Repose, a U.S. Navy hospital ship stationed off the coast of the South China Sea, he was sent back to his unit. He spent the rest of his tour in constant fear, surviving regular mortar attacks and a firefight, witnessing the deaths of fellow soldiers as well as Vietnamese civilians, and recording it in his journal.

“I started to write a journal because I thought the possibility that I could die was real,” he commented. “You understand early on that you’re in a condition where life and death are the chief tension. Nobody lives like that here. In war, that’s how it is.”

Yezzo arrived home on August 17, 1969, the third day of the Woodstock Music Festival in upstate New York. While nearly 500,000 people were promoting peace and love, he struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), ringworm, and a damaged shoulder. His mother helped him to pick up the pieces.

“She sat beside me at the kitchen table, held me tight, and said ‘Wash your face, comb your hair, and go to work. Control what you can control.’ It was the best advice I’ve ever been given my entire life,” said Yezzo.

His mother also read his journal, getting an understanding of what he endured in Vietnam. She mentioned the journal to a family friend who happened to be a writer for the *Daily News*. Her friend helped Yezzo get the journal in the hands of publishers. Released in 1974 and reviewed by the *New York Times*, *A G.I.’s Vietnam Diary* sold out its first printing and went into a second.

“The irony was that I was in remedial English at Queens, and the book was published and reviewed in the *New York Times*,” observed Yezzo, who improved his English grades and majored in English literature. “I didn’t realize literature was taking a hold of me. . . . I had no skills, but most of the teachers were patient with me. I really have a good undergraduate degree at Queens College. It’s a basis for a lot of broader ranges of duty and citizenship.”

Upon receiving his BA, he enrolled in a graduate program in language and literature at City College. Before he completed his master’s in 1980, he was teaching literature at Nassau Community College, where he became a full-time lecturer—a position he still holds.

Ready for yet another challenge, Yezzo applied to and was accepted at CUNY School of Law.

“It was that same hidden dream,” he said. “That attempt at something unavailable to persons like me. There was more to do. I always enjoyed the law.”

Balancing law school while teaching a full course load at Nassau, Yezzo earned his JD in public interest law in 1988. Three years later, he opened a private practice specializing in personal injury. Highly successful, he maintained his practice until 2009, when he turned his attention to law in the service of human need—public interest law. He became a law judge for New York City’s Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (OATH). An executive agency independent of the state court system, OATH holds hearings on summonses and administrative trials issued by various city agencies; Yezzo is still employed there today.

“It was time for me to return what I had gotten back to the community,” he noted. “Life was running on me, and I wanted to do more with my degree. I have a degree in public interest law, and my work now is solely in public interest.”

Yezzo never forgot about his time in Vietnam. Since 1980, he has volunteered with the Vietnam Veterans of America, a nonprofit that promotes and supports the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans. He is also the chair of Veterans Incarcerated and in the Judicial System, which serves imprisoned veterans and veterans in treatment courts who suffer from PTSD and TBI. Yezzo advocates on their behalf with prison administrators, wardens, judges, and district attorneys in 50 states and develops strategies to help vets afflicted by hidden conditions.

“Not that we are soft on crime, but we certainly don’t want to leave [incarcerated veterans] behind,” explained Yezzo. “Post-traumatic stress caused these people to be unable to reason properly, and they are of value to the prison system. . . . They are carrying with them, in many cases, an awful burden. Once you’ve been in a war and experienced the destruction of people and property, you’re likely to struggle with the results of that in a human way. The results are profound, even if we don’t admit it to ourselves. PTSD is never gone. I still struggle. If you don’t have the support that I had when I came home, which is a family and people who honored your service, you can be bitten by it—as soon as it happens or many years later.”

Reflecting on his life and what he has accomplished, Yezzo remains grateful to the institution that took a chance on a veteran many years ago, helping him become a writer, professor, lawyer, judge, and humanitarian.

“I praise Queens and the administration who were patient enough to let me develop the skills I needed to become a successful student,” he concluded. “I honor QC first because QC honored me.”



**Opposite page: Dominick Yezzo, then and now, saved his uniform. Above: In the spring, he went to Douglas City Jail in Omaha, Nebraska, to visit incarcerated veterans.**



## QUEENS IN MEMORIAM

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

### Kenneth Abrams

Kenneth Abrams, former member of the QC English faculty, died in August 2023. He was 94. Abrams devoted his entire career to public New York institutions. After teaching at QC and SUNY Stony Brook, he became part of the team that founded Empire State College in Saratoga in 1971. He stayed there for 35 years, retiring as Empire’s dean for international programs. Abrams was remembered for his love of horse racing, Wordsworth, animals, food and wine, students, colleagues, friends, and relatives, and his dedication to progressive education and social justice causes.



### Elaine Alberts ’70 MS, ’72 MSEd

Elaine Alberts, an elementary school teacher dedicated to environmental education, passed away in March 2023 at the age of 87. Taking courses while raising two children, Alberts attended Queens College for a total of 13 years. She found her niche at PS 120 in Queens, teaching fifth grade and science. She

won recognition from the Garden Club of America for excellence in environmental education and participated in Sony Corporation’s expert teacher exchange in Japan. Her influence extended beyond her own classroom as, with colleagues from the Thomas J. Watson Ecology Workshop, she co-founded the Alley Pond Environmental Center in her basement.

### Jeffrey Arnstein

Jeffrey Arnstein, an antiques restorer whose clientele included the Christie’s and Sotheby’s auction houses, died in July 2022. He was 75. Arnstein attended QC on a scholarship, majoring in anthropology and biology. He taught in a Harlem public school as a conscientious objector rather than serve in Vietnam. Arnstein learned to refinish furniture after opening an antiques and jewelry shop on City Island. Moving the business to Hartford, Connecticut, he did widely admired work for institutions such as the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art and the Old State House. Remarkably, he was colorblind; his apprentices helped him achieve the correct wood tones.



### Hanacho Atako ’53

Prince Job Hanacho Atako, a social worker and manager in agencies affiliated with New York City’s Department of Social Services, died in August 2023. He was 94. Born to a royal family in Diobu, Port Harcourt, Nigeria, Atako immigrated to the United States in 1948 to pursue his education. After graduating from

QC, where he excelled in soccer, he earned master’s degrees from New York University and Columbia University. He spent 30 years in social services; at his retirement in 1994, he was deputy director of protective services for adults in the New York City Human Resources Administration.

### Stevanne Stockheim Auerbach ’60

Stevanne Stockheim Auerbach, widely known as “Dr. Toy,” passed away in October 2022 at the age of 84. Auerbach majored in education at Queens College and briefly taught elementary school for the New York City Department of Education. Moving to Maryland, she earned an MA in special education at George Washington University. With her next move, to San Francisco, she completed a doctorate in child development at Union Institute and University and founded the San Francisco International Toy Museum, which was visited by more than 50,000 children in its four years of operation. Having established herself as an expert on toys, Auerbach wrote books, advice columns, and reviews. A set of her papers and materials has been given to the Brian Sutton-Smith Library and Archives of Play at the Strong Museum of Play in Rochester, New York.

### John Behrens ’66

John Behrens, who spent 35 years at Queens College, teaching physics and heading the physics labs, died in July 2023. He was 92. Behrens began working at this campus after graduating from Westchester Community College and serving four years in the Air Force as an airplane and engine mechanic stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi. His love of physics led him to the love of his life, QC Physics Professor Joan Demerest. They married and settled in Dix Hills, raising two daughters. In retirement, Behrens and Demerest moved upstate to Skaneateles, where he gardened, played golf, and took daily walks with their two chocolate Labrador retrievers.

### Eric Bermann ’56

University of Michigan faculty member Eric Bermann passed away in June 2023. He was 88. A psychology major at QC, Bermann completed master’s and doctoral degrees in personality and clinical psychology at the University of Michigan, and subsequently a master’s in public health. He spent decades at the university, teaching in the psychiatry and psychology departments and chairing the graduate program in clinical psychology. In addition to his academic responsibilities, he was chief psychologist for the Children’s Psychiatric Hospital at Michigan Medicine and a consultant for the Grand Rapids Child Guidance Center, Detroit Neuropsychiatric Institute, Ann Arbor and Willow Run public schools, and Washtenaw Intermediate School District Detention Home.

### Judith Bookis BA ’58, MA ’75

Judith Bookis, who taught AP English in public schools for more than three decades, passed away in July 2023. Bookis interrupted her own education, leaving Queens College after three years to get married—to QC alumnus Blaise Bookis—and raise a family. When their children were older, she returned to school, earning not only a bachelor’s degree, but also an MS, MA, and PhD. She is remembered as an active member of her community and church, an avid Mets and Giants fan, a talented knitter, and voracious reader.

### Anne-Marie Bourbon ’74, MA ’76

Anne-Marie Bourbon, professor emerita of French at Queensborough Community College, died in June 2023 at the age of 86. Born in the French Alps, Bourbon immigrated to the United States in adulthood.

Enrolling in QC in her thirties, she earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees, followed by a PhD in French literature from CUNY. A Renaissance specialist, she published articles in journals, wrote book reviews for the Renaissance Society of America, and translated some titles into English. She was also the co-author of *Trésors littéraires*, a reader for students of French. In her spare time, she sang with the Oratorio Society of Queens.

### Francis Brancaleone ’79 MA

Scholar, pianist, and music critic Francis Brancaleone, professor emeritus at Manhattanville College, died in February 2023. He was 86. An alumnus of the Eastman School of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Queens College, and the Graduate School at CUNY—where he earned his doctorate—Brancaleone had a diversified career. He taught at Manhattanville for 40 years, serving as the college’s organist for much of that time. He gave solo piano recitals at Town Hall and Tully Hall and performed concerti with orchestras, including the Detroit Symphony; his repertoire extended from Baroque music to contemporary compositions. As music critic for Gannett’s *Journal News*, he wrote more than 500 reviews.



### César Castillo BA ’03, MA ’10

César Castillo, chief Biology lab technician and adjunct faculty member, passed away in March 2023. Castillo, who immigrated to New York as a child, credited Queens College with reawakening the love of nature that his grandmother nurtured in him in his native Colombia. He was celebrated on campus and beyond as a botanist, birder, and NYC Audubon director who enjoyed helping everyone—particularly people from underserved and diverse New York City communities—appreciate the world around them. Megan Marchica, a student with low vision, recalled that he enabled her to see hummingbirds for the first time, feeding in a patch of jewelweed. Rose Chin-Hong (Biology) noted that in iNaturalist.org, Castillo held the top position for the most observed bird species in both New York City and New York State. A lifelong learner, Castillo met his wife, Wendy, at a class on wetlands.

### Priscilla Ciccariello BA ’73, MLS ’74

Priscilla Ciccariello died in January 2023 at the age of 97. Ciccariello enjoyed a 25-year career at the Port Washington Library, serving as its head of reference for a decade, retiring in 1993. She also chaired the American Library Association’s Reference and History Section. Ciccariello was known for her efforts on behalf of people who have Marfan syndrome, a genetic disorder that afflicted her husband and members of their family. She co-founded the National Marfan Foundation, founded the International Federation of Marfan Syndrome Organizations, founded the Coalition for Heritable Disorders of Connective Tissue, and was appointed to the National Advisory Council for the National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal, and Skin Diseases by U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala.

