

QUEENS

THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE

Rosenthal Library Opens a New Chapter





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- 4 News
- 10 Telling Someone Else's Story
- 12 In Memoriam
- 17 Changes across the Board
- 18 More Than Books
- 26 Setting Up Students for Success
- 27 Mining Vintage Materials
- 29 The Continuing Adventures of Emma
- 30 Giving Back
- 32 Professionals on Campus
- 33 Alumni Notes

From the President



Like any outstanding educational institution, Queens College has an outstanding library. In this issue of *Queens* magazine, we focus on the college's library, from its incarnation in Klapper Hall to the creation of Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library and its latest developments: the expansion of Special Collections and Archives and the addition of a Makerspace (an experiential learning lab). The cover story starts on page 18. In a related article (page 23), we report on *Library Journal's* recognition of three alumnae of QC's Graduate School of Library and Information Studies—the only publicly funded, American Library Association-accredited Master of Library Science program in the New York area.

As usual, this issue is filled with stories about accomplished Queens College alumni in different fields, such as Jennifer Bisram '04, a CBS News New York reporter (page 10); Gerry Marotta, who uses her experience on Wall Street and in IT consulting to advise students through the School of Business Career Design Lab (page 26); and Helen Heineman '58, Framingham State University president emerita turned novelist (page 29).

Fashion is big business, and New York City is one of its global centers. The college's new Fashion and Design BA (see page 27) prepares students for careers in fashion design and production, museum and archival work, publicity, quality control, retail branding, fashion curation, and even fashion law. Students get hands-on experience by working with materials in QC's Fashion and Textiles Collection, built around donations from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Brooklyn Museum, and local individuals.

Speaking of generous individuals, this year's magazine tells how gifts from Frank Fan Yu '94 (page 30) and Joan Friedman Loren '60 and the late Allan Z. Loren '60 (page 31) support their alma mater. The education they received at Queens College enabled them to achieve their respective successes.

What are you doing now? How did Queens College make it possible? We enjoy hearing from alums! Contact us at qmag@qc.cuny.edu so we can share your news with the Queens College community.

Sincerely,

Frank H. Wu
President Frank H. Wu

Cover: A center for research and learning and—with the Chaney-Goodman-Schwerner Clock Tower—a beloved Queens College landmark, Rosenthal Library boasts upgraded archival spaces and a workshop stocked with high-tech tools.

Cover photo by Jefferson Caballero

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





Commencement 2024

More than 4,400 students celebrated their graduation when Queens College held its 100th commencement exercises on Thursday, May 30, 2024. The President’s Medal, the college’s highest administrative honor, was presented to David Goodman, Julia Chaney-Moss, and Stephen A. Schwerner in recognition of the work they have done to continue the legacy of their siblings, alumnus Andrew Goodman, James E. Chaney, and Michael H. Schwerner—civil rights activists slain in Mississippi in 1964. Distinguished alumni Carole Barham, a former educator, and Norman Barham, a retired insurance executive, received honorary doctorates. Mary Murphy ’81, an award-winning television journalist, delivered the keynote and received the President’s Medal at the baccalaureate convocation two days earlier.




(l to r) President Frank H. Wu, Carole Barham, VP for Institutional Advancement/Alumni Relations Laurie Dorf, Norman Barham, CUNY Trustee Ken Sunshine

Picturing Hot Times in New York City

Using an umbrella as a parasol. Soaking up spray from an open fire hydrant. Settling on a park bench under a tree. New Yorkers are resourceful in beating the heat, and Kara Schlichting (History) wants to see evidence of it.

As co-investigator of Melting Metropolis—a study of heat and health in London, New York City, and Paris since 1945—Schlichting is inviting New Yorkers to share photographs and stories of how they experienced summer in the city. This year, Schlichting and postdoctoral fellow Daniel Cumming



Schlichting and Cumming

(History) are focusing on the themes of shade and water. The call is open to all, but they are most interested in photographs taken before 2005.

To collect photos, Melting Metropolis is collaborating with Urban Archive, which has set up a specific page Melting Metropolis (urbanarchive.org) for the project. Photos must depict locations within the five boroughs and include at least one human subject. Send an image with your name, email, location of photo, date (if known), and a brief caption to info@urbanarchive.nyc or DM this material to https://www.instagram.com/p/C-kvnSfzk-Z/?img_index=1.

Melting Metropolis, funded by a five-year Wellcome Discovery Award, examines the evolving relationship between urban heat and health. The study is based at Queens College and the University of Liverpool; project partners are the Living Centre in Somers Town, London, and Queens Memory Project, New York.

Celebrating MLK Day

Queens College’s Annual Commemoration of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—described by *Time Out New York* as the second best MLK celebration in New York City—lived up to that billing on January 14, 2024. Jennifer Jones Austin, CEO and executive director of the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, delivered a stirring keynote and received QC’s 2024 Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Award. The program, moderated by President Frank H. Wu, featured guest speakers such as U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and New York State Senator John Liu, performances by student singers, and the debut of *Heroes in Harm’s Way*, the fourth episode in *The QC x MLK Legacy Connection: QC & Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* - YouTube docuseries. (In 2025, QC will hold its MLK commemoration on January 19.)



Photo credit: Dean Savage Papers



From left, CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, JP Morgan Chase Chair/CEO Jamie Dimon, Queens Chamber of Commerce President/CEO Tom Grech

JPMorgan Chase Exec Visits Campus

Thanks to the New York Jobs CEO Council and its CEO Speaker Series, Jamie Dimon, chairman and chief executive officer of JP Morgan Chase & Co., joined President Frank H. Wu for a conversation in the Student Union Ballroom on March 11, 2024. Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez and Jobs CEO Council Executive Director Kiersten Barnet introduced the program. Speaking to invited students and faculty, Dimon—who attended P.S. 69 in Jackson Heights—reflected on lessons from his career, focusing on problem-solving situations and the importance of experiential learning and internships. After the conversation and a student Q&A, students had the opportunity to join a networking session with Dimon and corporate recruiters. Dimon subsequently met with faculty from the Business School and career placement leaders to discuss strategies for expanding outreach to students.

Imam Joins Campus Ministries

Like everyone else nowadays, religious leaders may find job leads online. Imam Mohammed F. Biswas—Imam Fahim—the newest member of Campus Ministries, exemplifies the trend; he learned of an opening at Queens College through a group chat of imams. “I ignored it at first,” he says. “A teacher urged me to apply.” A Queens native, Imam Fahim attended public schools before transferring to Darul Quran WasSunnah—a higher education school for Islamic sciences—in Woodside, New York. His resume includes teaching Arabic at Darul Quran WasSunnah and serving as a youth counselor at An-Noor Cultural Center in Woodside, Jamaica Muslim Center, and Flushing Muslim Center.



Two ACSM Faculty Win GRAMMYs

Aaron Copland School of Music (ACSM) faculty members Mark Dover and Luis Perdomo were winners at the 66th annual GRAMMY Awards on February 4, 2024. Dover, who teaches clarinet at ACSM, was honored as both a player and producer for Best Classical Compendium for the latest release by the Imani Winds quintet, *Passion for Bach and Coltrane*. Perdomo, an alumnus of ACSM who teaches jazz piano there, won in the category of Best Latin Jazz Album for his work with Miguel Zenón on *Arte Del Bolero Vol. 2*.

Refashioning the Sewing Lab



Wielding ceremonial shears, CUNY Vice Chancellor Maite Junco (left), Kith Chief Impact Officer Sharifa Murdock, and President Frank H. Wu cut the ribbon at the renovated sewing lab in Rathaus Hall on February 7, 2024. The lab upgrade, featuring state-of-the-art sewing machines, was covered through a \$25,000 grant from the Kinnect Foundation, the nonprofit arm of Kith, a clothing and lifestyle company. The grant, which also funds stipends for fashion and textiles students holding unpaid internships, was included in an agreement for the launch of the limited-edition Kith for Queens College Fall 2022 Collection. A second collection was released in September 2023.

Marking Poetry Month in Washington, DC

At the invitation of First Lady Jill Biden, Distinguished Professor of English Kimiko Hahn led a poetry workshop for high school students and participated in a reading at the White House on April 10, 2024. The first lady was hosting her Japanese counterpart, Kishida Yuko, for an event celebrating the friendship between their respective nations and highlighting the women’s interest in youth, education, and literature. “I teach in the most diverse place on the planet, Queens College, the City University of New York,” said Hahn, identifying herself as the daughter of Japanese American and German American artists.



What a Wonderful Award

The Louis Armstrong House Museum (LAHM) won a 2024 National Medal for Museum and Library Service from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Since 1994, IMLS has awarded the medal to museums and libraries that demonstrate excellence in service to their communities. Five museums and five libraries were chosen for the honor this year, out of 30 finalists across the nation.

“From New York to Arizona, these 10 recipients are unparalleled sources of education, health, jobs, and cultural resources, bridging the gaps of distance, resources, and experience for community members,” said IMLS Acting Director Cyndee Landrum.

The awards were presented at a ceremony in July in Washington, DC.



Queen of the Court



Lucille Kyvallos, former Queens College women’s basketball coach and a pioneer of the sport, has been selected to the 2025 Class of the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will take place on June 14, 2025, at the Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Kyvallos had unprecedented success as the head coach of the QC women’s basketball team for 12 seasons, beginning in 1968. During her tenure, the team had a record of 239-77 and from 1972 to 1978 was ranked among the top ten nationwide. In addition to her success on the court, she was at the forefront of the Title IX movement and positioned women’s basketball on the national sports media scene.

CERRU Names New Director



Queens College’s Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding (CERRU), which specializes in justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion education, has a new director, effective January 6, 2025: Iyabo Oyewo-Hall. A double CUNY alumna, Oyewo-Hall holds a BA in English from Baruch, an MPA in Human Resource Management from John Jay, an MA in Arts in International Education in Human Rights from New York University, and a DEI Certificate from Cornell University. She comes to CERRU from the NYC Department of Housing Development and Preservation, where she was the director of Equal Employment Opportunity for the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.



Wearing protective glasses, members of the Queens College community converged outside Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library on April 8, 2024, to experience the solar eclipse—and enjoy snacks and beverages, courtesy of the Society of Physics Students. Residents of this part of the country won’t have a similar opportunity for more than 20 years.

Urban Studies Class Takes Power Trip

Students in the Just Transition in Renewable Energy class taught by former City Councilman turned adjunct lecturer (Urban Studies) Costa Constantinides '05 traveled north to Canada in April 2024 to visit the Beauharnois hydropower generating facility station on the St. Lawrence Seaway in Quebec. The plant, one of the world’s largest hydropower generating stations, will provide clean renewable power as part of the Champlain Hudson Power Express (CHPE), an innovative project currently under construction. CHPE will play a key role in New York State’s clean energy transition, delivering clean hydropower via underground and underwater cables running 339 miles from the Canadian border to a converter hub facility being built in Astoria, Queens, with completion anticipated in 2026.



Standing in front of a giant part once used in a hydro-electric turbine apparatus are (from left) Maude Montesano from host Hydro-Quebec, Jaegi Llissade, Michelle Herrera, Ricardo Barco, Andrew Zaoutis, Alex Baron, Marwan Alsaedi, Kelvin Gonzalez, Kevin Mscichowski, Charisse Stoll, Racquel Ramlall, Costa Constantinides, and an unidentified individual.



Queens College was the setting for a meeting of the New York Board of Rabbis and the leadership of Hillels at CUNY, SUNY, and Long Island private colleges. The event, on November 13, 2024, was led by Executive Vice President Rabbi Joseph Potasnik, who is highly regarded for initiating interfaith partnerships against bigotry.

Nights at the Opera

Resourceful siblings outwitted a witch, tunefully, in Englebert Humperdinck's beloved opera *Hansel and Gretel*, based on a Grimm Brothers tale. Aaron Copland School of Music and the Department of Drama, Theatre & Dance collaborated on this production, sung in German, with English subtitles. Performances took place April 11–15, 2024, in Goldstein Theatre. In a surprise coda on opening night, ACSM Associate Director Edward Smaldone was saluted for his years of service to the college's opera program. A seat in the theatre was named in his honor.



Honoring a Student Veteran



Student Association President William Barron, who served in the U.S. Army in Operation Desert Storm, was among five veterans honored at a Memorial Day Observance Ceremony on May 22, 2024, at Queens Borough Hall. “I made a vow that I want to give back,” said Barron, after Queens Borough President Donovan Richards presented him with a proclamation in recognition of his military service. “I want to give back to my veterans, my community, to everyone,” he said.

Remembering Nettie Mayersohn

New York City Councilmember James Gennaro helped arrange a ceremony on April 14, 2024, naming a sign for late New York State Assemblymember Nettie Mayersohn '78 at 161st Street and Jewel Avenue. Among the officials present, in addition to Gennaro, were State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli; Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz; State Senators Toby Ann Stavisky and John Liu; State Assemblymembers Sam Berger, Ed Braunstein, and David Weprin; and New York City Councilmember Linda Lee. Members of the Mayersohn family and several former legislators were in attendance, too. Mayersohn, who passed away in 2020 at age 96, represented Queens's 27th District for nearly 30 years.