### Charles Crawford

Charles Crawford, a physical education teacher at Queens College, passed away in August 2023. An athlete all his life, Crawford grew up in Queens Village and attended Xavier High School, where he was on the varsity football, basketball, and baseball teams. He went on to earn a bachelor’s degree at Manhattan College, a

master’s degree from the University of Maryland, and a doctorate in education from New York University. In 1967 he succeeded Robert Salmons at QC as coach of the men’s basketball team, a position he would hold through 1976. Retiring to Cape Cod, he played and umpired senior softball.

### Lisa Delange MLS ’04

Lisa Delange, a lecturer in culinary arts at Kingsborough Community College (KCC), passed away in July 2023. She was 52. “Librarian or Chef Instructor . . . why choose!?” Delange noted on her LinkedIn entry. She held a BA in English from Barnard College, an AOS in Culinary Arts from the Culinary Institute of America, a BS in Hospitality Management from Florida International University, an MA in Food Studies from New York University, and an MLS from Queens College. Before joining the KCC faculty in 2012, Delange taught at the Women’s Housing and Economic Development Corporation, New York University, and Johnson and Wales University in Miami, and was a researcher and writer for the Food Network. She also worked as a young adult librarian in Rye and Mamaroneck and as an outreach librarian for MyLibraryNYC, which expands student and teacher access to books in the city’s public library system.

### Yasoda Dhanraj

Yasoda Dhanraj, part of the Queens College community for more than 20 years, passed away in October 2023. She was 48. Dhanraj started at campus as a contract security guard and then became a CUNY campus security assistant. With her friendly smile, she often greeted people at Gate 2, the women’s gym, and Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library. Her work ethic made her a valued member of the Public Safety team and garnered her yearly requests for her presence at QC’s summer camp.

### Constance Diamond ’62

Artist and educator Constance Diamond passed away on July 26, 2023. She was 88. Decades after earning degrees in education from New York University and Queens College, Diamond returned to NYU for a doctorate in arts. In addition to teaching at Nassau Community College and at Empire State College campuses in Manhattan and Hauppauge, she showed her work in and around New York City and founded a collective art studio.



### Alan Eysen ’52

Award-winning journalist Alan Eysen died in February 2023. He was 91. Eysen earned a BA in psychology at QC, followed by a master’s of journalism at the University of California, Los Angeles. After military service in Korea he returned to New York, working at daily and weekly newspapers, joining *Newsday* in 1961. Affiliated with it for 32 years in different capacities—political reporter, editor, and columnist—he was part of a team that spent three years investigating the misuse of political and public offices on Long Island. The ensuing articles won *Newsday* the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service in 1970, among other honors. Subsequently, Eysen taught investigative journalism at Stony Brook University, Hofstra University, and LIU Post College (formerly the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University), and served as a political consultant.



## QUEENS IN MEMORIAM

### Susan Duhan Felix '58

Celebrated ceramicist Susan Duhan Felix passed away in February 2023. She was 85. An English major at QC, she married fellow student Morton Felix, an accomplished poet. Moving with him to Connecticut, she earned a master's degree at the University of Connecticut and with her husband helped found the *Wormwood Review*, a literary magazine that would last for 40 years. Impressed by ceramic dishes she couldn't afford to buy, Susan Felix decided to make her own and took a class. The experience prompted her to drop out of Brown University's doctoral program in English and work with clay instead. When the couple and their daughter relocated to Berkeley, California, Susan Felix immersed herself in her new hometown, making ceramics, teaching, founding the Jewish Arts Community of the Bay in 1979 and serving as its executive director from 1989 to 1991. She was regularly featured in solo and group art shows in California and elsewhere in the United States.

### Darryl Feldman '69

Psychologist, psychoanalyst, and marriage counselor Darryl Feldman died in May 2023. He was 75. Feldman majored in psychology at QC, where he pledged the Phi Epsilon Pi fraternity. A diplomate of the American Board of Professional Psychology and a certified group psychotherapist, he was the director of psychological services at the Adelphi University Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies and the State University of New York at Farmingdale. In his private office he worked with individuals, couples, and groups, but his practice wasn't limited to those clients. On September 11, 2001, at the request of the New York Police Department, Feldman gathered a few other psychologists and went to the department's Manhattan headquarters to help people deal with their trauma. Active in professional organizations, he was a past president of both the Suffolk County Psychological Association and the New York State Psychological Association Division of Group Psychology and Psychotherapy.

### Janice Fenster '64, MSED '67

Janice Fenster, a public school teacher devoted to community service, died in February 2023. Over the years, Fenster held many roles within the New York City Department of Education, working in early childhood education, as an elementary school special education teacher, a resource room teacher in high school special education, and a teacher trainer in special education. Away from the classroom, she lent her time and talents to many organizations. At the time of her passing, she was a member of Queens' Community Board 9, representing Richmond Hill, and sat on the advisory board of the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives at Queensborough Community College. At her alma mater, she supported an endowed scholarship in Jewish Studies.

### Cornelius Foley, '61, MSED '65

Cornelius Foley, whose career took him from education to prominence in state government, died in July 2023. Upon graduating from QC, Foley entered the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. He was assigned to communications on the USS Long Beach CGN-9, the Navy's first nuclear-powered surface ship, and the USS Lawrence DDG-4, a newly commissioned guided missile destroyer. His commitment over, he earned an MSED from QC and a doctorate from New York University. Foley taught social studies in Lynbrook public schools before becoming a finance and legislation specialist for the Erie 1 Board of Cooperative Educational Services. He went on to work for the New York State Assembly

Ways and Means Committee and serve as assistant secretary and deputy secretary to the governor for education, local government, and the arts. In 1988 he was appointed president of the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation. Foley subsequently held positions with the State University of New York Central Administration and New York State United Teachers.



### Anne Foner '41

Anne Foner, a member of Queens College's first graduating class, passed away in September 2022 at age 101. Foner continued her education two decades after she received a degree from QC, earning a doctorate in sociology from New York University. At Rutgers University, where she taught for years, she served as sociology chair and published widely on topics involving aging and society.

### Bruce-Michael Gelbert '73

Gay rights advocate, writer, and photographer Bruce-Michael Gelbert passed away in March 2023 at the age of 71. As a student, Gelbert joined Gay People at Queens College as well as the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA). After graduating from QC, he worked at the Oscar Wilde Memorial Bookshop—the first dedicated queer bookstore on the East Coast—and for New York State Attorney General Bob Abrams. As vice chair of GAA's Community Relations Committee, Gelbert fostered the launch of LGBTQ groups throughout the New York area and called attention to gay issues by organizing street fairs in front of the alliance's community center on Wooster Street. He published articles and photos in LGBTQ outlets, including QonStage.com, NewYorkQNews.com, and the *Fire Island News*. A talented singer, he participated in community theater and frequented piano bars.

### Lloyd Gilden

Lloyd Gilden, psychology professor emeritus, passed away in September 2023 at the age of 94. A Cleveland native who left college one semester short of graduation to serve in the Korean War, Gilden saw five years of duty in the Pacific with the U.S. Navy. Upon returning to civilian life, he enrolled in McGill University in Montreal, completing a doctorate in experimental psychology. He subsequently joined the Queens College faculty. In addition to teaching, Gilden had a private psychotherapy practice and served as president of the Lifwynn Foundation, a research organization founded by influential psychoanalyst Triggant Burrow.

### Michael Gottlieb '65

Biologist, teacher, and researcher Michael Gottlieb passed away in April 2021 at the age of 76. After graduating from Queens College, he got a PhD from CUNY and conducted postdoctoral research at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health. In 1978, he joined the faculty of Johns Hopkins University. Gottlieb returned to NIAID in 1991 as a program officer in the Parasitology and International Programs Branch, becoming its chief within ten years. For his work in initiating and developing the institute's pathogen genomics research, he received the Secretary's Award from the Department of Health and Human Services. Upon retirement from government service, he served as associate director of science at the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health.



## ALEXANDER KOUGUELL

Alexander Kouguell, professor emeritus of music and Aaron Copland School of Music (ACSM) benefactor, died in October 2022. He was 102.

Born in Russia, Kouguell graduated from the Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris and then majored in comparative literature at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. After doctoral studies at Columbia University, he taught for a year at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, at the same time serving as assistant principal cellist of the Baltimore Symphony. Moving to New York, he became principal cellist of the National Orchestral Association, the Musica Aeterna Orchestra, and the Clarion Music Society of New York. He also joined Queens College's music department, where he would teach for nearly seven decades, returning as an adjunct following his retirement.

As a performer, Kouguell toured extensively in the United States, Europe, and the Near and Middle East, his travels enhanced by his command of Russian, French, and Arabic. He recorded for the Columbia, Decca, Monitor, Nonesuch, and CRI labels.

Dedicated to the college and the Aaron Copland School of Music, he established, with his wife, the Alexander and Florence Kouguell Cello Scholarship for a talented cello soloist at QC who excels academically and also participates in chamber music and the Queens College Orchestra. Subsequently, he gave all his cellos, bows, music, and memorabilia to ACSM, accompanied by a generous donation.



### Jack Herschlag '53

Writer, entrepreneur, and sports promoter Jack Herschlag died in July 2023 at the age of 91. At Queens College, Herschlag majored in English and minored in education; inducted in the U.S. Army upon graduation, he was sent to Korea as a high-speed radio operator. Demobbed, he was first a reporter and editor at *Women's Wear Daily* and then advertising manager for the film division at Walt Disney. Leveraging his expertise in fashion and advertising, he moved over to the National Association of Men's Sportswear Buyers, which held semi-annual trade shows in New York City. He would stay with the association for 36 years, retiring as its executive director in 2004. Herschlag also took on numerous entrepreneurial ventures, from co-authoring books to developing Halfcourt Basketball, Inc. with the help of Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Famer Rick Barry. Halfcourt Basketball promoted three-on-three tournaments in dozens of U.S. cities, leading to the eventual debut of three-on-three basketball as an Olympic sport.

### Alan Hevesi '62

Politician Alan Hevesi, a QC political science professor who reached statewide office before resigning in disgrace, died on November 9. He was 83. First elected to the state assembly in 1971, Hevesi represented Forest Hills for nearly 20 years; he supported Medicaid funding for abortions, barred hospitals from turning away indigent New Yorkers, and fought against the return of the death penalty. He next became New York City comptroller. In collaboration with state officials across the country, he achieved a settlement in which Swiss banks had to pay \$1.25 billion in restitution to Holocaust survivors. In 2002 Hevesi won his first term as state comptroller. Re-elected,

he stepped down shortly afterward, admitting that he had illegally delegated personal errands—such as chauffeuring his ailing wife—to state employees. Subsequently, he was sentenced to prison for corruption: in return for \$1 million in gifts and campaign donations, he directed state pension fund investments to financier Elliott Broidy.

### Andrew Kampiziones '63

Banker turned educator Andrew Kampiziones passed away in February 2023 at the age of 91. Kampiziones graduated from a teachers college and did military service in his native Greece before marrying and moving with his wife to New York. Employed in the banking industry, he earned a second college degree at QC, majoring in economics. Subsequently, he settled in Florence, South Carolina. Returning to school one more time, Kampiziones earned a master's in philosophy at the University of South Carolina and joined the faculties of Francis Marion University and Florence-Darlington Technical College. An advocate for the arts in general and Greek culture in particular, he held seats on the boards of the Florence Symphony and the Florence Museum and was appointed to multiple civic committees. This devotion to public service earned Kampiziones the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, which recognizes Americans who have worked for the betterment of the United States and its citizens, and the Order of the Palmetto, the highest recognition bestowed on a civilian by the State of South Carolina.

### Elaine Kaplan '55

Elaine Kaplan, an elementary school teacher turned Dowling College dean, passed away in April 2023. She was 88. Upon graduating from Queens College, Kaplan taught third grade in New York City schools. While remaining in the classroom and raising her three boys on Long Island, she earned a PhD from Hofstra University. Her career took



## QUEENS IN MEMORIAM

her from Stony Brook University to Dowling College, where she was a tenured professor and then dean of Education. Kaplan believed deeply in the value of reading and education for young children—and herself. Family members recall that the only phone calls she would answer during dinner were those from the public library, alerting her that a book she reserved was available for pickup.

### Barbara Lane

Art Professor Emerita Barbara Lane, longtime chair of the Art Department at Queens College, passed away in September 2023. A scholar of Early Netherlandish, Northern Renaissance, and Medieval art, Lane taught at the University of Maryland and at Rutgers University before joining the CUNY faculty in 1979. In 2000 she was elected to the faculty of The Graduate Center. Renowned for her work on Hans Memling—she wrote *Hans Memling, Master Painter in Fifteenth-Century Bruges*—Lane was also the author of *The Altar and the Altarpiece: Sacramental Themes in Early Netherlandish Painting* (1984), and a wealth of articles.

### Brenda Lockwood-Gibbs '91

Occupational therapist and community activist Brenda Lockwood-Gibbs passed away in April 2023 at the age of 80. Lockwood-Gibbs held positions at Goldwater Memorial Hospital, Mount Sinai Hospital, and Downstate Medical Center/SUNY University Hospital of Brooklyn, serving as its OT director from 1975 until her retirement two decades later. Thereafter, she spent 18 years as an occupational therapist with the Visiting Nurse Service of New York. Lockwood-Gibbs earned an MA in Political Science/Public Policy Administration from Queens College, receiving merit recognition for her thesis, “AIDS: Its Impact on Health Care Workers.” She presented at national conferences and guest-lectured at OT programs at Columbia University, SUNY Downstate, and Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Lockwood-Gibbs was also a member of the Cambria Heights Civic Association and was devoted to Our Lady of Light Roman Catholic Parish, volunteering in its food pantry and St. Vincent de Paul Society.



### Ana López '78

Ana López, a communications professor and associate provost for faculty affairs at Tulane University, passed away in June 2023. After earning a bachelor's degree in accounting at Queens College, López enrolled at the University of Iowa, completing a master's in communications and theater arts (film studies) and a doctorate in communication studies. She joined the faculty of Tulane in 1986. Specializing in Latin American and Latino film and cultural studies, she held a leadership role in the university's Stone Center for Latin American Studies and served as director of its Cuban Studies Institute. In addition to the essay collection *Hollywood, Nuestra América y los Latinos*, López wrote more than three dozen essays and book chapters, exploring topics such as melodrama and performance in the Golden Age Cinemas of Latin America, early silent cinema and modernity and documentary telenovelas, and Cuban American media.



### Steven Malin '72, MA '73

QC faculty member and alumnus Steven Malin passed away on May 30. He was 71. Malin completed undergraduate and master's degrees in economics at Queens College and obtained a doctorate in the same field from CUNY. From 1990 to 2007, he was a senior economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He served as a spokesperson on matters pertaining to New York federal policy. Additionally, the bank's board of directors appointed him corporate secretary, recognizing his significant contributions to the organization. Malin dedicated several years to teaching macroeconomics at his alma mater, and his classes were immensely popular. He possessed a deep knowledge of the economics literature, drew valuable insights from his professional experience, and had a wonderful sense of humor. An exceptional athlete, Malin had a deep passion for baseball, supporting the QC team after his graduation and coaching the college team of the Long Island Astros.

### Sonia Handelman Meyer '41

Sonia Handelman Meyer, a photographer with work in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Jewish Museum in New York, died in September 2022. She was 102. An English major at QC, she first picked up a camera after college, while stationed in Puerto Rico as a civilian employed by the Army Signal Corps. Coming back to New York, she studied at the Photo League, a cooperative that saw photography as a means to change the world, and answered the phones as its secretary. The league shut down amid the Red Scare. Handelman, by then married to biomedical engineer Jerome Meyer, packed up her photographs and negatives and reinvented her career, taking less controversial jobs in publishing and public relations. At 87, she was living in Charlotte, North Carolina, when she saw her photo of the Weavers, a folk music quartet, used without credit on a postcard. Trying and failing to get the error corrected, her son brought examples of Meyer's work to a local gallery—which gave her a show in 2007 and sold many of her pictures at \$500 apiece.

### Ralph Molé

Ralph Molé, an award-winning producer of sports programming, passed away in October 2022. He was 73. Born in Brooklyn, raised in Ozone Park, Molé studied mass communications, film and television at Queens College, moonlighting as a rock musician—and meeting his future wife when she attended one of his performances. After graduation, he was employed by the Archdiocese of New York. Segueing into athletic events, he produced shows about tennis, horseracing and, for the newly founded ESPN, arm wrestling. Launching his own company, Windfall Productions, he spent more than 40 years supplying programming for ESPN and other networks, covering college sports, international contests, and pro leagues. He collected a trove of industry honors, including Emmys for his work in the Olympics and the X Games.

### Charles Molesworth

Charles Molesworth, a member of the English faculty for 40 years, died in October 2022. Versatile and accomplished, Molesworth wrote two books of poetry; biographies of modernist writers, including Alain Locke, Countee Cullen, and Marianne Moore; and studies of Gary Snyder and Donald Barthelme. He edited Alain Locke's papers for Oxford University Press, and his final book was on the relationship of Roger Fry, J. P. Morgan, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Molesworth was also the author of many articles on the visual arts and the regular art critic for *Salmagundi*. After multiple terms as chair of the English Department in the 1980s and 1990s, Molesworth served for many years as the PSC grievance counselor at Queens College and subsequently as the lead grievance counselor CUNY-wide for the union.



### Barbara Jones Omolade '64

Sociologist and educator Barbara Jones Omolade passed away in July 2023 at the age of 80. After graduating from Queens College, Omolade earned a master's degree from Goddard College and a doctorate from the City University of New York. An activist from her student days, she participated in the Mississippi Summer Freedom Project and was a member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. Turning her beliefs into a career, Omolade worked for the Center for the Elimination of Violence in the Family, the Women's Action Alliance, Empire State College Center for Labor Studies, CUNY, and the City College of New York Center for Worker Education. Moving to the Midwest, she became the first dean of Multicultural Affairs at Calvin College—now Calvin University. Her books include *The Rising Song of African American Women*, *It's a Family Affair: The Real Lives of Black Single Mothers*, and *Faith Confronts Evil*.

### Jon Peterson

Jon Peterson, professor emeritus of history, died in July 2023. He was 87. Peterson held a BA in history from Swarthmore College, an MA in American history from Ohio State University, and a PhD from Harvard University. Specializing in American urban history, he joined the Queens College faculty in 1966, went on to direct the master's degree program, and from 1991 to 1995 chaired the history department. Retiring from QC after almost 40 years, he had more time to pursue his interests in watercolor painting, photography, birding, gardening, and hiking.

### Burton Pike

Burton Pike, professor emeritus of comparative literature and German, passed away in December 2022. He was 92. Pike earned his bachelor's degree at Haverford College and his MA and PhD in Comparative Literature at Harvard University. A member of the faculty at both Queens College, where he chaired the German Department, and the CUNY Graduate Center, he received Guggenheim, Fulbright, and American Council of Learned Societies fellowships. In recognition of his co-translation of Robert Musil's *The Man without Qualities* and scholarly work on Musil, the city of Klagenfurt—the Austrian novelist's hometown—awarded Pike its Medal of Merit. In 2016, New York University's Deutsches Haus gave him the Friedrich Ulfers Prize for championing German literature in the United States.



### Anna Friedman Prager '58

Anna Friedman Prager, whose service to local and state government in Rhode Island prompted the United States Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services to name her an Outstanding Citizen by Choice, passed away on May 6. She was 87. Born in Poland, Prager was a little girl when World War II divided her parents; she fled to the Soviet Union with her mother, while her father served in the Polish army. Reunited in a Siberian labor camp, the family eventually made their way to New York City. Majoring in chemistry at Queens College, Prager met her husband in a lab. The couple settled in South Kingston, Rhode Island. When their children left for college, Prager pursued a master's degree in community planning from the University of Rhode Island. She spent a dozen years as South Kingstown town planner, served on the town council and as its president, held policy positions in the governor's office, and chaired the board of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority. Prager is also recalled for her efforts to address the affordable housing crisis nearly 20 years ago, leading the board of directors for a development corporation charged with creating low- and moderate-income residences in the county.

### Grace Marie Robbins

Grace Marie Robbins, an alumna whose marriage to novelist Harold Robbins made her a celebrity in her own right, died in July 2023. She was 91. Robbins, nee Palermo, was a casting director at Gray Advertising when she met her future husband. They exchanged vows—she for the first time, he for the second—moved to the house they built in the south of France, and had a daughter. Putting her casting talents to use on behalf of an orphanage, Grace Robbins booked Cyd Charisse, Tony Martin, Josephine Baker, and other A-listers for a series of galas. Later, she worked on events for charities including the Princess Grace Foundation. Robbins eventually took up singing and, after the end of her marriage, writing, releasing the memoir *Cinderella and the Carpetbagger: My Life as the Wife of the “World’s Best-Selling Author,” Harold Robbins* (the title referenced one of her ex's most popular potboilers, *The Carpetbaggers*).

### Constance Wain Schwartz '71

Artist, art teacher, and art therapist Constance Wain Schwartz passed away in October 2022. She was 91. Schwartz honed her creative talents at Pratt Institute, the Art Students League, and Hunter College before leaving school to get married and raise a family. Settling in Huntington Township, New York, she found time to illustrate books and posters for local organizations that supported human rights. Enrolling at QC after her youngest child started school, Schwartz completed a BA in Fine Arts, and then taught at all levels, ranging from K-12 to the School of Visual Arts, Hofstra, and Usdan Center for the Arts. She particularly enjoyed serving as the art instructor for the Town of Huntington's Senior Division. Schwartz earned an MFA in Printmaking from C.W. Post and, working in that medium and others, was exhibited in solo and group shows, winning raves in the *New York Times* and *Newsday*. Interested in the healing values of art, she became a registered arts therapist, working with individuals and groups and traveling to China as part of an art therapy delegation.





Photo courtesy of the AA/ARI-CUNY

## BETTY LEE SUNG '68

Betty Lee Sung, founder of City College's Asian American Studies program and co-founder of CUNY's Asian American/Asian Research Institute (AA/ARI), died in January 2023. She was 98.

The future scholar, née Betty Lee, was born in Washington, D.C., to an immigrant couple who ran a laundry out of their home. Her father was a so-called "paper son" who had bought documents identifying him as a blood relative of a Chinese individual with U.S. residency or citizenship. Struggling in the Depression, the family moved to China, where Lee's mother and one child died. The five surviving members of

the family eventually regrouped in the United States, Lee and two of her siblings fleeing China just ahead of the Japanese invasion.

Attending the University of Illinois on a scholarship, Lee majored in sociology and economics. After graduation, she married her classmate Hsi Yuan Sung. They settled in New York, where she researched and wrote Chinese-language scripts for the Voice of America (VOA); based in part on that work, she published her first book, *Mountain of Gold: The Story of the Chinese in America*. Subsequently, while employed at the Queens Public Library, she completed an MLS from Queens College. That resume prompted City College to put Sung on its faculty in 1970; she earned a PhD at CUNY a dozen years later. During and after her doctoral studies, she released a series of books illuminating the experience of Chinese immigrants and their children.