From left: New York State Senator John Liu; Ricky Malone, chief of staff for Assemblymember Sam Berger; President Frank H. Wu; Associate Director for Civic Engagement and Knights Table Food Pantry Arianna Livreri; Urban Studies Distinguished Lecturer James Vacca; Shannar White, member of Congresswoman Grace Meng's staff

Star Treatment

Fran Drescher, QC alumna, star and producer of the hit sitcom *The Nanny*, and president of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists Union (SAG-AFTRA), has been chosen for inclusion in the Hollywood Walk of Fame within the television category. Her name will be added in a ceremony to take place this year. Drescher is in good company; Bill Nye, Molly Shannon, and Courtney B. Vance are among the other TV personalities in Walk of Fame's class of 2025.



Food Pantry Helps Students Dress for Success

The Knights Table Food Pantry marked World Food Day on October 16, 2024, with a ribbon-cutting at its expanded facilities in the lower level of the Student Union, across from the original pantry location. In addition to stocking canned and packaged food, the Knights Table now has a closet—the Armory—of free clothing, from casual wear to professional attire. The items in the Armory were made possible through donations from the college community and the efforts of Arianna Livreri, associate director of Civic Engagement and the Knights Table.

Mellon Grant Supports Archival Internships



Support—a collaborative drawn from nine universities in the United States and Canada—the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS) will receive over \$500,000 to support internships at the Lesbian Herstory Archives, the WFMU Radio Archive, the LGBT Center Archive, Interference Archive, and other community archives.

Through a Mellon Foundation grant awarded to Faculty Organizing for Community Archives

The three-year program, funded by Mellon's Public Knowledge program, will place archival studies students as interns in community archives. The project will also support curricular development, directly fund community archives for their services and expertise, and fund student participation in conferences and professional associations.

(See page 23 for a story about several GSLIS alumnae winning recognition in their field.)

Telling Someone Else’s Story

Passion for people motivates CBS News New York reporter Jennifer Bisram ’04

By Bob Suter

A familiar face the past few years to viewers of CBS News New York (and before that at PIX11 News/Channel 11), Jennifer Bisram ’04 has from a young age always wanted to find a career in journalism—initially in print and later as an on-air reporter.

“My first internship was at age 16 in print, believe it or not,” she recalls. “I knew I wanted to write a long time ago. My teachers always told my mom and dad I was a good writer. I would write poetry in my bedroom. That’s how I kind of expressed myself. I had a poem published in *The Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans*.” She found she enjoyed seeing her name in print.

Bisram proudly identifies herself as a Queens girl. Her Guyanese parents came to the United States in the 1970s, initially living in the Kensington section of Brooklyn before moving to Richmond Hill in Queens while she was in primary school.

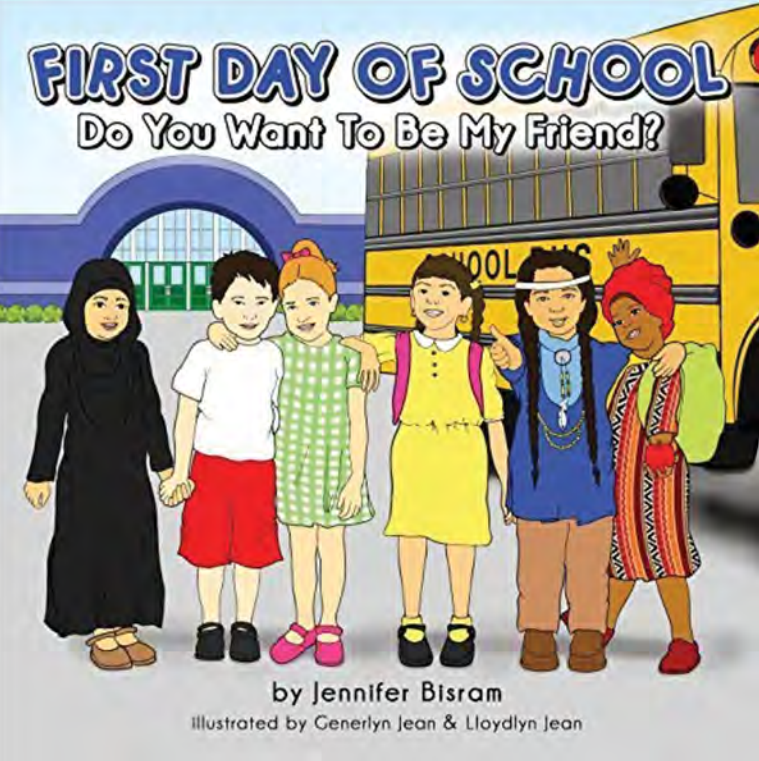
When the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) visited John Adams High School in Ozone Park, she applied for their High School Journalism Workshop. (Bisram has remained a member of the NABJ to this very day, motivated, she says, by the many great mentors the group provided and by her observation that women of color remain underrepresented in the journalism arena.) Also, while in high school she began taking weekend classes at York College for print journalism: “I knew very early on that I wanted to do journalism,” she says. “There was always something going on with current events, I always wanted to know things.”

Graduating from John Adams, Bisram went directly to Queens College, where she majored in media studies and minored in journalism. “That’s the way you do it when you have strict parents who want you to do better than they had,” she declares. “There’s no question about it: You go to high school, you graduate, you go to college.”

Immediately after graduating from QC, Bisram became a substitute teacher for New York City schools, working at PS 100 in Queens as well as another school. “I remember loving the kids so much,” she says, “especially the first graders.”

But she was also getting calls from News 55 on Long Island and she eventually made what she describes as the heart-wrenching decision to follow through on the many internships she had worked at and devote herself fulltime to a career in journalism: “We’re able to touch tens of thousands of adults every day on the TV screen with the news that we cover, and we help people every day.”

Since her start at News 55, Bisram has reported and anchored in Detroit, Orlando, and Miami, as well as at News12 Long Island, Westchester, CT, and NJ. She has also written stories for *Newsday*, the *Amsterdam News*, and the *Queens Chronicle*, and was once featured on Comedy Central’s “Detroiters” as a reporter. In 2016, Bisram came back to New York City for a job with PIX11 News. Combining her love of both teaching and journalism, she also spent at least one semester as an adjunct instructor teaching journalism at Queens College.



Bisram (at right) wrote a book that helps children appreciate diversity.

After nearly six years covering education, crime, Rikers Island, parades, community stories, and breaking news for PIX11 News, Bisram moved to CBS.

Meanwhile, eager to reach children the way she reaches adults on television, she wrote two children’s books. *First Day of School: Do You Want to Be My Friend?* (2014) is about a little girl named Star who poses the question to everyone she meets in her class on the first day of school. She used Star as the child’s name: “And everyone she met was from a different country around the world.”

The book came about, Bisram explains, in part because of the great variety of people she had met working TV and print journalism jobs at cities around the country. “The more I got around and met people, I just thought, ‘Gosh, the world is so diverse, and I want people to learn more about all the people and cultures and the melting pot that New York and the country really are.’”

“When you go and speak with kids, their minds are so young and they’re so ready to take on the world. They’re just so innocent, and you just want to be able to help mold them to be even better than they are or they’re growing up to be.”

“I love what I do; I love being a journalist and reporter,” she continues. “I don’t regret it, but I do like the fact that I still can provide something to children.”

The book saw her doing readings in schools “in a bunch of states, especially around back-to-school time. It gave me comfort knowing I could reach the kids and the adults at the same time.”

More recently, Bisram lost her grandmother of whom she says, “She was the glue that held us all together, as many grandmothers are.” Out of her love and memory of her she wrote a second children’s book, *Grandma Used to Say*.

Asked what aspect of her reporting for CBS News New York most appeals to her, Bisram says, “I love all stories about people. I love that I get the opportunity to talk to different people about different subject matter every day. You come to work maybe not particularly an expert on a topic, but you leave at the end of the day being that expert because you want people to trust you. I try to come to work every day with that in mind.”

The ability to quickly acquire a degree of expertise that gains viewers’ trust has proven to be a valuable asset in reporting on issues such as the cost of caregiving, an increasingly challenging fact of life for many. What began as a single story grew into an entire series. “We don’t have the resources we need to care for our aging New Yorkers,” she says, “especially as the population continues to increase.”

Bisram does a lot of cultural stories, too. “The Indo-Caribbean is a big one, especially in Queens.”

Bisram does a lot of law enforcement stories which require her to interact with all branches of law enforcement—from the NYPD to various federal law enforcement agencies. This has included stories about local and federal efforts to reduce gun violence. In addition, she has covered the opioid crisis and deaths attributable to fentanyl. New York City’s migrant crisis has also been part of her beat.

“It’s a passion for people that drives me to the stories I do,” she affirms. “I wouldn’t say that it’s one thing in particular. Because even if it’s a bad or a hard story, we’re still telling someone else’s story. We’re helping someone in some way, and that is what I enjoy doing.”

QUEENS IN MEMORIAM

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

Thelma Adair

Professor of Education Emerita Thelma Adair died in August 2024, eight days before her 104th birthday. Adair, née Thelma Davidson, was educated at two of North Carolina’s HBCUs, Barber-Scotia College and Bennett College. Then she moved to New York City with her husband, pastor of Mount Morris Ascension Presbyterian Church. While raising three children, Adair organized and managed day care centers and Head Start programs and completed a doctorate in education at Columbia University’s Teachers College. She joined the QC faculty, teaching here for 31 years. She also worked with the Peace Corps, UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and Operation Crossroads Africa. Committed to her faith, Adair was an ordained elder for the Mount Morris congregation and in 1976 became the first African American woman elected moderator of the General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Subsequently she served as president of Church Women United, an inclusive Christian women’s organization that works to advance world peace.



Tesfaye Asfaw

Tesfaye Asfaw, retired director of QC’s Career Development Center—subsequently renamed the Center for Career Engagement and Internships—passed away in January 2024. He was 75. Born and educated in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Asfaw emigrated first to Germany and in 1978 to New York. After completing an MSW with concentration in the world of work at the Hunter College School of Social Work, he devoted decades to the field of career services. As coordinator for career development and internships at the College for Human Services, he prepared and placed students with nontraditional career trajectories in internships and full-time opportunities. Coming to Queens College in the 1980s, Asfaw revitalized the career development and internship program, improving communication with students, academic departments, and employers.



Richard Benda ’68

Richard Benda, an internist who specialized in cardiology, died in January 2024 at the age of 75. Only 20 when he graduated from QC, Benda subsequently earned his MD degree from Virginia Commonwealth University Medical College of Virginia. Returning to his native New York, he joined Lawrence Hospital Medical Center in 1977, serving as its director of medicine from 1993 to 2003. Settled in White Plains with his wife and their five daughters, Benda coached Little League and recreational league softball. He was also a dedicated ham radio operator—his handle was WB2QJA—and active in St. Bartholomew’s Church.

Jeff Bennett ’65

Jeff Bennett, drama teacher and founder of the Bare Bones Theater Company in Northport, Long Island, died in January 2024. He was 81. A media major at Queens College, Bennett taught drama at Long

Island high schools for just over three decades, spending 12 years at Wantagh High School and 19 at Shoreham-Wading River High School, which named an auditorium after him upon his retirement in 1997. Seven years later, he launched Bare Bones in space at the Posey School of Dance. During its 14-year run, the company presented challenging material. *Newsday* credits it with the Long Island premieres of plays by Tracy Letts, Stephen Adly Guirgis, and David Lindsay-Abaire and the world premieres of Danielle Burby’s *Hooked* and Frederick Stroppel’s two one-act plays under the title *Dead Of Night*.

James Bernstein

The Very Rev. A. James Bernstein, an archpriest in the Eastern Orthodox Church, passed away in June 2024 at the age of 78. A rabbi’s son raised in Queens, Bernstein adopted Christianity at 16. At QC, he was chapter president of the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. He explored multiple denominations—among them Jews for Jesus, which he helped to found—before devoting himself to Eastern Orthodoxy; he was ordained a priest in 1988 and completed a Master of Divinity from St. Vladimir’s Orthodox Theological Seminary the following year. Bernstein recounted his spiritual evolution in *Surprised by Christ: My Journey from Judaism to Orthodox Christianity*.



Alan Blackman ’50

Alan Blackman, an artist famous for sending himself first-day cover stamps for 36 years, addressing the envelopes in astonishing feats of calligraphy, died in June 2024. He was 96. A lifelong philatelist, Blackman sought out new commemorative stamps—known as “first-day covers”—on their release. He’d buy the stamp, stick it on an envelope, take the envelope to a postal clerk to be postmarked that day, and mail it to himself. If that wasn’t possible, he’d send an unstamped, self-addressed envelope to the postmaster in the city where the stamp debuted; obliging postmasters would put a stamp on the envelope and cancel it with the phrase, “first day of issue.” After studying calligraphy in night school, Blackman made an art out of this ritual, writing his address in a style that reflected the stamp’s design. The envelopes he accumulated in this way from 1968 to 2004 were exhibited in a traveling show called *Letters to Myself*.

Irmgard Carras ’76

Historian and archivist Irmgard Carras passed away in January 2024 at the age of 88. Originally employed as a nurse, Carras enrolled at Queens College in her forties. After earning a doctorate in history from New York University and teaching there as an adjunct, she became an archivist for Trinity Church in Manhattan and North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset. For more than a decade she served as Sands Point Village’s official historian, documenting and preserving historically significant sites.