In 2001, nine years after her retirement, Sung teamed up with immigrant and City College alumnus Thomas Tam, the first Chinese American to serve as a CUNY trustee, to found AA/ARI. She later established a \$100,000 endowment at CUNY for AA/ARI to host a research fund on Asian American topics.

"Betty Lee Sung was a giant," said President Frank H. Wu. "She did so much for Asian American Studies. She is among the heroes in the field whom we need to remember."

## Lois Schwaeber '56

Lois Schwaeber, former director of legal services at the Safe Center LI Inc., died in June 2023. She was 87. Finishing high school at age 16 and college at 20, Schwaeber briefly taught in Lower East Side schools before marrying and becoming a full-time homemaker. Once her youngest child graduated from high school, she took to volunteering at the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the precursor of the Safe Center. She found the work so compelling that in middle age she went to law school, came back to the organization as an attorney, and later oversaw its transition into the Safe Center. Dedicated to public service, she was a member of the Nassau County Executive's Family Violence Task Force, Nassau County's Judicial Women in the Courts Committee, the Nassau County Bar Association's We Care Fund Advisory Board, and the New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence's Legislative Committee, among other appointments. Retiring at 2020, Schwaeber was named a Woman of Distinction by Senator Anna Kaplan and honored by New York State Senate Resolution 2021 J468.

## Donald Snyder '08

Print, radio, and TV journalist Donald Snyder died in July 2023, two days after filing his last story. He was 90. Upon graduating from QC, Snyder briefly worked as a copy editor at *Newsday*. A moving target for the next two decades, he was a stringer in Vienna, Budapest, and West Germany; returned to New York City for a one-year international reporting fellowship at Columbia University; and ran Mutual Broadcasting System's Berlin bureau from 1970 to 1973. Two years later, he hired on with NBC as a news producer first with the Peacock's radio network and then moving over to the "Today Show." Retiring in 2001, Snyder freelanced for NBC, the *Forward*, the *National Catholic Reporter*, and other outlets. He identified himself on LinkedIn as an independent online media professional.

## Bernard Solomon

Bernard Solomon, a professor of Chinese in QC's Department of Classical and Oriental Languages for nearly 25 years, died in December 2022. Solomon, who held a BS in Mathematics from the

City College of New York, found his calling by serving in the Army Cavalry Corps: He enrolled in the Army Language Training Institute in California to study Chinese. Then he went to Harvard University, receiving an MA and PhD in Far Eastern Languages (now East Asian Languages). He held positions as a research assistant on the Harvard-Yenching Institute Chinese-English dictionary project and a Fulbright Research Fellow at Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana before joining the faculty of the State University of New York at New Paltz. In 1962, Solomon arrived at QC. Over the next 24 years, he taught modern and classical Chinese language, literature, and civilization, and founded the programs in Chinese and East Asian Studies. His scholarly works include *The Veritable Record of the T'ang Emperor Shun-tsung* and *On the School of Names in Ancient China*. He was also co-editor of *The Chronicle of the Three Kingdoms* by Ssu-ma Kuang.

## Rebecca Shareah Taleghani

Rebecca Shareah Taleghani, a professor in the Department of Classical, Middle Eastern, and Asian Languages and Cultures, passed away in September 2023. Taleghani held a bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a master's and doctorate in Middle Eastern and Islamic studies from New York University. Joining the QC faculty in fall 2014 after a year as a visiting assistant professor, she went on to teach Arabic, classical Islamic and modern Arabic literature, and the graphic novel in the Middle East and North Africa, among other classes. At the CUNY Graduate Center, she led courses on dissent and exile in the literature of the Middle East and North Africa. Taleghani is remembered as an advocate for political dissidents and rescue animals. Her cat Zoobis was known to make cameo appearances during online classes.

## Robert Trotman

Robert Trotman, a QC alumnus who led Nu-Finmen Swimming, preparing children from diverse backgrounds to swim competitively, passed away in March 2023. He was 82. After learning to swim at a club in the Bronx, Trotman became the first Black swim team captain at the borough's DeWitt Clinton High School and competed in meets through the Amateur Athletic Union. In 1959, he and his friend Charles Simmons launched Finmen at a recreation center in Brooklyn. After military service, Trotman returned to New York. He attended QC for two years and expanded on Finmen, which for years operated out of Hempstead, Long Island, and now is based in Cambria Heights. Athletes Trotman trained became all-state swimmers, NCAA All-Americans, and Junior Olympic champions, among other distinctions. Recognizing his success in introducing his sport to members of underrepresented groups, USA Swimming, which administers competitive swimming and selects the Olympic team, gave him the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award in 2014.



## Joseph Tufariello '57

Joseph Tufariello, chemistry professor emeritus at the University at Buffalo SUNY, passed away in November 2022. He was 87. Tufariello earned a bachelor's degree from Queens College followed by a PhD in organic chemistry at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. He enjoyed a long and distinguished

teaching career at SUNY Buffalo, eventually chairing its chemistry department. The *Buffalo News* reports that during his tenure, research expenditures doubled from \$1.8 to \$3.6 million and the department achieved notable success in obtaining grants from non-government sources. In subsequent positions, Tufariello served as dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics—playing an important role in the creation of the Natural Sciences Complex on campus—and senior vice provost for educational technology. In retirement, he indulged his interests in biking, nature walks, crossword puzzles, and rooting for his beloved New York Yankees.



Photo: Jackie Neale

## H. Barbara Weinberg

Art History Professor Emerita H. Barbara Weinberg, who held a joint appointment at Queens College and the CUNY Graduate Center, passed away in August 2023. She was 81. Born, raised, and educated in New York, Weinberg held a bachelor's degree from Barnard and a master's degree and doctorate from Columbia. Specializing in American paintings, she joined the faculty of QC in the early 1970s and that of the Graduate Center a few years later. Retiring from CUNY in the 1990s, she became a curator at the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Colleagues recalled her as a prolific author, gifted lecturer, and nurturing mentor. *Photo courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.*

## Richard Whalen '57

Journalist and presidential consultant Richard Whalen died in July 2023 at the age of 87. An English and political science major at QC, where he met his wife, Whalen hit the fast track after graduation: in five years he landed staff positions at the *Richmond News Leader* in Virginia, *Time* magazine, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Fortune* magazine. His epic *Fortune* profile of Joseph Kennedy, researched without the cooperation of the subject or his family, became a best-selling book—*The Founding Father*—and changed the course of Whalen's career. He joined a DC-area think tank, wrote speeches for Richard Nixon, breaking with him bitterly, and served more happily as an advisor to Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush.

## Frederick Wolfe '58

Frederick Wolfe, a rheumatologist celebrated for his work in identifying fibromyalgia—a chronic disorder that causes musculoskeletal pain, fatigue, and other issues—died in September 2023. He was 87. After graduating from Queens College, Wolfe earned a medical degree from the State University of New York and served two years in the U.S. Air Force. Settling in Kansas, he established the Wichita Arthritis Center and became a clinical professor of internal medicine at the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Computerizing medical records before that was common, he collected data from his clinic and others for research purposes; he's credited as the lead or co-author of hundreds of peer-reviewed papers. In 1987, he brought together 20 rheumatologists to define the group of symptoms that would become known as fibromyalgia. He would continue studying the condition for the rest of his life. Wolfe enjoyed amateur radio, gardening, cooking, and bicycling, repeatedly crossing his home state with Bicycling Across Kansas.



## Extending “Helping Hands”

Gerstner Philanthropies gives the college a grant to get students through temporary setbacks and keep them in school

Generous new aid from Gerstner Philanthropies will help Queens College students facing emergencies that could derail their education. Gerstner has given the college a Helping Hands grant of \$83,333 for the 2023–2024 academic year, to be administered by Student Affairs under the leadership of Vice President Jennifer Jarvis. Student awards from this grant are assessed and managed by Sean Pierce, interim assistant vice president for student affairs, and his assistant Maylene Santiago.

Gerstner is a family foundation with philanthropic programs primarily in three cities. Their Helping Hands awards are directed toward organizations that help individuals move past temporary, but potentially life-changing, setbacks. Years ago, Louis V. Gerstner, Jr., founder and chairman of the foundation, was moved by the plight of a woman made homeless by fire and realized that just a small infusion of cash could have a big impact on her prospects. “With the cash assistance to tide her over in that situation, she could be back and resume her life as it was before,” explains Alice Goh, program director of Gerstner Philanthropies. “That’s the specific type of case our foundation and our chairman hope to help. We have now given over \$33 million in totality.”

Partnering with colleges began only recently, but from the outset Gerstner focused on CUNY. They were already familiar with the Queens College programs aided by the Petrie Foundation, and also conducted some exploratory research of their own. “We wanted to support colleges that had a track record of improving students’ social mobility,” says Goh. “The other criterion was to partner with schools that had a demonstrated commitment to serving disadvantaged students.” Queens College “did very well on those two measures,” she adds, and “rose to the top as a good partner.”

In addition, Gerstner was impressed by the personal oversight and services offered by Queens. “We were very impressed by Jennifer Jarvis,” says Molly Gelinis, program officer of Gerstner Philanthropies. “She had been running the student emergency program since it started and had a deep understanding of the types of students being helped. She was able to give us satisfaction that there was rigorous due diligence and review of the cases that came across her desk.”

They also were reassured by the variety of related “wraparound” services offered by Queens. “One of the keys to the success of this work is not just the cash, but also having a very strong student affairs department or team in place that can have a holistic view of helping a person,” says Gelinis. According to Christina Rosa-Ragona, associate director of leadership giving, “We work closely with Jennifer and Sean and their team to identify needs that are unmet and try to connect organizations with the college in an effort to try to bridge that gap in funding for students. It’s one of the best parts of what we get to do on a day-to-day basis—really trying to serve our students and help them with basic needs that are going to help them get to the finish line and graduate and be able to get a job and go up the economic ladder.”

Myriad unforeseen and often profound troubles could potentially deter students from finishing their studies. Typical emergency needs

involve overdue electric or wireless bills, a car accident, sickness in the family, a hospital bill, and similar economic shocks, but the most common trigger is rent as students struggle to afford housing in the city. Students’ applications for emergency grants come in steadily, according to Pierce, especially since the May 11 end to federal emergency funds and rules for the pandemic, including stays of evictions for late rent payments. “We have every situation you can imagine,” says Pierce. “Our whole approach is: We understand you’re in a jam. We want to help you out, but we also want to make sure you don’t repeat whatever the pattern is that got you into this jam. We want to ensure you’re going to be able to stand on your own two feet moving forward and continue to be successful.”

While the Helping Hands grant helps students cover the cost of an immediate emergency, Pierce and Santiago also consult with each grant recipient individually. They are experienced at helping them improve their financial literacy and budget skills, and they can put them in touch with further economic help, scholarship information, or job-hunting assistance as needed. Their toolkit is varied. For instance, the Helping Hands grant sets a lifetime cap of \$3,000 in emergency aid to any one student, but Student Affairs is able to direct students—and even personally conduct them—to resources that allow them to stretch their cash, such as the Knights’ Food Pantry, free Metro cards, and gift cards for laundry.

For students, a cash gift at the right moment can make the difference between finishing college or not. The wraparound services can have a crucial impact as well. As Pierce puts it, “At CUNY and Queens College, our goal is to help students achieve upward mobility, to have opportunities they may not have had prior to coming to our institution. We want to make sure that we’ve got you connected to other people who can continue to help you on your journey because we *want* you to graduate, we *want* you to be able to take that next step and be successful.”

—Jacquelyn Southern



## How To Teach Hebrew

With support from the Steinhardt Foundation, QC launches a program to professionalize instruction in a critical language

Seven years ago, World Language Education at Queens College added to its undergraduate, post-bac, and graduate options by launching a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Critical Languages, the only such program in the United States. As might be expected in the polyglot Borough of Queens, where estimates for the number of languages spoken by residents start at 130, the MAT keeps expanding. Through the program, teacher certification is now available in a dozen of the languages deemed to have particular value for national security: Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Russian, and Urdu.

This year, through a generous grant from the Steinhardt Foundation for Jewish Life and in collaboration with the Brandeis University Consortium for the Teaching of Hebrew Language and Culture, QC has begun offering its 13th MAT in Critical Languages—in modern Hebrew, the national language of Israel.

Thirteen is a favorable number in Jewish culture. For starters, it’s the age when a boy becomes a bar mitzvah (girls can become bat mitzvahs as early as 12). By some accounts, Israel’s founders named 13 members to its first provisional government, to enhance their luck. Clearly, 13 is proving auspicious for QC. The Steinhardt grant will fund scholarships, adjuncts for specific courses in Hebrew language and culture, guest lectures, and related programs. “We are thrilled to support Queens College in this work,” says Rabbi David Gedzelman, president and CEO of the foundation. “We are excited to partner with an institution that looks at teaching languages the way we do.”

For learners who spent years drilling the grammar of a foreign language without developing the ability to use it, the methods of World Language Education—a unit within the School of Education’s Department of Secondary Education and Youth Services (SEYS)—would represent a welcome change.

World Language Education prepares teachers to stress practical skills. “We emphasize intercultural competence and language

proficiency that learners can use right away in the community, at college, at work, and in the world,” says Jennifer Eddy, the program’s director. World Language Education graduates are so effective that districts accept its candidates as interns even if they haven’t quite completed the program.

It was only natural for QC to become part of the Consortium for the Teaching of Hebrew Language and Culture, which gets some of its funding from Steinhardt and advances principles similar to those of World Language Education. One challenge to overcome in the United States is that classes in modern Hebrew are often led by native speakers, whether or not they have pedagogical backgrounds.

“There’s a big difference between language learning and language acquisition,” observes Vardit Ringvald, the consortium’s director. “For retention, teacher training is key.” Consequently, the consortium, which originally comprised Brandeis and Middlebury College and now, in addition to QC, also includes Universidad Hebraica in Mexico City, seeks to professionalize Hebrew instruction. Demand already exceeds supply in the New York metro area and beyond. Growing numbers of public schools, charter schools, Jewish day schools, and yeshivas are in the market for credentialed Hebrew teachers.

“We always need Hebrew teachers,” says Valerie Khaytina, chief external officer of Hebrew Public, which oversees a network of five managed charter schools and six affiliates across the country, reaching children of all backgrounds. “We look everywhere for native or near-native speakers with American classroom management experience. Having that [MAT] training will help them be successful.”

Ringvald and Eddy began discussing the Hebrew MAT before the pandemic. “When I conceived of this program, I couldn’t think of any institution better suited to it than QC,” says Eddy, citing the college’s supportive community and excellent Hebrew language and Jewish studies faculty, and the track record of World Language Education.

Rabbi Gedzelman, who collaborated with David Gerwin (SEYS) on Hebrew language charter schools, is equally enthusiastic. “We have a good relationship with the School of Education. World Languages Education has a great model for creating a community of teacher-scholars of all backgrounds learning to teach languages.”

“QC is proud to partner with the Steinhardt Foundation in meeting an urgent need for professionally trained and certified Hebrew language teachers, including coursework on modern Hebrew culture and expression,” says Gerwin.

Many world language teachers end up in schools where they lead one-person departments. Like the MATs in other languages, QC’s 39-credit, post-baccalaureate program in modern Hebrew will prepare people to design as well as teach K-12 curriculum. Upon completing the first 24 credits, candidates receive initial certification, which allows them to start working in the classroom. To earn the MAT and become eligible for professional certification, they have to finish the remaining 15 graduate credits.

Career changers are encouraged to apply to the program. “Whether it’s five years or 20 years after they graduated, we welcome them with open arms,” Eddy says. A degree in Hebrew is not required; neither is previous teaching experience. Instead, applicants will be asked to demonstrate their language skills through an oral interview and a writing proficiency test administered by Language Testing International. For more information about the MAT in Critical Languages Education in Hebrew, contact Jennifer Eddy at [jennifer.eddy@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:jennifer.eddy@qc.cuny.edu).

—Leslie Jay





## Increasing Opportunity

The Petrie Fund Foundation enables low-income New Yorkers to achieve their college and career goals

Nearly four years on, it remains difficult to calculate the enormity of the economic impact experienced by most Americans because of the Covid-19 pandemic. While the federal government stepped forward with multiple rounds of record-level Economic Impact Payments to aid individuals who became unemployed or whose incomes were otherwise disrupted, the funds often fell short of providing full economic security.

For college students working to prepare for careers, the prospect of completing their education was often in immediate jeopardy, with many experiencing food insecurity and difficulty meeting routine daily expenses. At Queens College, however, students had a lifeline: The Carroll & Milton Petrie Student Emergency Grant Fund, expressly created to help low-income New York City college students in the grips of an emergency continue their education without interruption and successfully complete their degrees.

Situations that Petrie emergency funds could address include such things as overdue utility bills/shut-off notices; risk for eviction/homelessness; assistance for paying for goods, transportation, and basic necessities due to recent unemployment or sudden financial difficulty. The emergency fund was created by the Carroll and Milton Petrie Fund Foundation, a philanthropic organization whose goal is to increase economic opportunity by strengthening college and career opportunities for low-income New Yorkers.

In 2021, Queens College received a \$300,000 grant to be disbursed over a 36-month period. Other CUNY campuses—

Brooklyn College, Medgar Evers College, New York City College of Technology—received the same generous grant, as did a private college, The New School. Other New York City colleges—both public and private—received smaller grants to be disbursed over 12 months to address food insecurity. In 2022, Queens College received a \$20,000 grant to be disbursed over 12 months to address food access and food insecurity. Several other New York colleges received similar amounts for the same purpose.

The Petrie Foundation has been providing emergency grants to students since 2005. It collaborates with CUNY and some private colleges in New York City with significant numbers of low-income students. CUNY colleges distribute more than \$1.5 million in Petrie Student Emergency Grants to approximately 1,800 students annually.

In the early days of the Covid-19 pandemic, when CUNY launched the Chancellor’s Emergency Relief Fund, the foundation stepped forward to provide a \$1 million grant. Expressing the foundation’s essential mission at that critical time, Cass Conrad, the foundation’s executive director, observed, “Not only will this fund provide near-term relief to CUNY students and their families, but we believe it will help ensure that they can remain in school, complete their degrees, and ultimately contribute to the revival of the city. Through its work with CUNY and other nonprofit organizations, the Petrie Foundation has a long history of enabling New Yorkers to achieve their college and career goals, even in the most challenging times.”

With respect to career goals, the Petrie Foundation supports programs to ensure that upon graduation students find strong first jobs. These include projects that provide career exploration, networking, and advisement to navigate the job market; and internships that may facilitate job placement, enhance technical skills and credentials valued by employers, and foster productive collaboration between workforce training programs and college degree programs.

Petrie Foundation funding is assisting QC students in other ways, as well. In 2022 QC received a \$50,000 Innovations toward Persistence and Completion Grant for QC ADAPTS (Academic Development Ambassador Program for Transfer Students). These grants aim to support transfer students among others as part of the foundation’s goal of ensuring that students persist in remaining in college and on track to a career.

Also, in 2022 Queens College received, as did other CUNY senior colleges, a \$40,000 grant to be used over 12 months for its Campus Climate Initiative with Hillel International, one of an ongoing series of measures the university has initiated to address an uptick in antisemitism globally, locally, and on campuses across the country. As of July 2023, 50 colleges and universities across the United States are participating in the initiative, which Hillel says is aimed at ensuring Jewish students feel comfortable expressing their diverse identities free of antisemitism, harassment, and marginalization.

“All students deserve to feel safe, nurtured, and valued by their faculty and peers,” said Conrad. “We are so pleased that CUNY and Hillel have chosen to work together to ensure that Jewish students, staff, and faculty have what they need to thrive academically and socially on campus. We are happy to support the Campus Climate Initiative, which we hope will pay dividends for students of all backgrounds and faiths for years to come.”

—Bob Suter

# Board Welcomes New Members

Suzanne Brenner, Harris Horowitz, and Doug Ress join the Queens College Foundation



### SUZANNE BRENNER '81

As a partner and the chief investment officer within Brown Brothers Harriman’s Private Banking business, Brenner leads the Investment Research Group, which is responsible for manager selection, capital allocation, and investment decisions across Private Banking’s client portfolio. She joined

the firm in 2017, after serving as senior vice president and CIO of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Prior to that, she was the director of investments and assistant treasurer of The Rockefeller Foundation. She began her career at Ernst & Young.

Brenner is on the boards of several leading New York family trusts, the New York Botanical Garden Investment Committee, and the Emerita Council of 100 Women in Finance, an organization focused on education, leverage, and philanthropy.



### HARRIS HOROWITZ '78

Horowitz is the former managing director-global head of tax for BlackRock, Inc., where he was responsible for the company’s global tax matters, including corporate and product taxation. He also co-chaired the Securities Industry & Financial Markets Association’s Asset Management Tax Committee. Before

joining BlackRock in 2007, Horowitz was a tax partner at Ernst & Young LLP.

Since 1992, he has established four named funds to assist QC students: the Murray & Harris Horowitz Scholarship Endowed Fund, the Murray Horowitz Scholarship in the Arts Endowment (in honor of his late father, who audited classes at QC as a retiree), the Norma and Murray Horowitz Concert Series Endowment (in honor of his late parents), and the Harris Horowitz Internship Opportunity Fund.



### DOUG RESS '76

A co-founder of Kaufman, Coren, & Ress P.C. (KCR), Ress handles commercial litigation, personal injury litigation, and related litigation matters. In 2021, he transitioned to the position “Of Counsel” to KCR. Ress has been included in *The Best Lawyers in America* from 2007 to 2022 in the field of commercial

litigation, and from 2015 through 2022 in the field of bet-the-company litigation. Last year, *The Best Lawyers in America* named him Philadelphia’s Lawyer of the Year in bet-the-company litigation.

Ress serves on the boards of Temple Beth Hillel-Beth El in Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, and the JDog Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to the prevention of veteran suicide. At QC, he supports the ACSM, Athletics, and the Michal Joan Ress Memorial Award, in memory of his sister.







# 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. Many 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 2022–2023 academic year.

**Rajib Ahmed '05**, Chief Technology and Product Officer, Meetup

**Vivian Altman**, Managing Director and Head of Public Finance, Janney Montgomery Scott LLC and Board of Directors, Northeast Women in Public Finance (NEWPF)

**Michael Breit '84**, Chairman and CEO, EisnerAmper LLP and Partner, Eisner Advisory Group LLC

**Suzanne Brenner '81**, Partner & Chief Investment Officer, Brown Brothers Harriman

**Ira Cohen '77**, Founder and Principal, Ira Cohen, P.A.

**Lisa Cole**, Principal, Municipal Credit Research, Prudential Financial and Board of Directors, NEWPF

**Jennifer Fredericks**, Director of Business Development, Public Finance, Ice Miller LLP and Board of Directors, NEWPF

**Amber Guth '79**, Surgeon and Professor of Surgery, NYU Langone Health



At top from left, Amber Guth in conversation with Esther Muehlbauer (Biology); in bottom photo from left, Luc Marest (Economics) talks with Frank Yu.