Robert Chazan

Robert Chazan, former director of QC’s Center for Jewish Studies (CJS), died in February 2024 at the age of 87. Equipped with secular and religious credentials—a bachelor’s degree and a doctorate from Columbia University and rabbinical ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS)—Chazan became one of the first full-time scholars in Jewish studies. He taught at JTS, Ohio State University, and Tel Aviv University before arriving at QC, where he would lead CJS for six years. He subsequently moved to New York University, spending the rest of his career there. Author of nine books, most of them focusing on medieval Jewish history, Chazan won the National Jewish Book Award in Jewish History for *European Jewry and the First Crusade*.

Ben Chitty

Arthur “Ben” Chitty, a long-term library systems officer and PSC-CUNY union activist, passed away in February 2024. A Navy veteran who served in Vietnam and then joined Vietnam Veterans against the War, Chitty began his academic career as a medievalist. Changing tracks, he co-wrote *From the Folks Who Brought You the Weekend: A Short Illustrated History of Labor in the United States* with his wife, Priscilla Murolo, a scholar of the topic. Hired by QC in 1984, he worked in the library for 39 years. In his parallel career as a union activist devoted to health and safety issues, he helped organize the Queens College Unions Joint Committee on Quality of Life, which included members from every union on campus and held monthly meetings for more than a decade. *Clarion* reported that in 2011, New York State United Teachers named Chitty an Unsung Hero. The award honors union members who identify and help solve health and safety problems in the workplace or manifest healthy environments at work.



Nicholas Coch

Geology Professor Emeritus Nicholas Coch died in July 2024. He was 86. Coch came to QC in 1967 after earning a BS in Geology from City College and a PhD in Geology from Yale University. In 1982, he joined the Earth & Environmental Sciences doctoral faculty at the CUNY Graduate Center. Coch conducted extensive research in coastal and estuarine sedimentary processes on the Earth and beyond; he was the first geoscientist to recognize sedimentary structures in lunar cores. In later years, he focused on hurricane dynamics and hazards and served as a consultant to the New York City and New York State Emergency Management Offices. Coch was interviewed frequently on local and national television stations and appeared in segments of BBC, National Geographic, and Weather Channel hurricane specials, earning the nickname Dr. Doom for dwelling on the potential impact of a hurricane entering the New York estuary. His predictions came true in 2012, when Hurricane Sandy inundated New York, causing 43 people to drown and an estimated \$19 billion in damage.

Jack Eichenbaum

Queens Borough Historian Jack Eichenbaum died in December 2023. He was 80. An expert on the urban geography of New York, Eichenbaum taught at Queens College and Hunter College; in 2010, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall named him to the

unpaid position of borough historian. He was well known for leading walking tours on topics such as Nieuw Nederland, the changing cultures of Queens, and the “Amazon basin”—the Long Island City area where Amazon had sought to build its secondary headquarters. Eichenbaum also made presentations, added materials to archives, and participated in the work of the Queens Historical Society, the Guides Association of NYC, and The Municipal Arts Society of New York.

Adele Faber ’50

Adele Faber, co-author of seven influential child-rearing guides, died in April 2024. She was 96. Faber earned a bachelor’s degree in drama and theater at QC and a master’s in education at New York University. After teaching in public high schools for eight years, she left the classroom and moved with her husband to Roslyn, New York, to raise her own family. She found her new calling and her writing partner, Elaine Mazlish, while attending an eight-week parenting course given by child psychologist Haim Ginott, author of *Between Parent and Child*. Applying Ginott’s strategies in their own homes, the women were so pleased with the results that with his approval, they described their experiences in their first book, *Liberated Parents, Liberated Children*. The two went on to collaborate on six more titles, notably the best-selling *How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk*, released in almost 40 countries.

Cheryl Ann Fellers ’78

Cheryl Ann Fellers, director of the Equal Employment Opportunity Office for North Carolina’s Department of Corrections, died in September 2024, a day before her 78th birthday. An education major at QC, Fellers began working for North Carolina after moving there in the 1980s. She held positions with the Department of Human Resources and Division of Aging before joining the Department of Corrections in 1999, retiring 11 years later. In addition to serving on the state’s Human Relations Commission, Fellers was a member of the American Correctional Association, the Women Working in Corrections Association, and the North Carolina Association of Human Rights Workers. During her distinguished career, she accumulated numerous honors, including the Old North State Award from Governor Beverly Perdue in 2010; Women Working in Corrections and the North Carolina Correctional Association recognized Fellers for outstanding professional services.

James Fisher

James Fisher, a lecturer and counselor with the Queens College SEEK Program, passed away in December 2023. He was 81. In 1970, after earning a bachelor’s degree from West Virginia State University and a master’s in art education from Ohio State University, Fisher began his 25-year career with Queens College SEEK. Devoted to the program, he served as its co-director of counseling; created “Art in Prison” classes with well-known artist, activist, and educator Benny Andrews and through it taught at Rikers Island and the prison psychiatric ward in Bellevue Hospital; served on the college’s P&B Committee; and played on the faculty basketball team. In his spare time, Fisher engaged in art and photography, played tennis, and later, danced salsa.

QUEENS IN MEMORIAM

Richard Gambino '61

Professor Emeritus of Italian American Studies Richard Gambino died in January 2024. He was 84. A philosophy major at QC, Gambino earned a master's in the subject at the University of Illinois, followed by a doctorate from New York University. Returning to his alma mater, he founded the college's Italian American Studies program, the first such program in the United States. He was also a distinguished visiting professor at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. His books include *Blood of My Blood: The Dilemma of the Italian Americans*, and *Vendetta: The True Story of the Largest Lynching in the United States*. The latter title, an account of the lynchings of 11 Italian Americans in New Orleans in 1891, was the basis of the fictionalized HBO movie *Vendetta*. Among many distinctions, Gambino was appointed to the U.S. Bicentennial Commission by President Gerald Ford and was appointed to the New York State Council for the Humanities by Governor Mario Cuomo.

Joseph P. Giacomelli '80

Joseph P. Giacomelli, founder of Queens-based Giacomelli Accounting and Tax Services, passed away in July 2024 at the age of 69. Dedicated to his family, friends, and clients, Giacomelli grew the business that he enjoyed while making time to coach his children's soccer teams, attend school events, and join his family for every meal. His company continues to thrive, and his example inspires future CPAs. In 2019, his family established a scholarship in his name at Queens College to support the next generation of accountants.

Kathy Goldman '86

Kathy Goldman, who co-founded the pantry that in 1983 became the Food Bank for New York City, died in March 2024. She was 92. As a young mother, Goldman joined forces with United Bronx Parents, who complained to the Board of Education about the substandard school lunches given to their children. The group ended up creating a free summer meals program that received federal financing in 1971 and was rolled out nationally eight years later. Having found her niche, Goldman devoted her career to reducing food insecurity. The *New York Times* credits her with opening the precursor of the Food Bank for New York City; the Community Kitchen of West Harlem, now part of the Food Bank; and other programs. In the middle of all this, she earned a master's in urban studies from QC. In recognition of her work, Goldman was tapped as an Olympic torch bearer in New York City in 2002 and celebrated as a "White House Champion of Change" by President Barack Obama in 2012.

Ruth Marx Greenberg BA '66, MS '69

Ruth Marx Greenberg, former associate dean of medical education at the University of Louisville School of Medicine and mother of Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg, passed away in February 2024. She was 79. Born in Queens to parents who fled Nazi Germany, Greenberg taught in New York public schools after graduating from QC. In 1980, she and her husband Ron, whom she met at college, moved their family from Long Island to Louisville. Returning to school, Greenberg completed a doctorate in English at the University of Louisville and taught the subject at Jefferson Community College before accepting a position at the Louisville med school. Active in her community, she is remembered for working to strengthen Jewish organizations in Louisville, protecting women's and abortion rights, and writing persuasive, grammatically meticulous letters.

Edward Griffith '77

Edward Griffith, who represented District 40—then comprising parts of East New York, Brownsville, and East Flatbush—in the New York State Assembly for 17 years, died in October 2023. He was 92. According to the *Legislative Gazette*, Griffith matriculated at QC, where he majored in political science, after earning a bachelor's degree in education from the Canal Zone College in Panama and spending six years in the United States Air Force as a missile technician. He segued into politics after serving as the first president of the Community School Board for District 19. Among other achievements, Griffith drafted ethics legislation, preserved transportation services for children with disabilities attending nonpublic schools, and worked to improve safety for boxers.



Carl Hodges '67

Carl Hodges, a psychotherapist, passed away in November 2023 at the age of 78. Born in Kentucky, Hodges was shaped by multiple New York institutions: He graduated from Stuyvesant High School, QC, the Hunter College School of Social Work, and the New York Institute of Gestalt Therapy. In addition to his private practice, he taught and guest lectured locally and abroad, and served a two-year term as president of the Association for the Advancement of Gestalt Therapy. An active member of Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, he participated in many of its committees and ministries. He also served as president of the Queens chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality.

David Kleinbard

David Kleinbard, a QC professor of English for more than 30 years, died in December 2023. A polyglot scholar with wide-ranging interests, Kleinbard held a BA from Williams College, a second BA and an MA from Cambridge University—where he studied on a Fulbright Scholarship—and a doctorate from Yale University. Perhaps best known for *The Beginning of Terror: A Psychological Study of Rainier Maria Rilke's Life and Work*, Kleinbard published studies of William Faulkner, Galway Kinnell, D.H. Lawrence, and Derek Walcott, as well as his own fiction. He was predeceased by his wife of 42 years, Maureen Waters, a fellow member of the English faculty and a pioneer of the college's Irish Studies program.



John Joseph Lee '55

CUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Biology John Joseph Lee died in November 2023. He was 90. Director of the college's Marine Microbial Ecology Laboratory for more than 50 years, he taught microbiology, wastewater engineering microbiology, electron microscopy, general biology, and science writing. Over the summer, he often conducted fieldwork at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Lee's influence extended overseas. He was a visiting scientist at the H. Steinitz Marine Lab in Eilat, Israel, and led field-based courses in Australia, Japan, and Kenya. Author and editor of several microbiology texts, he had artistic talents, too; his drawings are featured in the *Illustrated Guide to the Protozoa*, published by the Society of Protozoologists.

Jules Mitchel '63

Jules Mitchel, founding president and CEO of the consulting firm THI Pharmservices and the contract research organization Target Health, died in December 2023 at the age of 82. A biology major at QC, Mitchel went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Oregon, a doctorate from New York University, and an MBA from Pace University. He worked at American Home Products, Wyeth, and Pfizer Pharmaceuticals before founding Target Health with his wife in 1993. As he reported on LinkedIn, the firm handled all aspects of drug and device regulatory affairs and strategic planning, clinical research, biostatistics, data management, internet-based clinical trials, and medical writing. Upon selling Target Health, Mitchel launched THI Pharmservices to provide strategic advice to pharmaceutical, biotech, and device companies. All told, he spent more than 30 years in the field, helping to win multiple regulatory approvals.



Marc Pilisuk '55

Marc Pilisuk, professor emeritus of the University of California system, passed away in August 2024. He was 90. Born in the Bronx, raised in Brooklyn, educated at Stuyvesant High School and Queens College, Pilisuk lived or studied in four of New York City's five boroughs. Subsequently he earned a PhD in clinical and social psychology at the University of Michigan, where, *Berkeleyside* reports, he helped organize one of the first teach-ins against the Vietnam War. He taught briefly at Purdue University before moving to California, teaching first at UC-Berkeley and then at UC-Davis, chairing what was then its applied behavioral science department. A founder of Psychologists for Social Responsibility, a member of the council of the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, a former president of the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict and Violence, Pilisuk wrote or edited 10 books and some 150 publications.



Mark Podwal '67

Mark Podwal, a doctor who attained international fame for his art, much of it on Jewish themes, died in September 2024. He was 79. Podwal's aptitude manifested itself in childhood, but he never attended art classes. At his parents' behest, he majored in biology and went to medical school at New York University, choosing a specialty—dermatology—that would leave him time to draw. He published his first book, *The Decline and Fall of the American Empire*, a collection of political cartoons, during his internship. That project led to assignments for the *New York Times* and the launch of his parallel career. While practicing medicine, Podwal illustrated books by Elie Wiesel, Maurice Sendak, and himself; created posters for Metropolitan Opera productions; and designed textiles, Torah covers, and even a mosaic floor for synagogues around the world. With its distinctive visual vocabulary, his work was collected by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Victoria and Albert Museum, Vatican Pontificia Università, Israel Museum, Yad Vashem, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Munich Stadtmuseum, Carnegie Museum, and the Jewish Museums in

Prague, Berlin, Vienna, Stockholm, and New York. In 2016, QC's Godwin-Ternbach Museum mounted an exhibition based on the portfolio Podwal donated.



Phyllis L. Pullman '65

Retired math teacher Phyllis L. Pullman passed away in February 2024, a few weeks shy of her 79th birthday. Pullman majored in mathematics at QC and subsequently earned an MA in the subject at Boston University. She taught 9th and 10th grade math at Marie Curie Junior High/Middle School 158Q in Bayside, staying there for her entire career. Used copies of her *How To Solve Word Problems in Arithmetic: Proven Techniques from an Expert*, published in 2002, are available on Amazon. After leaving the classroom, Pullman remained active in the United Federation of Teachers and city and state math teachers' associations; she also led math workshops. Dedicated to giving back, Pullman supported Queens College, Northwell Health, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and other nonprofits.