**Celeste Guth '82**, Partner, Strategic Advisory Group, PJT Partners

**Freda Johnson '68**, Former President, Government Finance Associates, Inc. and Board of Directors, NEWPF

**Joseph Milizio**, Managing Partner, Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP

**Leigh Nader**, Managing Director, Assured Guaranty Corp. and Board of Directors, NEWPF

**Cheslan Simpson '95**, Senior Scientist, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

**Joseph Trotti '80**, Partner, Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP

**Vanessa Youngs**, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Moody's Corporation and Board of Directors, NEWPF

**Frank Yu '94**, Founder, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Investment Officer, Ally Bridge Group

## QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

**1965: Dena Fisher** was named to the board of Community Health Program, which provides medical, dental, and nutrition services in Berkshire County, Massachusetts...

**Lynne Friedman (MS '74)** was selected to have her art displayed in the exhibit Alpine & Riverine by the Woodstock Art Association and Museum from April to June 2023.

**1966: Gary Lawson** published his children's book titled *The Bear Who Wanted to Be an Astronaut*. The book is available on Amazon. **1967: Meryl Ain** published her latest book, *Shadows We Carry*, this spring. The book is a sequel to her hit debut, *The Takeaway Men*...

**Carol Roth** had her 14th children's book published, entitled *Don't Be a Bully, Tiger*. **1969: Jay Berfas** was appointed secretary of the Adults and Children with Learning Disabilities (ACLD) Foundation, a not-for-profit agency whose mission is to provide opportunities to more than 1,300 children and adults with autism, learning, and developmental disabilities... **Howard Elson** participated in the Over 73 Men's Senior Baseball League (MSBL) National Championship, where his team won for the second consecutive season. Elson pitched four shutout innings in the championship...

**Wayne Guglielmo** had his book, *Shame the Devil: How Critics Keep American Journalism Honest*, published by Rowman & Littlefield. Guglielmo tells the story of the press in the U.S. through the lens of its harshest and often most hopeful critics. **1970: Daniel R. Schwarzwald** was selected to serve on the advisory board at Tiger Group, a company that provides asset-valuation, advisory, disposition, financial, and lending services. **1972: Sally N. Levine** serves as the executive director of the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, a non-partisan, non-religious state agency dedicated to preserving the memory of the Holocaust and promoting public understanding of history. She and her office hosted the state's annual Holocaust Memorial Event, called "Days of Remembrance" in April... **1974: Karen Cortellino** was elected as president of the New Jersey School Boards Association, which advocates

for the interests of school districts, trains local school board members, and provides resources for the advancement of public education... **Theodora Zavala** had an art exhibit of work on display at the East Meadow library in February. She specializes in oil paintings of landscapes and still life. **1975: Marianthi Treppiedi** was elected as grand president of Daughters of Penelope, an organization dedicated to promoting Hellenism, education, philanthropy, civic responsibility, family, and individual excellence. **1976: Barry D. Bass** received the 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award from the Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine. He has continued to participate in Remote Area Medical missions to underserved areas. **1977: Lisa Barash-Rosario** was a featured artist in July at Woodbury Public Library in Woodbury, Connecticut. The exhibit, titled "Nature...Up Close and at a Distance," featured her oil pastel paintings... **Lois Gabin-Legato** recently joined The Cooper Foundation as vice president of advancement for major gifts and planned giving... **Howie Rose**, longtime New York Mets radio announcer, was elected into the New York Mets Hall of Fame. Rose has been the play-by-play voice of the Mets since 1996, moving from television to the radio booth in 2004. **1979: Steven Baron (MSEd '81)** published a book entitled *Teaching with a Strength-Based Approach: How to Motivate Students And Build Relationships*." It is about using the principles of positive psychology in the classroom to build student and teacher resilience... **Sandra Cahn** received the Defender of Zion Award from the United Jewish Appeal Federation. Cahn has devoted her life to improving the lives of Jewish people, serving as the national chair of women's philanthropy of the Jewish Federations of North America and women's chair of the UJA Federation. She is also the past president of Hillel at Queens College. **1980: Christina Mossaides Strassfield (MA '84)** was hired as the executive director of the Southampton Arts Center. **1981: Herbert A. Dyer** assumed

the position of president at Daughters of Charity, Ministries (DCM), Inc., the operations area of the Daughters of Charity, Province of St. Louise. In his role as president, Dyer will oversee the day-to-day operations of the four campuses. **1982: Elizabeth Corrado** was appointed as Ulster County public defender. She served as Hurley town justice from 2007 to 2011 and has worked in the Public Defender's Office as family court bureau chief since 2022. **1983: Lana Hechtman Ayers** released two books of poetry this year: *When All Else Fails*, published by The Poetry Box Press, and *Overture*, by Kelsay Books... **Thomas Dolan (MS)** was appointed interim superintendent of the Sewanhaka Central High School District... **Raymond Paretzky** was one of the recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2023 Friend of CUNY and Salute Our Scholars Awards Reception and Awards Ceremony on September 12, 2023. Paretzky is a partner at McDermott Will and Emery. **1984: Margaret Medina** was named the 2023–2024 National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. She is an award-winning and *New York Times* best-selling author who writes picture books, as well as middle grade and young adult fiction... **Jahanara Miotto** was chosen to receive the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award for 2023 by the International Association of Top Professionals. She is the founder and president of Metrendalytics L.L.C., which offers highly customized and adaptable solutions that enable real-time data access and advanced business analytics. **1985: Onaiza Cadoret-Manier** was named to the Board of Directors at Ventyx Biosciences, Inc., a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on advancing novel oral therapies that address a broad range of inflammatory diseases with significant unmet medical need. She serves as executive vice president, chief global product strategy and operations officer at Ionis Pharmaceuticals... The late **Michael Richards**, an artist who tragically died in the World Trade Center attacks on 9/11, had his artwork featured in an exhibit at the North Carolina Museum of Art

in Raleigh, North Carolina. He had two exhibitions on display. The first exhibition is seen through the perspective of knowing how he died. The second exhibition is seen through putting aside that knowledge and considering the work as the artist intend. **1986: Janice Mastropietro** was hired as the principal of Villa Maria Academy in the Bronx. She had taught at the school for more than two decades prior to her appointment. **1987: Lisa Deloria Weinblatt** is a painter whose artwork was displayed in numerous exhibits and galleries throughout New York City over the past year. She also had one of her paintings shown on the NYC ArtWalk billboard in Times Square... **Risë E. Rosen** was named a partner at Forchelli Deegan Terrana LLP, a law firm based in Uniondale that has more than a dozen practice groups. She was also selected to the 2023 *New York Metro Super Lawyers* and Rising Stars Lists. **1988: Norm Roberts**, assistant men's basketball coach for the Kansas University Jayhawks, was inducted into the A STEP UP Assistant Coaches Hall of Fame in a ceremony during the organization's symposiums, May 22–24. Roberts recently completed his 12th season with the Jayhawks. In his time at Kansas, the Jayhawks have won four Big 12 Tournament championships, reached the Final Four twice, and won the 2022 NCAA National Championship. **1989: Glenn Braica** has been hired as an assistant coach for the Fairfield University men's basketball team. **1990: Michelle Fischthal** was promoted to vice chancellor, institutional innovation and effectiveness at the San Diego Community College District. **1994: Al Behmoiras** was named the head of political sales for Premion, an advertising platform for regional and local advertisers... **Bernard Bosio** directed a production of Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Saint Luke's Church in Forest Hills last year... **Jeremy Chernick** has been a special effects designer for some of Broadway's biggest musicals for over 25 years. He recently designed the special effects for the musical *Sweeney Todd*, which returned to Broadway in



March 2023... **Racquel-Maria Sapién** received a 2023–2024 Fulbright Scholar Fellowship. She will travel to Suriname, where she will support the use of minority languages as a medium of instruction at the primary level in Suriname. Sapién will also develop and deliver two series of workshops aimed at increasing resources and visibility for minority languages of Suriname, as well as advancing research into language ideologies in the country. **1995: Michele Wright** was named senior director of education at the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School. **1996: William Ferro** (MLS '99) is the new director for the East Meadow Public Library. **1997: Jessica Bader** (MSEd) was selected as the new principal at James H. Vernon School in the Oyster Bay-East Norwich School District... **Nikos Christodoulides** was elected as the youngest president of the Republic of Cyprus. He assumed office in February 2023. He previously served as Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2018 to 2022 and Spokesman of the Government from 2014 to 2018. **1998: Larisa Bukalov** (MSEd '03), a teacher at Bayside High School, was awarded the 2023 Math for America Muller Award for Professional Influence in Education. After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Bukalov became the Mathematical Association of America's liaison to Ukraine. She has collaborated with university professors from Kiev State University and the Ukrainian Ministry of Education to help educate Ukrainian teachers on best practices to foster equity in the classroom and has provided academic, social, and emotional support to Ukrainian students... **Carole Kastrinos** published her book, *The Richest Poor Man/El Hombre Pobre Más Rico*, a book based on the life of a young man of humble beginnings living in a small village of Guadalajara, Mexico... **Yoichiro Yoda** had his artwork featured in art show titled "The Crossings" at NowHere Café in New York City this July as well another show titled "The 3 Yodas" at Gallery MC in November. **2000: Joseph A. Williams** (MA, MLS 2006) was named the director of the Greenwich Public Library. He will

focus on launching Greenwich Library's new strategic plan and on initiatives such as streamlining the patron experience, both in-person and online... **Kimberly Juanita Brown** has been named the inaugural director of the Institute for Black Intellectual and Cultural Life at Dartmouth College. The institute will serve as the nexus of the creative, cultural, and scholarly expression of the Black community at Dartmouth and beyond. **2001: Randy Arnold** was named the new principal of Gribbin Elementary School in Glen Cove... **Erika L. Calderon** has been named managing principal at Brinster & Bergman, LLP, an accounting firm based in Rockville Centre. **2002: Deepak Marwah** has been selected to serve as the next principal of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts in New York City... **Renata Shiloah** is the author of *It's Time for a Pause*. Her book outlines ways to ease or even eliminate menopausal symptoms by showing women how to fight back against menopause, naturally reduce symptoms, and feel like themselves again. **2003: Fabian Berenbaum**, a security guard at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, was featured in a short film which details the double lives of some security guards at New York's most prestigious art museums who are artists themselves. Berenbaum's oil paintings were described as "masterful" and "truly stunning"... **Denise Connolly** (MSEd) was promoted to principal at New Hyde Park Road School... **Andrea DiStephan** was re-elected as the town clerk in Brookfield, Connecticut. It will be her second term in office. **Eric Welby** was promoted to chief financial officer at Greystone, a leading national commercial real estate finance company. **2004: Dan Bilawsky** was awarded the NYS Music Educator Innovation Award. He is the music coordinator for the Harborfields School District and band director at Oldfield Middle School. The award recognizes new and creative approaches to music education... **Carisa Manza** (MA) was hired as the new superintendent of schools for the Babylon Union Free School District. **2005: Arturo O'Farrill**,