Nicholas Rescher '49

Nicholas Rescher, Distinguished University Professor of Philosophy at the University of Pittsburgh, passed away in January 2024. He was 95. Rescher was born in Germany, the son of a lawyer and a legal secretary. Unable to maintain their practice once the Nazis came to power and fearful that Nicholas would be forced to join the Hitler Youth, the family immigrated to the United States, where Rescher thrived. He attained citizenship, majored in mathematics and philosophy at QC, and earned a doctorate in philosophy at Princeton University. After serving in the Korean War with the Marines and working for the Rand Corporation, he returned to academia. In a long and productive career spent almost entirely at U Pittsburgh, Rescher wrote more than 100 books and 400 articles, exploring epistemology, ethics, logic, metaphysics, philosophy of science, and political philosophy.

Jeffrey Ringel

Emmy Award-winning broadcast journalist Jeffrey Ringel, a Queens College alumnus, passed away in August 2024. He was 73. After joining CBS Television as a video tape operator, Ringel worked his way up to technical director. He covered NASCAR, Major League Baseball, Super Bowls, college basketball, and the Olympics. He also spent a decade as the technical director for the pre-game show, "The NFL Today."

Peter Rosenthal '62

Political activist and lawyer Peter Rosenthal, mathematics professor emeritus at the University of Toronto, passed away in May 2024. He was 82. A self-described "red diaper baby," Rosenthal was teaching in Toronto in 1969, when he was arrested at a demonstration against the Vietnam War. After he successfully defended himself, he represented other activists as a paralegal and eventually became a lawyer himself. Working tirelessly to fight injustice and give a voice to underprivileged and marginalized members of society, he took cases as far as the Canadian Supreme Court. Among other honors, he received the Law Society Medal from the Law Society of Canada.

Francine Sanchez '06

Francine Sanchez, an undergraduate admissions counselor at the CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies staff at Queens College, passed in November 2024. She was 64. As reported in the *Clarion* in August 2012, Sanchez was a nontraditional student: a single mother employed at QC as an office assistant, she re-enrolled at the college at age 37 to earn the bachelor's degree she needed to get promoted. She told *Clarion* that she loved working in admissions. "In some small way, I help people to reach their dreams."



Peter Silberman '52

Peter Silberman, a top editor at the *Washington Post*, died in February 2024. He was 93. Born in pre-Nazified Berlin, where his surname was spelled with two Ns, Silberman was nearly nine when his family fled to the Jewish ghetto of Shanghai. After World War II, they immigrated to Queens.

Already literate in English—he'd learned it at a Jesuit school in China—he majored in the subject at QC and, foreshadowing his future career, was editor of the college paper. Upon becoming a U.S. citizen, Silberman did a tour in South Korea with the Army. Then he earned a master's degree from the University of Missouri's J school and worked briefly for the *Kansas City Star*. Joining *WaPo* in 1960, he rose on the masthead, retiring as its third-ranked editor. Among his achievements, he launched the paper's weekly Washington Business section.

Jon Sperling

Biology Professor Jon Sperling passed away in February 2024. He was 87. In decades of teaching field courses in natural history, lower and higher plants, and ornithology, Sperling inspired generations of students to become nature lovers. "He was thinking about retirement, but he was not looking forward to it," says David Lahti (Biology). "He never wanted to leave Queens College."

Gopal Sukhu

Gopal Sukhu, professor of Chinese, died in August 2024. After completing his undergraduate degree at Yale, Sukhu received a fellowship from the People's Republic of China to study Chinese history, literature, and archaeology at Wuhan University. Then he completed a doctorate in Chinese literature from Columbia University. A scholar of wide-ranging interests—during the 1970s he was lyricist for the Finnish jazz composer Heikki Sarmanto—Sukhu held teaching positions in Taiwan, Ohio, and New York. At QC, he taught classical Chinese and comparative literature and developed the writing-intensive course on Asian religion. His books include *The Shaman and the Heresiarch: A New Interpretation of the Li Sao*, and *The Songs of Chu*, a complete translation of the second oldest anthology of Chinese poetry, the *Chuci*.

Barbara Morris Wood '41

Barbara Morris Wood, a member of QC's first graduating class, died in September 2024. She was 102. Wood majored in education at her parents' behest but had no interest in teaching. She was holding an office job when, on impulse, she sought employment with Pan Am by visiting its counter at LaGuardia Airport; the airline promptly placed her in human resources. A WWII veteran she hired eventually became her fiancé. Upon marriage, Wood left her position, traveling to Europe and back to New York with her husband and growing family, which settled in Wantagh. As empty nesters, the couple moved to Providence, Rhode Island. In both locations, Wood was an active volunteer with PEO International, a philanthropic organization that promotes women's education.

Amy Worth '03

Artist and teacher Amy Worth died in August 2024. Worth had spent a quarter-century as a textile artist, creating fabric and wallpaper designs for Ralph Lauren, Paloma Picasso, and Calvin Klein, when her life was upended by divorce. Returning to school, she earned a BA in education from QC and a master's from C.W. Post. At Huntington High School, where she taught for a dozen years, she launched a fashion design and illustration class. One year, students were given the assignment of designing inauguration gowns for First Lady Michelle Obama and her daughters. The results so impressed the Obamas that they invited the class to meet the first lady and join her at the Smithsonian for the donation of the gown she wore. With her second husband Tom Payne, who predeceased her, Worth opened a Greenport gallery that exhibited local artists and held annual fundraisers for the North Fork Environmental Council. Her own works, in oil, collage, clay, and other mediums, were shown at the Heckscher Museum of Art, the Southampton Cultural Center, and the Long Island Museum. Nine of her pieces, part of a group show she curated at Fiedler Gallery in Greenport, will be displayed through April 2025.



William Zimmerman '62

William Zimmerman, former editor in chief of *American Banker*, died in December 2023 at the age of 82. Armed with a bachelor's in English from QC, Zimmerman started at *American Banker* in the 1960s as a copy editor. Rising in the ranks, he held the top editorial job from 1980 through 1989. Next stop was *Newsday*, where he was a senior editor for 14 years. At both publications, he is remembered for his efforts to diversify the masthead. He wrote and released more than 20 books through the company he founded, Guarionex Press; he also launched MakeBeliefsComix.com, a platform that allows users to create their own comic strips.

Changes across the Board

The Queens College Foundation announces a new chair and a new member



CHAIM WACHSBERGER '73, a member of the Queens College Foundation (QCF) for nine years, has stepped up from his role as vice chair to chair, succeeding Lee Fensterstock. A retired partner of Chadbourne & Parke—which recently merged with Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP—Wachsberger has been listed in Who's Who Legal, The Best Lawyers in America, and New York Metro Super Lawyers. He was an adjunct at New York University Law School. His involvement with his alma mater has included participation in Professionals on Campus events and establishment of the Samuel and Karola Wachsberger Scholarship Fund. Wachsberger also serves as director and treasurer of the Sylvia Center, the nonprofit he and his wife, Liz Neumark, created in 2007 to address the growing tide of childhood diet-related disease in our communities. The center educates young people and families through culinary programming to promote health and well-being.



ADAM A. BEHLMAN '90 has joined QCF. He is president of Starwood Property Trust, Real Estate Investing and Servicing Segment and president of Starwood Mortgage Capital. Behlman works out of the company's Miami Beach office. He is a member of the Commercial Real Estate Finance Council (CREFC), served a term as its chair in 2020–2021, and is currently the treasurer. He held roles on CREFC's compensation and nomination committees and co-chaired the subcommittee on diversity, equity, and inclusion and historically Black colleges and universities and education. Behlman was featured in a November 2023 QC Business Breakfast and serves as a member of the QCF Audit Committee.



More Than Books

The Queens College Library is a user-centric hub for information, learning, and creativity

QUEENS COLLEGE didn't have a dedicated home for its library until Klapper Library opened in 1955. Thirty-three years later, Klapper was repurposed into a hall and its materials were moved to the newly constructed Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, named for the New York congressman and consumer advocate who died in 1983.

Today, Queens College Library (QCL) contains over 840,000 volumes, one million-plus ebooks, over 59,000 ejournals, and more than 86,000 streaming videos. (The music library, the

largest music collection in the CUNY system, is located on two levels in the Aaron Copland School of Music Building.)

Adapting to the times, QCL offers students, faculty, and staff remote access to its electronic resources. The library has also expanded its Special Collections and Archives and launched a Makerspace. In this section, *Queens* magazine describes these exciting facilities. We also highlight several notable alumnae of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies.



Preserving the Past for the Future

Special Collections and Archives Documents QC History and Makes It Accessible

In our fast-paced, high-tech times, Rosenthal Library’s Special Collections and Archives (SCA) preserves the past for twenty-first century use. Once consigned to a small corner of the library, SCA has become a highly visible gem of archival excellence, public outreach, community partnership, and computer-assisted access, research, and education. Its stunning holdings—more than 5,000 linear feet of college records, special collections, and rare books—have grown through an active program of acquisition, and they have made QC’s contributions to social change and the arts far better known both on and off campus.

Much of that growth is due to the generosity of loyal donors and the dynamic leadership of Annie Tummino MLIS ’10, head of SCA since 2018. With the help of Development and key funders—notably the Pine Tree Foundation of New York, Shirley Klein, and Freda S. and J. Chester Johnson—SCA has raised more than \$650,000 during her tenure. Tummino’s strategic plan for 2023–2028 outlines objectives that range from systematically digitizing the collections to securing more research and storage space.

Annie Tummino presents items from the collections at a welcome lunch for members of the Pine Tree Foundation.



SCA had modest beginnings. Although many institutional documents were transferred to the library in 1987 in honor of the college’s 50th anniversary, there was no dedicated library staff until the 1990s, when Steve Barto was hired as a part-time archivist. He accomplished the transfer of many more records saved by departmental and administrative offices. From 2008 until 2014, Benjamin Alexander—then assistant professor and director of archival studies in the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS)—headed SCA. He founded the Civil Rights Archive and began to include GSLIS students in the work.

SCA finally achieved stable, full-time leadership with the appointment of Tummino. No stranger to the collections—she worked there during her studies—she returned to QC after holding archival positions at SUNY Maritime College, Columbia University, the Museum of the City of New York, and Queens Museum. Today, she oversees a staff of one full-time archivist and two part-time employees.

SCA collects in several areas, all rooted in the college’s history. “The institutional records are really the core of what we do,” Tummino explains. “We preserve the history of QC through all these materials—the yearbooks, newspapers, publications, reports, and so on. We also have collections of rare books, and we have personal papers and papers of organizations. In most cases, those are donated by faculty or alumni. The areas that we collect in relate to the strengths of the QC community.”

Two collecting areas with especially strong records of alumni donations have high public profiles: the Civil Rights and Social Justice Collections, and the Music and the Arts Collections. “Those areas really come down to what QC is known for,” says Tummino. “Dating back to the beginning of the college, our motto was ‘We learn so that we may serve,’ and I think you see that in the history of so many students and alumni being engaged in social movements and having careers in public service or politics.”



Scenes from the library, from left: Szilvia Szmuk-Tanenbaum speaking in the Charles J. Tanenbaum Room; an exhibit marks QC’s 85th anniversary; staff member Britney Walcott and student Ross Matthew examine archival materials.

“For Music and the Arts, also from the earliest days of QC, Paul Klapper was dedicated to a well-rounded liberal arts education. That strength in the liberal arts helped creative people flourish, which is why we have such a strong record of alumni going on to successful careers as writers, artists, and musicians. We also have a strong record of achievement among the faculty in those areas.

“These are areas the college has excelled in for a long time, and therefore we want to showcase those areas through the archival collections that we take.”

Evidence of SCA’s growing stature can be seen on the main floor of Rosenthal in spacious, brightly lit rooms funded by the Pine Tree Foundation of New York. Pine Tree trustee Szilvia Szmuk-Tanenbaum ’68—formerly special collections librarian at St. John’s University—has backed much of SCA’s development. The first new space Pine Tree helped create was the Charles J. Tanenbaum Room, which has large tables that allow it to be used as both a classroom and conference room.

Also on the main floor is the newer Pine Tree Foundation Special Collections Area, complete with its own HVAC system, storage space, and two processing labs. “This room has climate control, it has condensed shelving that allows us to store a lot of materials, and it’s also just very beautiful,” notes Tummino. “Because it’s a glass wall you’re able to walk by and say, ‘What’s that? What’s in there?’ We try to have a few things facing the glass to keep people’s interest.”

In recent years, Tummino has curated or designed inventive exhibits of SCA materials—everything from original manuscripts, correspondence, and news clippings to photographs, drawings, and posters. Mounted in the library, these exhibits have explored such topics as McCarthyism on campus, protest during the 1960s, the Percy E. Sutton SEEK Program, the college’s 85th anniversary, and the trailblazing women’s basketball coach Lucille Kyvallos.

“We don’t want these archives to just sit on a shelf, to just be dusty,” observes Tummino. “We don’t have them for the sake of having them. We have them because they enrich our community. So

we actively create programming that involves the archives; that can really turn people on to this history and also provide opportunities for students to engage with it in a new way. It’s an important part of our work. I think it’s mission is critical to us.”

In fact, work with students has increased under Tummino’s direction. In 2023–2024, SCA gave the most instructional sessions in its history, hosting 23 undergraduate class visits from across the curriculum. It also sees part of its remit as training future archivists, providing lab classes, practicums, part-time positions, and fellowships for graduate library students.

SCA’s public outreach includes working closely with Queens Memory, the community archiving project cosponsored by the Queens Public Library and QC. Volunteers interview individuals connected with QC and the borough. “Our collaboration with Queens Memory has been an incredible way to document the history of the college, especially through oral history,” says Tummino. Such partnerships also help address archival silences and gaps, helping to attain greater representation of diverse communities and events.

Over the next year, Tummino plans to maximize public access to SCA materials online. In partnership with JSTOR, she will upload SCA materials onto its platform—nationally, one of the most important digitized databases of scholarly books, articles, and primary sources. Because public and university libraries subscribe to it, JSTOR is used heavily by faculty, students, and researchers, who will have easy access to SCA’s unique collections.

Alumni can help by donating materials to the college. An admirer of the history captured in the college’s institutional records and special collections, Tummino values keeping that legacy alive for students, faculty, and the public. “We have these collections because of the people who will be able to benefit from the stories they tell.”

– Jacquelyn Southern



Teachable moments at the Makerspace, from left: Mehruj Kamal and Bakhtiyorjon Rasulov had a constructive experience; Nachum Twersky learned about the 3D printer from Nick Normal.

Programmed for Possibilities

The QC Makerspace serves as a multidisciplinary, experiential learning lab

When you first enter Rosenthal Library, you’ll see many of the typical sections seen at any library. But on the lower level, hidden below the rows of bookshelves, computer labs, and study stations that occupy the main area, you’ll find a gem that is becoming one of the library’s most utilized sections: the Queens College Makerspace.

“It’s a hands-on, experiential learning lab,” explained Nick Normal, director of the QC Makerspace. “We are a modern 21st-century shop class.”

The Makerspace was inspired by the growing popularity of the “Maker Movement,” a culture that encourages people to be creative and innovative by experimenting with new technologies and making unique items.

Located in Room 101, the Makerspace is a large area with something of interest for just about everyone. There are 3D printers, robotic drawing machines, traditional woodshop tools and equipment, sewing and embroidery stations, a laser cutter and engraver, soldering irons, and much more. Best of all, while some

makerspaces on other campuses are limited to specific majors or those willing to pay a fee, the QC Makerspace is open to the entire college community. Anyone with a Queens College ID can enter.

“The decision was made to put the Makerspace in the library,” explained Normal, “because the library is accessible to all departments.”

Computer science majors use the Makerspace to work on computing projects powered by code, art and design majors create sculptures, theatre students build props for sets, fashion students bring their clothing designs to life, and even neuroscience students utilize the Makerspace to build rodent enclosures used in research studies. These are just a few examples of the ways the makerspace is being used by QC students, faculty, and staff. The possibilities for the QC Makerspace are limitless.

Many professors are also making use of the space and scheduling classes there. Anthropology, math, design, physical computing, economics, and even philosophy classes have been held in the Makerspace and enhanced students’ learning in unique ways. Some examples include computer science students learning programing, mathematics students designing jewelry based on mathematics concepts, and economics students surveying the space to see how makerspaces can be used in local communities.

QC community members who want to use the Makerspace simply need to attend a 20-minute orientation that introduces them to all the available tools and machines, answers questions, and reviews safety procedures. Once they attend the orientation, they are free to use the Makerspace as much as they please. No appointment is necessary. Simply show up during open hours, which are listed on the Makerspace website— <https://library.qc.cuny.edu/makerspace/>.

Normal has served as the head of the Makerspace since early 2018, when it launched as a residency program to gauge student

interest. It has grown steadily. Since fall 2022, when students returned to campus following the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 500 students have attended the Makerspace orientation, with students from 36 majors using the space at one time or another.

Despite the continual growth of the Makerspace, there are still many challenges. Staff shortages make it difficult to have a regular schedule. Normal is the only full-time staff member, and he fills the gaps with college assistants and federal work-study students. Because of the limited staff, hours of operations often change from week to week. Additionally, certain machines, such as the laser cutter, require Normal’s supervision, which means that equipment can be used only when he is in the office.

Of course, budget is always a concern. Machines sometimes need to be upgraded or repaired, and raw materials are constantly being depleted. Materials for 3D printing, in particular, are in high demand and need to be replenished often. Normal helps to offset these costs by seeking out donations and recycling materials from old equipment.

His future goals include hiring staff to have a more consistent schedule and expanding the floor space to increase the number of available machines. Also on the wish list: a dedicated space for classes so they can have a more private setting to work while walk-in students are allowed to use the main area.

TESTING OUT THE MAKERSPACE

In preparation for this story, I decided to take a crack at using the Makerspace myself. Since 3D printing is the most popular station, I figured that would be the one to try. While I had the option to create a unique item from scratch, I am not exactly the most technical person around (which is why I write for a living). So I chose to use one of the many repositories that offer pre-made 3D printer designs. During my orientation session, Normal provided me with a tutorial on how to do this, which is also available on the Makerspace website. I then went onto Printables.com, a website that offers 3D printing downloads with just about everything you could imagine, and downloaded one of its free designs.

I used the design that Normal suggested in the tutorial—a toothpaste tube squeezer—a basic but useful item to have around the house. It seemed like a good place for a novice like me to start. The process couldn’t have been simpler. After a few short steps using Ultimaker Cura, a 3D printing application, I had a file that was ready to print. I walked over from my office in Kiely Hall to the Makerspace, checked in at the front desk, plugged my USB drive into one of the 12 available 3D printers, and sat back and watched the printer go to work. In just a few minutes, I had a completed project, and the tube squeezer was ready to use. I now look forward to getting the most out of my toothpaste tubes for years to come.

I definitely will visit the Makerspace again, whether it’s to 3D print a more complex object, laser engrave a gift for a family member, or use the wood workshop to fix something from around my house. If you have a QCID, I encourage you to take advantage of this hidden Queens College gem, too.

– John Scarinci

Their Contributions Stack Up

MLS alumnae make *Library Journal’s* Movers and Shakers list

Every year, *The Library Journal*, the nation’s oldest library publication, releases its “Movers and Shakers” list, highlighting individuals and groups who represent a range of innovative, proactive, and supportive work in the library field. For 2024, 49 librarians from around the country were selected across six different categories; several Queens College Master of Library Science alums—Amber Gagliardi ’12, Jennie Pu ’09, and Tara Somersall ’03—were among the honorees. Gagliardi and Somersall were chosen for the “Innovators” category, while Pu was named in the “Ban Battlers” category.

“*The Library Journal* is one of the most widely read journals in our field,” said James Lowry, chair of the Graduate School of Library and Information Studies (GSLIS). “Librarianship is quite a big work force, nationally, and the journal is seen as a flagship publication in North America.”

Each of these Movers and Shakers was nominated by colleagues for profound contributions to the library field.



“Covered” by *Library Journal*: (center) Pu in yellow, Somersall in pink; (bottom right) Gagliardi in back row.

Cover courtesy of *Library Journal*.

Amber Gagliardi: Innovator

Gagliardi turned her passion for gardening into an innovative service at the Middle Country Public Library in Centereach, New York, where she is the adult services librarian. In 2018, she founded a seed library where patrons can now check out over 70 organic varieties of vegetables, herbs, and flower seeds.

“I saw the seed library as a way to enhance our [existing] gardening programs and to give patrons the tools they needed to grow their own organic food,” she explained. “Another part of the seed library was the increased need to help our pollinators. We have a lot of native seeds that are beneficial plants for the environment.”

The seed library started off small but saw a boom during the pandemic—when people were stuck at home and food prices rose—and has continued to gain popularity. In 2023, Gagliardi included programs on cooking and nutrition.

The library receives seed donations from several places and purchases seeds from local farms. Additionally, Gagliardi has built a supportive community; many patrons participate in seed-sorting parties and contribute seeds to the library when their plants mature.

Gagliardi went on to co-found Long Island Seed Libraries, working with other local libraries to expand the program. More than half of the libraries on Long Island have developed seed libraries.

“It seems to be one of those services that make the whole community happy,” she observed. “It’s been a very rewarding experience.”

Gagliardi was pleasantly surprised to hear she was named to the “Movers and Shakers” list and hopes the publicity will help propagate seed libraries.

“I was very grateful. To have something like the seed library be recognized is a great thing because the ultimate goal is for every library to have this service.”

Jennie Pu: Ban Battler

As the director of Hoboken Public Library, Jennie Pu oversees the city’s historic main library, a branch, and a learning center that serves the city’s 60,000 residents. Pu is also the co-chair of the New Jersey Library Association Public Policy Committee and a member of the American Library Association Policy Corps, Unite Against Book Bans cadre. Her substantive initiatives championing intellectual freedom led to her inclusion on the “Movers and Shakers” list.

In June 2023, in celebration of Pride Month, Pu organized a city-wide readathon of excerpts from books that had been banned across the country. This led to a barrage of hateful messages and misinformation from various social media accounts directed toward the library and those participating in the event.

Despite the attacks, the event went off without a hitch. But the incident inspired Pu to do more.

“We needed to make a stronger and more public stance against censorship,” she remarked. “This can happen anywhere, and it happened to us.”

In August 2023 the library board passed a resolution to declare the Hoboken Public Library the first book sanctuary in the State of New Jersey, protecting individuals’ intellectual freedom and the right to read. Two weeks later, Hoboken declared its entire city a book sanctuary. As of fall 2024, the grassroots movement had grown throughout New Jersey to comprise 38 book sanctuary library systems and four municipalities.

“The book sanctuary movement uplifts the values held by our communities,” said Pu. “It’s a local measure that’s positive and proactive. People want to read what they want to read. That resonates with everyone.”

Pu was honored to be a part of the prestigious “Movers and Shakers” list.

“To be named a Mover and Shaker—there is no better compliment than when you get it from your peers, especially peers doing tremendous work in other parts of the country.”

Tara Somersall: Innovator

As branch administrator at the Yonkers Public Library, Somersall has many responsibilities, including operations, team building, customer service training, community outreach, and professional workshops. But it was her work with early readers that landed her on the “Movers and Shakers” list. Somersall helped start the Born to Read program at the Yonkers Library to promote literacy for children before they reach kindergarten.

Several times per week, Somersall and other librarians read at the library to children whose ages range from one month to four years old. She also hires local performers who specialize in reading engagement and music, which makes the event more exciting for young children. Additionally, the library holds reading workshops for parents and provides them with a reading log to track when they read to their children. Children can also take part in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program and receive awards as they reach certain milestones.

“We want to reach children, reach parents or caregivers, and promote an overall love of reading,” explained Somersall, who was thrilled to find out she was selected for the award.

“I was filled with gratitude. I felt like this was a win for all librarians,” she added. “I love reading. I have fond memories of my first school librarian. I guess that was the path I was supposed to take.”

THE QUEENS COLLEGE DIFFERENCE

QC’s strong representation on “Movers and Shakers” speaks to the quality of the college’s GSLIS program. All the alums who were interviewed felt that Queens College helped prepare them for professional success.

“I had a great experience at Queens College,” commented Pu. “I think it has some fantastic faculty and a very diverse student body, which I loved.”

“Their ability to offer so many different options for students is very helpful,” said Gagliardi. “When I did my final project, they really allowed me to explore whatever topic I wanted. While doing that research, I came across Middle Country Library, which led me to my career.”

“I think from my experience, it’s more personable at Queens,” noted Somersall. “The professors really care. It’s very family-like. That’s what separates us from the larger universities.”

“We are the only American Library Association-accredited program in the city that is publicly supported, making us the most affordable, which reduces some of the barriers to studying, and contributes to the diversity of our student body. Queens College is changing the demographics of the library workforce for the better,” concluded Lowry. “Our students come in with a lot of drive and a vision for where they want to go. The program encourages students to think creatively about information work, and to see themselves as part of a profession that they have the ability to shape.”

– John Scarinci

GOLD’n Opportunity

Looking for friends and mentors to help you navigate life after college? Recent QC graduates can strengthen their networks through Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD), an Office of Alumni Relations initiative for members of the classes of 2014–2024.

GOLD events range from quarterly networking events and socials to career workshops. The Office of Alumni Relations hosts events for GOLD alumni in different Queens neighborhoods; venues have included the Oasis Café in Flushing/Bayside and Sek’end Sun in Long Island City. For more information on upcoming GOLD events, please visit: www.qc.cuny.edu/alumni/qcgold.

Through the GOLD Guidance series, experts—many of them QC alumni—share tips for advancing professionally. In presentations over the last year, America Needs You New York Executive Director Princess Francois-Estévez talked about creating a better presence on LinkedIn, career and leadership coach Susan Zeidman ’72, ’76 spoke about developing a personal brand, and Diane Shults ’07 provided suggestions for building

relationships and finding a mentor. Recent alumni who are interested in connecting with a professional in their field of interest can submit a GOLD Guidance Request form to the Office of Alumni Relations. Email qc.GOLD@qc.cuny.edu for details.

The Office of Alumni Relations distributes a monthly e-newsletter that is exclusively for GOLD alumni, to keep them informed on upcoming events, career-related opportunities, campus news, and the achievements of outstanding graduates. To get on the distribution list, alumni should update their information here: bit.ly/qcupdate.



Setting Up Students for Success

Gerry Marotta, an alumna, leads B School’s Career Design Lab

By John Scarinci



Marotta

Through innovative career coaching and co-curriculum master class workshops, the School of Business Career Design Lab is guiding Queens College students to gain the essential skills needed to succeed in today’s workforce. Located in Powdermaker Hall, the Career Design Lab is overseen by Gerry Marotta, a QC alumna who had a long and rewarding career on Wall Street and in IT Consulting. She left corporate America to come back to her alma mater and help the next generation of QC’s business students succeed.