Jr., (MA) renowned jazz musician, won his sixth Grammy at the 2023 Grammy Awards in the category of "Best Latin Jazz Album" for *Fandango at The Wall in New York*... **Yvonne Bruzual Williams** (MA '06) was recently appointed deputy commissioner of administration and finance at the NYC Office of Chief Medical Examiner. In this role, Williams oversees procurement, budget, audit, medical facilities, and material logistics for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner. **2006: Keisha Lindsay** was featured in an article from *Essence*. Lindsay, a nurse, is part of the Center for Disease Control's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) training. The EIS program is a globally recognized fellowship that trains officers to investigate and respond to a wide range of public health challenges and emergencies. **2007: Freddy Fonseca** joined Faegre Drinker Law Firm as counsel in their Los Angeles office... **David Gracia** has been named the executive director of the Directors of Music Foundation, the country's oldest independent nonprofit organization dedicated to providing financial assistance to musicians and their families in times of need, crisis, or transition. **2008: Cally Kordaris**, artistic director of the dance company Cold Spring Dance, produced the company's third performance, *Protest*, a multimedia work that addresses global human rights, which debuted in November 2023... **Liz Player** is the founder of Harlem Chamber Players, an ethnically diverse collective of professional musicians dedicated to bringing high-caliber, affordable and accessible live classical music to people in the Harlem community and beyond. In June, the group performed a concert, titled *Harlem Songfest II*, at Columbia University, which featured music by Black composers. **2009: Sara Heller**, coordinator of Raritan Valley Community College's Automotive Technology program, was honored with a national achievement award as the CCAR/ Electude/ASE Instructor of the Year... **Ramón De Los Santos** was hired as the assistant vice president for student affairs at the City College of New York... **Irene**

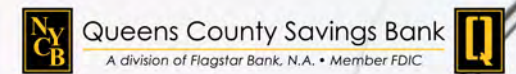
**Zoupaniotis**, a labor and employment attorney, was elevated to partner at the Uniondale law firm Farrell Fritz in January. **2010: Rabbi Dr. Hillel Broder** (MA) has been named Head of Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville, MD. **2011: Sameul J. Bazian** has been promoted to partner at the New York law firm Herrick, Feinstein, LLP... **Lauren Fretto** was promoted to principal of Babylon Memorial Grade School... **Evan Jagels** (MA '11) is a member of the blues band, Yolanda Bush and the Coolwater Collective. They performed at the Cooperstown Concert Series in March... **Jerry Galante** was hired as the director of the Hackettstown Free Public Library. He has served as a professional librarian for 12 years and hopes to make the library "a cornerstone of the community and a place where everyone can feel at home"... **Alexei Tartakovsky**, a star pianist, performed at the legendary Merkin Hall in New York City in July. He performed classical pieces from Beethoven, Schumann, and Rachmaninoff, and his finale received a repeated standing ovation. **2012: Maria Bernhey** (MLS) was hired as the city librarian and director of the New Haven Free Public Library. Bernhey will be responsible for overseeing the library's five branches, which serve a diverse population of over 135,000 people... **James Cameron** (AC), the principal of Islip's Commack Road Elementary School, was selected for the School Administrators Association of New York State's (SAANYS) 2023 Outstanding Educator Award. The award is given annually to a SAANYS member who has made outstanding contributions in New York State schools through public education, professional organizations, or research and writing in the field of education... **Greg Hammontree** (MA), a freelance trumpet player, is a member of The Queen's Cartoonists, a music ensemble that plays music from classic cartoons and contemporary animation. The performances are synchronized to video projections of the original films. They have been touring at venues around the country this

year... **Melissa Papir Kolb** (MS '16) published a children's book titled, *From Me to You*, which talks about the love a parent has for their child through the lens of infertility and how the journey one takes to have children isn't that simple. **2013: Stefanie Balos** was promoted to the rank of detective by the Rockville Centre Police Department. Balos investigates any and all issues impacting the lives of children in the village, coordinating her efforts with local schools and parents... **Jennifer Lavayen** was selected for the newly created position of financial aid adviser and first-year experience coordinator at the Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership at the City College of New York. Lavayen will be assisting students with problems related to covering the costs of college. **2014: Leonor Falcón**, a violinist and viola player, was featured in the *London Jazz News*. Falcón has collaborated with the Sirius Quartet, Camila Meza and the Nectar Orchestra, and Arturo O'Farrill Latin Jazz Orchestra... **Christian Gibbs** made his Broadway debut in March at the Lincoln Center Theater as part of the cast of *Camelot*. Gibbs is an understudy for one of the lead roles, Lancelot du Lac. **2015: Jonathan Crompton**, a composer and alto saxophonist, premiered his major new work, *Cantata No. 1: An Island Seen and Felt*, at New York City's DiMenna Center for Classical Music in September... **John Perricone** is the new executive director of the Woodhaven Business Improvement District. Perricone aims to assist small business owners, keeping the streets safe and clean and creating a vibrant commercial district... **Bilal Shaukat**, a second-year emergency resident in Brooklyn, was the winner of the sixth annual ApolloMD Emergency Medicine Scholarship for Residents. The annual scholarship is awarded to one outstanding student who intends to pursue a career in emergency medicine. **2016: Edward M. Hardy** is an accomplished violinist and composer. He recently performed at the Denver Young Artists Orchestra in a concert titled *Harmonies of History* and was on stage with the Harlem Chamber Players at the Broadway Presbyterian

Church in November... **Julietta Eugenio**, an acclaimed saxophonist, along with her group the Julieta Eugenio Trio, won the 2022 first-place prize in the annual international band competition DCJazzPrix, was included in the GRAMMY's "10 Emerging Jazz Artists to Watch in 2023" list, and was nominated for Best New Artist by the Jazz Music Awards... **Michael S. Rubin** joined the office of Blank Rome LLP as an associate in the Intellectual Property Litigation practice group. **2017: Brandon Douthitt** (MM) was one of four featured artists for the Indy Arts Council's "Art and Soul" celebration, a public program that has kicked off Black History Month in Indianapolis since 1996 and helped expand the city's awareness and appreciation of African American art and music. Douthitt is a renowned saxophone player and jazz musician. **2018: Linda Collazo**, a professional opera singer, made her debut performance on two of the world's biggest stages. She performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall last March and at Lincoln Center last April. **2019: Kayla McAvoy** was hired as a full-time assistant sports specialist for the New York Rangers. She was previously working for the Rangers as a temp associate in the strength and conditioning department... **Angela Wambugu Cobb** (MA) has been promoted to serve as the vice president for institutional advancement at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury. **2020: Albert Rodriguez** has been promoted to the position of junior project manager/full stack developer with William S. Hein & Co., Inc. & HeinOnline... **Justin Santory** was selected to the mentorship program at Latinx Playwrights Circle. The program gives playwrights the space and support to develop a full-length play. As part of the program, he will have two private table reads of his work, as well as a public industry reading at participating theatres in the fall... **Thomas Virgona** (AC) was appointed as the new assistant principal at John S. Hobart Elementary School of The William Floyd School District in Shirley, New York.

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

Frank A. Abbate '72  
Alan Ackerman '63  
Elaine Schwartz Alberts '70, '72  
Keshawna Alderman '19  
Percy Allen  
Joan Ambrosino '65  
Jane Anderson '49  
Eleanor Dekaner Anselmini '43  
Helene Antell '80  
Frank Askinazy  
Hanacho Atako '53  
Alice A. Alers Aviles MA '78  
Bernard Bachrach '61  
Elizabeth Bacon  
Elaine Radoff Barkin '54  
Joanna Barnes  
Rosalie Corigliano Barr '53  
Janice Bauer '70  
John F. Behrens '66  
William Bell '78  
Doris Meyers Bellis '66  
Joseph Benfante  
Rochelle Roth Benoliel MS '66  
Ralph Benzenberg '64  
Ruth Rapoport Berelson '45  
Judith Berenberg  
Miriam Starr Berke '45  
Eric A. Bermann '56  
Alfred Bernstein '54  
Irwin Bernstein '56  
Leslie Driscoll Bilancia '56  
Philip Bilancia '56  
John Bitterman '87  
Janet Rosenberg Black '47  
John Blanchette '56  
Rita J. Bobelis '78  
Joseph H. Bochner '73  
Ellen Bogolub  
Marie Barbsis Boily '82  
Caroline Bonacci '83  
Patricia Bond '73  
Judith M. Priestley Bookis '58, MA '75  
Marilyn Citrin Boudin '64, '67  
Sigrid Bentzen Braaten '43  
Denise Bracco '73  
Frank Brako '49  
Francis Brancalone '79  
Jimmy Ross Branch MSEd  
Annabel Moffat Brantley '48  
Ethel Bratton '76  
Stanley Brown '64  
Clare Browne '79  
Donald Bruckner '49  
Iris Burckhardt '61  
Douglas L. Burgess '42

Anne Butler '50  
Claryce C. Cacio MS '83  
Margaret S. Hass Calvano '77  
Anne Cameron  
John Raymond Campbell '62  
Joseph R. Campbell MS '62  
Louise Campbell '73  
Thomas Campopiano '73  
Juanita Carey '75  
Marion Liehr Carlson '49  
Frances Palminteri Casola '50  
Roland M. Cassis '78  
César Castillo '03, '10  
Joseph Catapano '56  
Janee Christensen '96  
Frances Laxton Christy '73  
Charles Chung  
Lawrence Cianciotto '75  
Priscilla Johnson Ciccariello '74, '99  
Anthony Cinquemani '59  
Dorothy Boylan Clark  
Dorothea Clarke '96  
Patricia Gallagher Clarke '71  
Marjorie Cleland '60  
Jeffrey Cohen '78  
Robert F. Cohen '66  
Roselyn Cohen '84  
Cynthia Conti '73, '98  
Renee M. Schwartz Cooper '42  
Pasquale Cosenzo  
Helen Duchnowska Crowe '49  
William G. Csaszar '56  
Frederick Cushmore '52  
Josephine Difazio D'Ambrosio '62  
Mary Veronica Innes D'Anna '42  
CarolAnn Korz D'Errico '72  
Michael Daflos '68  
Sona Stein Davidson '50  
Robert W. Delaney '89  
Lisa Delange MLS '04  
Alice Longinotti Dellapina '77  
Constance Garrow Diamond MS '62  
Sharon Weinchel Dickstein '70  
David A. Dinneen '52  
David Dorman '63, '68  
Terry Dratt '73  
Bruce Edelstein '82  
William Eglinton '70  
Francis C. Ehrenpreis '72  
Nathan Eichhorn  
Loretta H. Berger Engle '44  
Loretta Perettine Epifania '49  
Howard Epstein '50  
Nina Falek Epstein '49  
Eric Ernst '60  
Lillian Fisher Ether '49  
Alan Eysen '52  
Janet Gilson Ezair  
Barbara McKinnon Fehl '75  
Darryl B. Feldman '69  
Lauretta Mennone Feldman '75  
Caryl Fried Feldmann '55, '58

Susan Duhan Felix '58  
Janice Fenster '65, '67  
Thomas Ferbel '59  
Steven Feren '74  
Robert Fetz '48  
Adolf William Filter III  
Alan B. Finkelstein '58  
Philip Fischer '61  
Louise Ferdon Flippin '70  
Cornelius J. Foley '61 MSE '65  
Rose Marie Realmuto Fox '53  
Lawrence Francos '73  
Richard Franklin '53  
Marsha Gail Osofsky Freeman '69  
Sonya Dash Friedman '47  
Stanley Friedman  
Sabina Greenwald Fromm '78  
Robert A. Gabriele '64  
Elvira R. Garcia  
Ada Roth Gaffney '45  
Richard Gaffney '64  
Albert Gatte '49  
Bruce-Michael Gelbert  
Anne-Marie H. Bourbon Geoghegan '74, MA '76  
Frank Geremia '72  
Dorothy Wasserstein Gevarter '46  
Barbara Smith Gibson '56  
Lloyd Gilden  
Virginia Giovinco '73  
Judith Bombardi Girellini AAS '69  
Kevin Simon Glaudin '18  
Gilda Frishberg Glazer '55  
Ruth Sales Glickman '55  
Ralph Godfrey '50  
Judith Schwam Goldberg MS '62  
Muriel Goldblatt '49  
Muriel Schwartz Goodman '46, '87  
Bernadette Pranzo Goonan '73  
Patricia Steele Gordon '66  
Erica Lang Gorin '77  
Inez Goring '74  
Gloria Fava Gosselin '53  
Michael Gottlieb '65  
Joanne Grady '64  
Robert Graf '59  
Gerald F. Greenberg '77  
Jules Greenberg  
Daniel Greenblatt '69  
Richard F. Grieb '56  
Alan V. Grossman '58  
Robert Grossman  
James Guillian '73  
Hewitt Gurnee '42  
Ethel Haar  
Jesse Halpern '53  
Athena Hanjoglu '88  
Thomas Francis Harkins MSEd '81  
Richard Harris '59  
Frederick P. Hartman '55  
Ronald Headley '72

Louis Hebert  
Bernice Heller  
Joseph Hellman '52  
Sanford Helman '59  
Jack Herschlag '53  
Eleanor M. Sergeant Hetherington '51  
Judith E. Heumann  
Alan G. Hevesi '62  
Leonora Keilsohn Heys '49  
Lawrence Holdridge  
Hedda Hopard '63  
Marilyn Magenheimer Horne '51  
Norman Hosansky '47  
Donald Hoskins '53  
Barbara Eberle Hoyman  
Mary Hsu  
Debra Ketover Huberman '86  
Marianne T. Ilaw '76  
Sheila S. Intner MLS '76  
Michael Jarcho '64  
Roy Jeannette '71  
Carol Lipson Jochnowitz '72  
Dorothy Mary Bernhaerd Johnson '42  
Bruce Jones '82  
Dolores R. Siegel Joseph MS '69  
Shirley Kaden '76  
Blanche Perris Kahn '90  
Shirley Fraier Kalina '59  
Simpson H. Kalisher  
Stanley Kameny '48  
Andrew Kampiziones '63  
Grace Renzi Kantaser  
Elaine Marcus Kaplan '55  
Diane Kardis '81, '86  
Joseph Karhut '86, '89  
Judith Jacobs Karis '59  
Joan Dragone Karnes '67, '68  
Lynne Cohn Kasarsky '79  
Harvey S. Katz '66  
Betty Cherry Kaufman '68  
Yetta Kaufman '86  
Geraldine McVea Kelly '41  
Kathleen Kelly '91  
Gisele Kerdavid MS '86  
Michael Kessler '86  
Jay Kilkenny '75  
Adrienne T. Rasmussen King '56  
Gerard F. King '56  
April Kingsley '60  
Leonard A. Kislin '68  
Gail Blennerhassett Kitay '14  
Miriam Louise Acre Kivisalu '69  
Alan Klein '60  
Edith Barr Klein '62  
Lois Klein '62  
Roberta Siegel Klotz '56  
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William Koenig '73  
Katherine Kolbert '64



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Kathleen Kulbaba '86  
Thomas J. Kunkel '60  
Edith Alice Kaplan Kur '62  
Edmund Kurz  
Joel Kushins '64  
Joan A. Kushner '49  
Lawrence Kushner '45  
Annette H. Landau '41  
Robert Landon '86  
Alice Almeleh Gromski Lane '67  
Barbara G. Lane  
Heinz Langer '73  
Evelyn Lasker '86  
Fern Stone Laskin '86  
Deborah Lastres '86  
Stewart Lattner '86  
Agnes Tamm Laube '51  
Robert Laufer '86, '98  
William Lauterbach '60  
Otto W. Lazareth, Jr. '68  
Marjorie Ledley  
John Joseph Lee '55  
Judith Leibowitz  
Scott Leisten '80, '86  
Jose Lema  
Alice Lerner '86  
Leonard Levine '54  
Howard Levy '73  
Karin Rappl Levy '73  
Judith Orman Lewis '61  
Steven Lewis '70  
Loretta Litroff Liberman '62  
Peter Licht '76  
Bernard Lieber '49  
Barry Liles '58  
Eloise P. Linden '42, MS '63  
Donna Lipper  
Pearl Miller Lipton '72  
Alberta Davis Lockhart '43  
Brenda Lockwood Lockwood-Gibbs '91  
Janet Westervelt Loomer '48  
Ana Maria Lopez '78  
Judith Ann Smith Lowry '60  
Vikram Lund '88  
Theodore Luzzi  
Patricia Tracy MacGovern '41  
Lawrence Kinsloe Madison  
Shirley Madonna '67  
Helen Feit Madow '52  
Stanley Madow '52  
Barbara Kearns Malanga '86  
Steven R. Malin '72, MA '73  
Salvatore C. Manfre '86  
Beverly Rubin Manning '58  
Susan R. Durels Mantel '88  
Michael William Marin '73  
Irving Marks '74

Nancy Lynne Furttsch Marsanico '72  
Mira Martincich '75  
Carole Ann Messier Martine MS '73  
Marie Masiewicz '73  
James Masser '77  
Bruce Massis '74  
Alice Mausner '78  
Charlotte Leon Mayerson '49  
Roger McAteer '73  
James McAuley '14  
Maryalice J. Corrican McCann  
Ann Loveless McCord '64  
Lorna Colquhoun McEwen '53  
Gloria Bizzigotti McHenry '49  
Patricia McKenna '84  
Amilcar Mejia '81  
Lois Freeman Mendell '51  
John Mercurio '66  
Philip Merwin '53  
Elizabeth Kahn Meyer '67  
Shirley Meyerson '73  
John Miceli '61  
Lucille Heiz Michaels '69  
Vincenzo Milione  
Elinor Cohen Miller '54  
Hazel Krasnogor Miller '52  
Charles Molesworth  
Michael Moody '92  
Paula Moskowitz  
Carolyn Moss '66  
Julia F. Frey Moulton '45  
Gaetano Muratore '86  
Joan Murphy '86, '90  
Keris Murray '73  
Emery Nanasy '48  
Shirley Nemetz-Ress '68  
Jean Rosinsky Neun '71, '73  
Robert N. Nicholson '73, MA '76  
Judith Niebur '69, '71, '93  
Barbara Noa '71  
Ella Noormets  
Paula Nordwind '78  
Adele Truen Noyes '53, '76  
William Nuerge, Jr. '55  
Judith Sklar Nusbaum '48  
Barbara M. Jones Omolade '64  
Robert Nachemson Orne '66  
Lillian Meizel Papkoff '46  
James Parce '70  
Lauranna Banks Parrett '60  
James Paul '57  
Arline Blaney Pavlochik '62, '65  
Frajan Payne '00  
Edith Bank Pelka '73  
Mary M. Pellicane '43  
Jon Alvah Peterson  
Burton Pike  
John Pilkington '69  
Dale Pitzen '75  
Alan Pomerantz '53  
Anna Friedman Prager '58

Adrian Pressman '52  
Viola Calabresi Proeller '54  
Gwendolyn DeSouza Pruden '64, '68, '74  
Kathleen E. Gormley Pultorak '69  
Rose Matrisciano Purcell '90  
Van Rackages '73  
Susan Bello Ralph '73  
Alexandra Theophanous Reilly '83  
Kevin Reilly '81  
Valerie Spector Rein '71  
Dennis Rich '63  
Jack Richman '65  
Gail Hersh Rinaudo  
Grace Marie Palermo Robbins  
Colette Guillet Roe  
John Roe  
Eugene S. Romano '72  
Elaine Kolichstein Rose '63  
Roberta J. Blumenfeld Rosenbaum '64  
Gertrude Ullmann Rothman '44  
Louis Rotondo '73  
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Celia Rutsky  
George Sakowski '60  
Selma Barbara Pachter Saltz '56  
Anthony Santagato '04  
Frank J. Saracino '55  
Barbara Och Sassaman '61  
Bette Diane Gerber Scarlet '66  
Rosalind Katz Scheiner '66, '68  
Alice Jaffe Schleifer '49  
Marcia Schorr  
Rosemarie Criscuoli Schrage '47  
Herbert Schueler  
Lois Lipschitz Schwaeber '56  
Gloria Feigen Schwartz '45  
Lawrence Schwartz '56  
Patrick Sciaratta '74  
Sidney Seidenstein  
Walter Shipley  
Elaine Abbey Shugoll '51  
Deborah G. Silberberg '77  
Morton Silver '56  
Laurence Silverstein '70  
Rodney Simister '56  
Susan Coppola Simmons '73  
Sidney Simon  
Sonia Adele Reitman Simon '52  
Janet Friedman Sklar '56  
Eleanor Spiegel Sokol '73  
Bernard Solomon  
Jeannette Khani Solomon '66, '70  
Roy Solomon '73  
Kenneth Sommerman '60  
Carl Sondergeld '72  
Carole Tain Soskin '59  
Marcella Timbs Specce '72  
Barbara Forman Sperber '64, '68  
Adida Wolff Spierer '49  
Anthony Staiano '68

Reinhold Stang '75  
Alan Steinberg '68  
Arthur Stevens '56  
Billy Floyd Stewart '67  
Martin F. Sticht '58  
Stanley Stolar  
Joel Stone '66  
Betty Sung '68  
Corradina Caporello Szykman MS '78  
David D. Tcimpidis MA '66  
Ferrer Terranera '58  
Emerita Cabrera Tiedemann '55  
Mary-Ellen Gehentges Tietjen '56  
Susan R. Forman Titone MS '75  
Claire Klein Toise '49  
Gerard Triano '74  
Adey Tsegaye '96  
Joseph Tufariello '57  
Ruth Vande Kieft  
Marion Vicesvini '66, '79  
Burma Lucille Miller Walker  
Cavanagh '65  
Gloria Messina Walsh '50  
Robert Waltke '86  
Jane Harrington Webber '47  
David Weil '73  
Elaine Greene Weisburg '45  
Herbert D. Weiss '51  
Richard J. Whalen '57  
Ronald Whiffen '69, '72  
Raymond White '56  
Ruth Whitney Mulligan '58  
Albert Wilensky '55  
John Robert Wilson '52  
Ruth Anne Boetel Wilson '54  
Rose Windisch '68  
Ellen Chalfin Winner '66  
Lois J. Wisniewski '94  
Fredrick Wolfe '58  
Roberta Haskel Zaktzer  
Charlotte Wert Zeisler '70  
Frank Zsoldos '49  
Thelma Tyler Zuroff '48  
Burton Zwiebach

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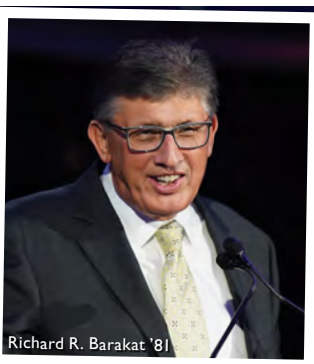
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Gail A. Marquis '80

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## Queens College's 33rd Gala

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 at 583 Park Avenue

**Queens College's 32nd Gala was a wonderful event.**

We honored three distinguished alumni: Richard R. Barakat '81, Amber A. Guth '79, and Celeste A. Guth '82.

Our emcee, Gail A. Marquis '80, led the evening's festivities, which showcased music from our talented students, faculty, and alumni.

Join us at our next Gala at 583 Park Avenue!