“I came back to Queens College because I’m really passionate about helping students become career ready,” explained Marotta.

For about two years, Marotta served in a part-time role as a career coach with the Career Services Center while still working as a consultant. But because of her vast experience in corporate America, the School of Business approached her to assist business students with career readiness in a full-time position.

“I was speaking to very high-level individuals at the C-suite who always indicated that they’ve had such a gap in talent,” Marotta added. “And yet, when I came to work with the students, I couldn’t figure out why they couldn’t find each other. What I learned is that there is a need to have someone who can, as an industry professional, bridge the gap between industry and academia.”

So, Marotta created the Career Design Lab, which helps students design and navigate meaningful career paths. Through the lab, students can attend career-readiness workshops specifically designed to improve professional development, offer experience through relevant project work, and provide a list of skills needed to increase marketability. Career Design Lab coaches are industry practitioners dedicated to working with students to sharpen their skills.

“If you’re an economics major and you’re interested in data analytics, I will build a very specific self-learning career playlist that gives you the option to learn how to use tools and technologies that will make you marketable,” explained Marotta. “Now on your resume you have relevant project work and more skills that employers are looking for. No other university to my knowledge does what we do.”

The Career Development Masterclass Workshops are four-week, career-specific interactive sessions with industry professionals that supplement students’ regular classes. In the fall, the Career

Lab completed a master class that covered topics such as tackling career anxiety, understanding industries and roles, applying skills in financial services, networking basics, and how to tell your professional story on an interview.

A risk management workshop was led by a seasoned industry risk management executive, Micheal Goering. Marotta partnered with Cara Marshall (Risk Management) to encourage her students to participate. The students were assigned a project that gave them the experience to act in the role of a C-suite executive who had to address the risk consequences for the organization post 9/11. Students who successfully participated in this actual case study received a reference letter from Goering and can add relevant projects and skills from their participation to their resume.

Career Coach Christine Parker, who has over 20 years of consulting experience with Accenture, KPMG, EY, and Gartner, led a workshop on careers in consulting. Students had the opportunity to work on a live consulting case study for presentation to the organization partnering with the Career Design Lab.

Additionally, Marotta along with other members of the Career Design Lab—including Don Chadwick, a recruiter specializing in the fintech industry—works with students on an individual basis to prepare them for the job search process. These career coaches teach students how to better sell themselves and their skillset and prep them for upcoming interviews.

“When we started, it became pretty clear that most students don’t know how to interview. That’s a big problem,” noted Chadwick. “In order for people to interview well, they have to understand their story. That requires story extraction and then rebuilding that story so they can present it in a very cohesive way. And that makes a huge difference to employers.”

Students who have gone through the program are quickly seeing the benefits. Seventy-five percent of students who have come to the Career Design Lab landed high-performing jobs or internships. (Recent alumni can take advantage of this free service within one year after graduation.)

“If you’re a Queens College student and approaching graduation, I highly recommend you enroll in the career master class,” said Mohamed Sylla ’23. “I took it right before graduation, and they helped me land my first job straight out of college. It’s made a huge difference—the one-on-one training, the advice, the mentorship—it’s really a community and a resource everyone should take advantage of.”

The career-readiness masterclass and six other workshops, on topics such as technology for business leaders, risk management, consulting, software sales, and cybersecurity, are on the menu for the spring semester.



Mining Vintage Materials

The Fashion and Textiles Collection gives students hands-on experience with historic apparel

By Jacquelyn Southern

Comprising garments, accessories, and textiles that range from handmade 18th-century clothes to high-end ready-to-wear and haute couture by contemporary designers, Queens College’s Fashion and Textiles Collection is a remarkable teaching tool. First established as a study collection, the fashion archive was reimagined by Emily Ripley—lecturer and director of the fashion program and curator of the collection. She not only turned it into a teaching and exhibition showpiece, but also created a new Fashion and Design BA in the humanities for QC students.

“The collection was created in the 1950s,” explains Ripley. “Phyllis Tortora (Family, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences [FNES]) was the caretaker for a long time. She wrote *Survey of Historic Costume*, one of the seminal costume history texts. The initial

(continued on next page)

donations came from the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Brooklyn Museum. Before the value of historic garments increased, museums used to donate things they didn't want; now they would auction them." One item that stands out to Ripley is a "beautiful *Titanic*-era dress" in very good condition. Local individuals also gave items to QC. Some are purely study pieces, but there also are stunning, valuable haute couture specimens in the collection, such as garments by Oscar de la Renta for Balmain and Yves St. Laurent. Overall, says Ripley, "It's primarily pieces from the early 1800s through the twenty-first century."

The collection was closed for use when Ripley first began working with it. Information on date and provenance for many items was not found. "Plenty of major museums have that issue as well," she notes. Unfazed, she remembers that "when I saw there was this amazing collection, as a fashion historian I thought, wow, this is a dream come true." She has devoted many hours to researching and identifying pieces; cleaning, cataloging, and labeling them; conserving them; and fundraising for essentials like archival housing materials.

In 2014, Ripley was named director of FNES's Fashion and Textiles program and advisor to its students. In that capacity, she began experimenting with uses for the collection—first guiding student exhibitions, then curating shows for alumni events and the annual gala as well as with the Godwin-Ternbach Museum. In Spring 2023, she and her students staged 21 garments from the collection for the Godwin-Ternbach exhibition, *The Gift: Queens College Collects*, a celebration of donations to the college. Ripley also developed courses that incorporate the collection in the curriculum.

"It's very special to be able to have material culture artifacts and to study them," she believes. "Looking at an haute couture garment, you can appreciate and understand exactly what goes into it: the hours of handwork, the gorgeous high-end textiles, and the painstakingly crafted embellishments. We have a Balmain dress designed by Oscar de la Renta that has a net underlay with cutout and hand-stitched, velvet, diamond-shaped appliqué pieces, and in between the diamonds is extensive beading on the net. Below the net is another layer of sheer chiffon. It's a complete work of art." Students learn how garments relate to the body through the underlying construction, and they research objects held in the collection. "For the longest time I studied fashion history in books and loved it; I was a painter so this really appealed to my visual sense," Ripley explains. "But it was a whole new ballgame being able to actually work with the garments. I really want that for my students."

In 2022, under Ripley's direction, the fashion program moved to what is now known as the Drama, Theatre, Dance & Fashion Department. The new program offers a BA in fashion and design with a full range of coursework. "I love theory and I love innovative teaching, but I also want students to have training, with tangible skills for work with historical objects," says Ripley. "For example, when they work on the collection, they're getting experience working in an archive. Another one of my goals is to give them a smorgasbord of knowledge and training for work in



Top image: Emily Ripley (at right) and students examine a garment. Inset: A state-of-the-art sewing lab opened in Rathaus Hall.

the fashion industry. I want my students to understand that there are many different jobs and roles, and I want them to be able to cultivate their own personal interests."

The new courses and degree program are opening the doors of opportunity for fashion and design students. Graduates of the BA program are pursuing graduate programs in fashion and textiles studies and in fashion law; some seek additional, specialized fashion-design degrees in evening wear or certificates in haute couture sewing techniques. Alumni are working in such areas as fashion design and production, museums, archives, publicity, quality control, retail branding, fashion curation, and fashion law.

The Continuing Adventures of *Emma*

Helen Heineman '58 wrote sequels to one of Jane Austen's most popular novels

By Leslie Jay

Jane Austen's *Emma* has inspired multiple film and television adaptations, such as the popular teen comedy *Clueless*, the contemporary Hindi movie *Aisha*, and the web series "Emma Approved." But it appears that no one had written a sequel to the novel until Framingham State University President Emerita Helen Heineman '58 undertook the challenge.

A professor of English before she moved into administration, Heineman began teaching in Framingham's Lifelong Learning program after she retired. "I teach one course in the fall, one in January, and one in the spring, on Zoom," she says. In 2020, she led a course on *Emma*. She also watched—and enjoyed—the BBC's four-part television treatment of the title. "Most of the dialog came from the novel. It was a visual feast for me." Eager to continue the story, she began writing *Emma Redux: Happily Ever After*, the first installment in what became a four-part series exploring the life of the protagonist after (spoiler alert!) she marries Mr. Knightley.

The pandemic gave Heineman plenty of time to immerse herself in *Emma*'s setting in early 19th-century England. "I researched [Regency] period dress, furniture, houses, and landscapes," she reports. "The internet is great." Author of four academic biographies of nineteenth-century individuals, none of them Austen, Heineman admits to eliding topics beyond the scope of her *Emma* project. "I didn't research too much history. My excuse is that Austen didn't care too much about that, so I don't, either."

Much as Austen read her novels to her nieces, Heineman developed *Emma Redux: Happily Ever After* by reading sections aloud to her son, daughter-in-law, and grandson; in keeping with COVID protocols, everyone sat in her garden. (In the course of completing the series, she would share her work with multiple daughters-in-law.) In 2021, she submitted the first manuscript to TouchPoint Press. Two years later, tired of waiting for a commitment from TouchPoint, she published the book herself. The cover art, drawn by one of her grandsons, features a woman in Regency attire seated at a desk.

For an endorsement, Heineman reached out to the historical consultant for the BBC's "Emma": Robert Douglas-Fairhurst, professor of English Literature at the University of London and a fellow of Magdalene College. "I wrote to him and asked for a blurb, saying, 'I could send you a few chapters,'" she recalls. "He said he wouldn't write the blurb unless he read the whole book, so I sent it to him." Douglas-Fairhurst contributed the following comment: "Helen Heineman's sequels to *Emma* tidy up some of the loose ends Austen left behind and then weave a whole new set of adventures for her characters as they make their way through a changing world. Full of lightly-worn learning and crackling with wit and warmth, these



After leading an online course on *Emma*, Helen Heineman (inset) created a tetralogy starring the title character.

stories show us what might have happened after the 'happily ever after' of one of the world's most popular novels."

Amazon readers snapped up *Emma Redux: Happily Ever After*. Nearly three-quarters awarded the book five stars and no one gave it fewer than three.

Delighted though she was to see her book in print, Heineman contacted editors at TouchPoint, writing, "I would rather have published with you." Unexpectedly, TouchPoint picked up *Emma Redux*, releasing it in a second edition. Continuing the series, Touchpoint readied *Emma Redux 2: Full Circle*, which focuses on Emma's daughters and their matrimonial prospects, for publication in 2023, and planned to release *Emma Redux 3: Family Secrets* later in 2024. The *Emma Redux* saga concludes with the fourth title, *Matchmaking Magic*. "I wanted Emma to be in all of the books, and she's getting to be an old lady," observes Heineman. She plans to add a family tree to each book to help readers keep track of an expanded cast of characters that exceeds Austen's and includes the real-life figures of Anthony Trollope and Letitia Austin, a younger sister of Charles Dickens.

Regrettably, TouchPoint Press has closed its doors, but the *Emma Redux* series is still available on Amazon and on the author's website <https://helenheineman.me>.

Emulating Dickens, who wrote from morning until early afternoon every day without interruption, "I try to provide myself with time to write whether or not anything comes," says Heineman. To date, she has also published poetry and a mystery novel *cum* literary tour, *In England Now That Murder's There*, its title riffing on the opening line of Robert Browning's "Home Thoughts, from Abroad."

She is quick to credit Queens College for her success as a scholar and a novelist. "It was a great academic experience and the mentoring was extraordinary. It changed my life."

Investing in Education

Frank Fan Yu '94 thanks Queens College for making his career possible



As founding chief executive officer and chief investment officer of Ally Bridge Group—an investment firm, headquartered in New York, dedicated to global life science innovations—Frank Fan Yu '94 played a key role in taking a Shanghai-based global pharmaceutical services company private from the New York Stock Exchange in 2015 for \$3.3 billion and grew it into a \$100 billion value at its peak. “I have led some great transactions in life science,” he observes. But in terms of personal impact, his most meaningful investment was the one he made in getting a Queens College undergraduate degree. “It’s the only higher education I have had.”

In gratitude, Yu, recipient of the President’s Leadership Award at QC’s 2024 gala (see page TK), has just created the Ally Bridge Endowed Dean of the Queens College School of Business. The endowment will support a salary for the dean’s position, administrative operations, and research activities. “My alma mater is dear to my heart, and I want to be involved in helping the business school,” he says.

Surprisingly, attending Queens College was Yu’s Plan B. Born in Shanghai, he moved with his family to Hong Kong, where in his teens he came across a copy of *U.S. News and World Report’s Best Colleges*. With its descriptions of schools and their programs, the guide inspired him to pursue a degree in the United States. “That book was like a bible for me,” he recalls. “The University of Chicago as my first choice turned me down. Queens College was my backup.”

Soon he found himself in New York, subletting a bedroom from a high school friend living in Brooklyn. Later on, Yu relocated to

Queens to reduce his commute. Like generations of QC students, he juggled school and work, with little time for anything else. “I did seven odd jobs,” he says. “I worked at restaurants in Flushing, Bayside, and Manhattan. For two semesters, I worked full-time as a truck driver. I had no social life.”

Academically, he flourished. QC’s flexible scheduling enabled Yu to complete his BA in economics and applied mathematics in three and a half years. On top of his employment, an accelerated graduation sounds exhausting, but he thinks of his college period fondly. “I met so many nationalities, I had to look them up. I worked hard to make a living and still enjoyed school. I had great courses with great professors.” An introductory art history course ignited his passion for art history, which paved the way for his journey as an art collector years later. “That class was eye-opening,” he says. “To this day, I remember some of the things Professor [James] Saslow taught.”

Yu thought about becoming an academic himself until he watched the movie *Wall Street* and set his sights on a financial career. “That was very difficult with only an undergraduate degree,” he says. He entered the field as a research associate and credit analyst at Moody’s in New York, getting a ringside seat to the 1994 Latin American debt crisis. “The whole region was brought down by excessive indebtedness,” he reports. “That taught me never to incur excessive debt. But prudent leverage is important and beneficial.”

Then he joined Credit Suisse as a risk officer. He got the job in London and won a promotion that entailed a welcome change of scenery. “Credit Suisse asked me if I wanted to go to Hong Kong,” he says, smiling at the memory. “I was offered a big raise, and I got to go home. I was over the moon.”

His next position, with Goldman Sachs in Hong Kong, proved pivotal. During his nine years with Goldman, Yu transitioned from risk management into investment banking. “I wanted different challenges,” he comments. After Goldman Sachs, he joined a company created by Goldman alums—Och-Ziff Capital Management (renamed Sculptor Capital Management)—as head of China Investments. Handling principal investing amid the global financial crisis of 2007-8 “was a transformative experience,” he says, whetting his appetite to set up his own firm. “It’s very different when you pull the trigger.”

In 2009, Yu launched Themes Investment Partners with his partner, a private equity fund, in Hong Kong. Four years later, Ally Bridge Group made its debut also in Hong Kong. Under his leadership, Ally Bridge Group has to date led or co-led more than \$7 billion of life science/health care financings globally. Today, Ally Bridge is very U.S.-centric, with New York being its investment base.

“Few people believe that I went into the heart of Wall Street with only one undergraduate degree from outside the Ivy League,” he concludes. “I did not have to go to any other college. The quality of the education I got at Queens College was a great value. Now I am able to give back.”

—Leslie Jay



Helping Students Realize Their Full Potential

Joan and Allan Loren Career Opportunity Fund provides internship stipends

From a young age, Joan Friedman Loren '60 and Allan Z. Loren '60 were not ones to miss an opportunity. Both first-generation college students, they commuted to Queens College—Joan from Queens and Allan from Long Island—to pursue a higher education. As students who struggled economically, Joan and Allan supported themselves by working during those challenging years. In fact, Allan almost did not attend college, but he was eligible to enroll at QC at no cost, making his undergraduate education possible. They met as students in a Spanish class and in 1960, just one week after graduation, Joan and Allan embraced another special opportunity—marriage.

Joan, an education major, worked as an elementary school teacher and in fundraising and special events. Allan earned a mathematics degree from Queens College, which led to an extraordinary career in technology and business. He served as CIO of INA Corporation (and Cigna following a merger), CIO of Apple Computer, president of Apple USA, CIO of American Express, and chairman and CEO of Dun and Bradstreet. Joan and Allan seized every opportunity that came his way, often relocating their family to pursue new professional roles.

In gratitude to Queens College for how profoundly their education impacted their lives, the couple generously established the *Joan and Allan Loren Scholarship* in 2017, before Allan’s passing. Typically awarded to four recipients annually, the scholarship provides substantial financial support to students in need.

In keeping with their deep appreciation for the life-changing effect the college had on their lives, Joan and her family did not miss another chance to help QC students realize their full potential. In 2023, the Loren family established the aptly named *Joan and Allan Loren Career Opportunity Fund* to provide internship stipends to undergraduate or graduate students of all majors who are seeking partial or full financial support for internship opportunities. Stipends were awarded to more than 25 students in the first year alone.

Noah Loren, Joan and Allan’s son, shared the motivation behind the gift. “Our family decided to establish the internship fund because we and our parents believe that classroom learning is only part of the formula for success. Our entire family has benefitted from the rich real-world experiences that you can receive only when you work in your chosen field. Whether you love it or hate it, an internship experience is formative and critical to developing skills to be successful after graduation. We were thrilled that this fund would allow students who otherwise couldn’t afford an internship to take advantage of this experience. The student letters from the first cohort of recipients were a tremendous validation and we enjoyed reading every one of them.”

The Loren family will continue their support by growing the previously established endowment funds for the *Joan and Allan Loren Scholarship* and the *Joan and Allan Loren Career Opportunity Fund* through Joan’s estate plans. This generous commitment will further increase scholarship and internship opportunities for hard-working students in perpetuity.

Kenny Barba '25, whose internship was supported during the Spring '24 semester, expressed his gratitude to the Loren family. “I want to sincerely thank you for providing such kind and generous help with the stipend. This holds tremendous value with me on personal, professional and educational levels as it helps me build my confidence knowing that you believed in what I can accomplish. Your generosity guides me in learning that in being a professional, the best thing a person could do is give back and help those who strive to excel and succeed.”

Like Joan and Allan, their student recipients will seize these special opportunities to advance their lives and careers—while being inspired to pay it forward—well into the future.

—Sara Kahan



QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

1955: Stephen Rosen composed a musical comedy, *Albert Einstein Sings The Great American Songbook*, which was presented at the East Hampton Library on July 27. **1956: Suzanne Benton**, a renowned multimedia and metal mask artist, performed at the Leepa Rattner Museum in Tarpon Springs, Florida last March. She also had an exhibit titled “Unmasked” on display at the Mattatuck Museum in Connecticut a week later. **1957: Barbara Thomas** was honored with the Kathryn Starbuck Lifetime Achievement Award at a luncheon hosted by the Saratoga Springs Democratic Committee. Thomas is a longtime community activist who served as president or co-president of the League of Women Voters of Saratoga County for 20 consecutive terms. **1958: Helen Heineman**, president emerita of Framingham State University, has published two volumes of *Emma Redux* (TouchPoint Press), her continuation of Jane Austen’s *Emma*. Additionally, a poem Heineman wrote about one of her QC professors—“Letter to a Teacher—for Dr. Dwight Durling”—appeared in the *Poetry Porch* 2024 . . . **Velma Weiner Heller** was appointed chair of the Westport, Connecticut Parks Advisory Committee. **1961: Lawrence P. Levitt** co-authored *Evitchka: A True Story of Survival, Hope and Love* with Stephanie Smartschan. The book tells the story of his late wife and QC alumna, Eva Ritter Levitt (BA ’62), who was one of only six Jewish children from the town of Humenné, Czechoslovakia who survived the Holocaust. **1964: Susan Dyer Gordon** published her latest book, *Counting Heads: The Collected Works of Susan J. Gordon*. It contains many stories, essays, and articles first printed in nationally known magazines, newspapers, and online websites. **1966: Elaine Eisler David**, along with three generations of her family, published a book of mini crossword puzzles titled *Little Grids, Big Kids*. The book has 24 puzzles suitable for children 8–10 years old. It is available for purchase on Amazon. **1966: Elliott Oring** published his seventh book on the analysis of humor titled, *The Consolations of Humor and Other Folklore Essays*. **1972: Beth Gerson**, a retired

public-school educator, together with her husband M. David Isaak, are curators for the Fort Lee Holocaust Museum, located within the Congregation Beth Israel of Palisades. They recently expanded the exhibit, which includes old newspaper stories, propaganda posters, maps, charts, and explanatory texts in chronological order; the exhibit opened to public school students at the end of last year . . . **Diane Patrick**, senior counsel at the law firm Ropes & Gray and a former First Lady of Massachusetts, has been elected chair of the Epiphany School’s board of trustees. Located in Dorchester, MA, the school serves students from economically disadvantaged families in Boston. **1973: Earl E. Fitz (MA)** a professor of Portuguese, Spanish, and Comparative Literature at Vanderbilt University announced his two most-recent publications: *The Literatures of Spanish America and Brazil: From Their Origins Through the Nineteenth Century* and *Clarice Lispector: From Brazil to The World*. **1974: Marlene Wiedenbaum** had an artist reception at the Mark Gruber Gallery from September 14–November 9, 2024 in New Paltz, New York. She is an award-winning artist who specializes in pastel paintings. **1975: Ronni Davidowitz** received recognition at *Citywealth’s* 2024 Powerwomen Awards at the Deutsche Bank Centre in Manhattan during Women’s History Month. The Powerwomen Awards highlight women in the wealth sector and honor individuals and companies who promote the potential of women in wealth. Davidowitz is head of Katten’s New York Private Wealth practice, where she supports clients in the legal, business, tax and personal issues that come with estate planning and wealth management . . . **Linda Kavanagh** published her first book, *Lana Taylor Private Eye*, a mystery novel about a 30-year-old NYC police officer who strikes off on her own to run a private investigation business. It is her first novel . . . **Ruth Kraft** was honored at the 30th Power Women of Long Island event hosted by Schneps Media. Kraft chairs the Labor and Employment Practice Group at Falcon Rappaport & Berkman LLP, advising businesses on a wide range

of employment and labor law issues. **1976: Kenneth Waldman** announced his latest contemporary romance novel entitled *Weep For Love*. The story follows David, a charismatic man who is ready to do whatever it takes for love. **1979: Eli Bakofsky** joined the senior management team as Chief Financial Officer at the software company Binary Tree where he will oversee the company’s finance, acquisition, legal, risk management, human resources, and administrative functions. **1982: Pete Calandra** (MA ’95), a professor in the Aaron Copland School of Music, composed several musical scores for three biographical snippets about Kamala Harris that were used during the Democratic National Convention. Calandra had just a few days to prepare the scores in advance of the DNC . . . **Bruce Kessler** published a memoir titled *My Patch of Blue*, which details his time as a New York City Police officer. The book is available on Amazon . . . **Brian Posner** was named to the Board of Directors at Firefly Neuroscience, Inc., a pioneering artificial intelligence (“AI”) company developing innovative neuroscientific solutions to improve outcomes for patients with mental illnesses and neurological disorders. **1983: Charley Edelman** published his debut novel *Crashing Waves of Passions*—an engaging account of the life and times of Vincent van Gogh, Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, and Suzanne Valadon. The book blends fiction and history into a read that celebrates the essence of art. **1984: Carol Fastuca** (MFA) had her artwork featured in an exhibit titled “On the Farm,” at the Peninsula Gallery in Lewes, Delaware in April 2024. The exhibit included farm-inspired landscapes, animal portraits and machinery . . . **Meg Medina** was named the 2023–2024 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. As National Ambassador, Medina will encourage families and young people to build relationships with their local libraries and will create materials to introduce and connect readers with authors across a range of styles and genres . . . **Brian Prayer** was named the President and Business Development Lead at Atacama Resources

International, Inc., a mineral exploration and mining claim development company based in Ontario’s famed Kirland Lake Region. **1985: Lawrence C. Drucker** was named a partner at the law firm Spencer Fane LLP in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice group. He specializes in intellectual property litigation, focusing on helping clients navigate complex patent disputes across a diverse array of technical disciplines . . . **Neal Goldstein** wrote a book titled *Who’s in the Waiting Room: Create the Life You Want through the Power of Authentic Relationships*. The book is available on Amazon . . . **Nelson E. Timkin** founded Timkin Dispute Resolution, LLC, a high-quality mediation and arbitration service for commercial and business disputes, both domestic and international. Timkin was previously a law secretary for judges in the New York State Court System for 30 years. **1986: Mindy Sayres** has been named the district office manager at GeoEnvironmental, Inc., a provider of geotechnical, environmental, ecological, water, and construction management services. Sayres is responsible for technical and administrative operations as well as business development for the 60-person operation. She is also heavily involved in environmental projects. **1987: Beth Layton** was recognized by Kyndryl, an IT services company, as its 2024 Class of Fellows and Distinguished Engineers, in recognition of her contributions to helping solve industry-wide challenges and enabling customer innovation and success. Layton serves as vice president of business strategy consulting. **1991: Robert P. Leifer** started a new position as the senior director treasury at First Citizens Bank. **1992: Daniel Lew**, chief public defender in Northeastern Minnesota, received the NAACP Criminal Law Award at the Freedom Fund Dinner in February 2024 . . . **Deborah Winiarski**, (MS ’95) a mixed-media artist, had her work featured in the exhibit “Summer 2024 NBAS Oil, Sculpture, and Mixed Media Exhibition Color and Texture: Anthologies of Artistry,” at the Alfa Art Gallery in New Brunswick, New Jersey. **1993: Alan C. Schwartz** was

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 2023–2024 academic year.

- Steven Errera ’69**, Former President, Energy Futures, Inc.
- Michael Feuer ’73**, Professor and Dean, Graduate School of Education and Human Development, George Washington University
- John Giraldo ’91**, Executive Vice President and Global Controller, NBCUniversal
- Steven Jay Griffel ’73**, Author
- Jennifer A. Marrast Host**, Brigadier General, U.S. Army Reserve
- Merle Hoffman ’73**, Founder, President, and Chief Executive Officer, and **Mary Lou Greenberg**, Outreach Coordinator, Choices Women’s Medical Center

Professionals campus

Bridging Science and Creativity: A Discussion with Rico Viray ’79, Chairman and Global CEO of The Bloc

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024 • 12:15–1:30 PM
Remsen Hall, Room 100

In 2000, **RICO VIRAY** co-founded The Bloc, a leading global health-communications agency, with his partner Susan. The Bloc represents Viray’s entrepreneurial spirit and vision for building a place where the most talented individuals from the arts and sciences come together to collaborate and create innovative work. Viray’s strengths come from the diversity of his experience and the extent of his curiosity. Trained as a physiologist, he has extensive experience in basic science and clinical research. He worked as associate medical director for Pharmacia and led the AmFAR community-based clinical research group during the HIV/AIDS crisis in the 1990s. He transitioned to healthcare marketing and communications in the early 2000s and has contributed to the launches of several life-changing therapies. Viray majored in biology at Queens College and received his master’s degree in physiology in 1981 from Loyola University Chicago.



At top, Michael Feuer addresses students. Inset: Joan Nix moderates a discussion with Stephanie Miller.

Vilma Joseph ’89, Physician and Associate Professor of Anesthesiology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Stephanie Miller ’91, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Board Director, Hazeltree

Rico Viray ’79, Chairman and Global Chief Executive Officer, The Bloc

honored as a 2023 Long Island Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame Music Educator of Note, which recognizes outstanding achievement in Long Island music education.

Schwartz serves as music department chairman from Great Neck South Middle School. **1994:**

Al Behmoiras was named the head of political sales at Premion, an industry-leading advertising platform for regional and local advertisers.

1995: Jason Snyder was named partner at the law firm Brewer, Attorneys & Counselors in their New York City office. **1996:**

Parissa Eliassian was named Woman of the Month for July 2024 by the Professional Organization of Women of Excellence Recognized (POWER). Eliassian is a listing agent with Douglas Elliman Group. **1997:**

Michelle Torres Rossetti joined Ridgewood Savings Bank as first vice president and director of human resources. **1998: Joe Anastasi** was featured in an article in *Newsday* in July 2024. Anastasi is a musician who performs with the Kiss cover band Face First, despite recently suffering from sudden hearing loss . . .

Michelle Jagroop was tabbed as the chief people officer of Paris Baguette, a bakery café franchise with more than 4,000 units across the globe. She brings 25 years of human resources experience to the role.

2000: Candice Brodie (MSEd) was named assistant superintendent for human resources at Cold Spring Harbor School District. She previously served as principal of Lindenhurst High School . . .

Kari-Lee Grant (MA '06) has been appointed supervisor of the Nassau BOCES Equity, Inclusivity and Belongings (EIB) cooperative service. In this role, Grant researches and designs professional development for school district staff and community constituents, among other responsibilities . . . **Jennifer**

Grimaldi Toohey was honored at the 30th Power Women of Long Island event, hosted by Schneps Media. She is an Aaron Copland School of Music faculty member, co-founder of the Long Island Studio

of Music, and a professional opera singer who has performed across the US and internationally to high acclaim. **2001: Erika Calderon** was honored at the 30th Power Women of Long Island event, hosted by Schneps Media. She is the managing partner at Brinster & Bergman LLP.

2002: Brenden Cusack (MSEd) was recently promoted to assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction of the Huntington School District. He had been Principal of Huntington High School since 2015

2003: Brett Gelbord was named among the Top 200 Global Psychedelic Lawyers by *Cannabis Law Report*. A lawyer for the firm Dykema, Gelbord works in the emerging psychedelics industry, advising clients on the risks and legality of doing business in the space and advocating for legislative and policy changes.

2005: Michael Kohan was sworn in as president of the Network of Bar Leaders, a coalition of over 50 Bar associations in the New York Metropolitan area that provides a forum for the exchange of information and ideas and serves as a vehicle for joint action on issues of mutual concern and pending legislation. **2006: Eric DiVito** (MA), a guitarist and composer, performs as a soloist as well as in duos, trios, quartets, and big bands at various clubs, festivals, and other venues throughout New York . . . **Brendan Finn** (MA) was sworn in as president of Long Beach City Council in January 2024. He bested the incumbent in the voting to earn his first term as City Council President . . . **James Guarini**

was named music department chairperson for Cold Spring Harbor School District . . . **Zev Klagsbrun** (MA '07), a mathematician, co-founded a rank 29 elliptic curve, the most complex ever discovered. The work advances a long-running effort to gauge the limits of structure in these powerful objects. **2007: Tien Jameson** (MSEd) had her mixed-media art, featuring sculptures and paintings that espouse her African American and Native American heritage, featured in a one-person art show titled "Legacy," at the Cane

Roots Art Gallery in the Virgin Islands last February. **2008:**

Mohamed Amin was named to the 2024 Queens Power List, which features notable people from Queens who are engaged in the political process. Amin has been fighting for better representation and more funding from the city after Richmond Hill's Little Guyana was split among multiple election districts for years . . . **Richard Barrios** was appointed to the position of city attorney for the City of Port St. Lucie. In this position, Barrios provides legal advice and counsel to the mayor and members of the City Council, the City Manager, the City Clerk, and all appointed boards and committees, department directors, and other city employees . . . **Damaris Herron-Watkins** was promoted to chief of finance and operations at A Better Chance, a not-for-profit whose mission is to identify, recruit and develop leaders among underrepresented young people of color throughout the United States . . . **Kimberly Musial** (AC) has been named director of fine and performing arts for the Huntington School District. **2009: Zahava Farkas** joined Gastroenterology Associates of New Jersey (GANJ) as a specialist on their team. Farkas has more than a decade of experience in the medical field and a notable portfolio of public research . . . **Victoria Hogan** was named assistant principal at Commack High School . . . **Helena Marvin** (MLS) was the recipient of the UMSL Hero Award from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, which is given to staff or faculty members who transform the lives of UMSL students and the community. Marvin is the institutional repository, open educational resources and reference librarian at UMSL . . . **Juanita Walters** was hired as the director of Pupil Services at Valley Stream District 24. Walters brings a wealth of experience in special education, social-emotional learning, behavior intervention, and English as a New Language (ENL). **2010: Sean Brady** was appointed Managing Director,

Wealth and Fiduciary Advisor at Evercore Wealth Management. Evercore provides customized strategic wealth planning, investment management, and trust and custody services . . . **Raymond Pun (MLS)** was elected as president of the American Library Association, the world's largest and oldest library association, which provides resources to inspire library and information professionals to transform their communities through essential programs and services . . . **Angela Spitzer Stanley** was appointed by Georgia Governor Brian P. Kemp to the **Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council**. She serves as the Assistant State Librarian for Innovation and Collaboration, where she implemented numerous projects and partnerships to preserve and share Georgia's cultural heritage during her tenure . . . **Anthony Vanacore** is drummer for the Chinese band OU (pronounced OH), one of the country's premier progressive bands with music that features a mixture of jazz, folk, and metal. They recently released their second album titled *II: Frailty* under InsideOut music. **2011: Lauren Berg** (MSEd) was hired as the world languages chairperson at East Rockaway Junior/Senior High School. She brings more than 16 years of teaching experience to her new role. **2012: Jennifer Daddio** (MLS) was named director of the Chappaqua Library . . . **Aileen Judd** was appointed as librarian for technical services at Herkimer College. **2013: Daniel Mulhall** (MSEd) was appointed as the new assistant principal at Harbor Hill elementary school in Greenvale, NY . . . **Sarah Gomez Schlessinger** (MAT '15) has been appointed assistant principal at Oakwood Primary in South Huntington. **2014: Stephan Fillare** (MA) was appointed as the Instructor of Music, Conductor of the Furman Symphony Orchestra, and Director of Orchestral Activities at Furman University. **2015: Jeremiah Mordi** signed with the Saskatchewan Rattlers of the Canadian Elite Basketball League

(CEBL). He joined the team mid-season and made his debut on July 5, 2024. Mordi has played six seasons of professional basketball in leagues in Canada, France, Africa, and the NBA's G League. **2017: Eric Sung** was featured in an article in *Men's Health* as part of "AAPI Fitness," a series of articles highlighting the challenges and triumphs of fitness trainers, athletes, and gym owners from the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Sung is a personal trainer who specializes in strength and conditioning for endurance athletes in New York City . . . **Tyree White** was featured in a segment on News 12 Brooklyn in February. The former QC basketball star spoke on how his basketball career prepared him for a career with the NYPD. **2018: Linda Collazo**, a professional opera singer, performed the lead role in *The Juniper Tree* with Opera Orlando last May. Last April, Collazo also was also a singer for a performance at Carnegie Hall. **2021: Jack Adam** is an up-and-coming comedian, who was selected to perform at the Second Annual HA HA HAMptons Comedy Tour held at the Bay Street Theater . . . **Ashley "Chandanie" Somwaru** (MFA) was recently named a recipient of the Ruth Lilly & Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellowship. She is the author of *Urgent \\\Where The Mind Goes \\\Scattered* (Ghostbird Press, 2021) and is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. Each fellow receives a monetary prize, an invitation to publish in *Poetry* magazine, and an invitation to the Dodge Poetry Festival in Newark, NJ to participate in a public reading. **2022: Catherine Neville** (MA) composed the musical piece *Danses*, which was performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in March. The composition received positive reviews from New York Concert Review and BlogCritics.org. A second work appeared at Carnegie's Zankel Hall in September: *Movements of Sun and Shadow*, for cello and piano.

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.

Class of 1941

Barbara Morris Wood

Class of 1942

Julia Casa Rashti

Class of 1943

Sigrid Bentzen Braaten
Mary Whalen Cummings

Class of 1944

Helen Brockman Dwyer
Ethel Menke Heil
Gertrude Ullmann Rothman
Florence Zipes Segal

Class of 1945

Julia Frey Moulton

Class of 1946

Charlotte Meyrowitz Shapiro
Jacqueline Low Staggs

Class of 1947

Isabelle Huber Mulder

Class of 1948

Sylvia Fleis Fava
Franklin Massoth
Judith Sklar Nusbaum
Betty Savitz Schwartz
Margaret Minnis Wisniewski

Class of 1949

Kevin Bradley
Frank Brako
Marion Liehr Carlson
Adele Meyrowitz Faber
Joan Kushner
Dovia Guinness Lerrick
Joan Lockwood Levinson
Nicholas Rescher

Class of 1950

Alan Blackman
Naomi Pina Griffiths
Marian Abrahams Licameli
Doris Pfeffer
Robert Schulz



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QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

Class of 1951

Suzanne Gordon Bach
Eleanor Sergeant Hetherington
Marilyn Magenheimer Horne
George Kramer
Carolyn McNally Streitwieser
Herbert Weiss
Edward Wixted

Class of 1952

Margaret Unger Dahlberg
Marie Corsello Goubeaud
Irwin Portnoy
Peter Silberman
Sonia Reitman Simon
Joan Preston Vienneau

Class of 1953

Hanacho Atako
Elizabeth Papazian Bazarian
Mary Whipple Downs
Roberta Wild Hafker
Jack Herschlag
William Neis
Sue Schulz Salmons

Class of 1954

Elaine Treistman Daniels
Ann Hyland Digilio
Kenneth Gamerman
George Hall
Irma Genzen Hofmockel
Elese Weinstein Itzler
Elinor Cohen Miller
Victor Stronski
Caroline Wambach Sutton

Class of 1955

Peter DeMaria
Frederick Hartman
Marcel Helou
Theodore Holmes
John Joseph Lee
Norman Lichtenstein
William Nuerge
Marc Pilisuk
Sondra Sussman

Class of 1956

Theresa Zamparelli Barbieri
William Csaszar
Dolores Solosky Furey
Richard Grieb
Veronica Brown Juhas
Gerard King
Elaine Kosciwicz Lulka
George Reda
Norman Rosen
Morton Sitver
John Tanzilli

Class of 1957

Claire Deutsch Friedlander
Theodore Rosov
Richard Whalen

Class of 1958

Alan Aschner
Judith Priestley Bookis
Joel Epstein
Alan Grossman
Evelyn Baker Lang
Beverly Rubin Manning
Joan Reinhardt-Reiss
Donald Robins
Ellen Jandovitz Ross
A. David Russakoff
Lola Legg Stark
Martin Sticht
Frederick Wolfe

Class of 1959

Jay Cudrin
Gloria Golden
Martha Thoman Hellriegel
Joseph Horodniak
Judith Jacobs Karis
Marion Kreeb Korsmeier
Jerome Nadelhaft
Jerrold Ross
Jon Sperling

Class of 1960

Beverly Ackerman Allen
Aline Euler
Hugh Gilmartin
Thomas Kunkel
Thor Larsen
Judith Smith Lowry
Rosalind Berkowitz Nissim
Claire Rainville Sansone
Richard Schaefer
John Schnell
Kenneth Sommerman

Class of 1961

Patricia Byrnes Alger
Bernard Bachrach
Judith Torche Brandstadter
William Castro
Cornelius Foley
Richard Gambino
Lillian Kagan
Allen Kaye
Anthony Morgano
Natasha Zarembo Price
Marshall Weintraub

Class of 1962

John Campbell
Joseph Campbell
Constance Garrow Diamond
Judith Schwam Goldberg
Michael Gorelick
Alan Hevesi
Edith Kaplan Kur
Frances Wolbrom Levine
Eva Ritter Levitt
Loretta Litoff Liberman
Leonard Lipner
Peter Rosenthal
Margaret Brickman Sirot
Charles Turner
Arthur Wrobel
William Zimmerman

Class of 1963

Marjorie Alter Brynes-Lampke
Alan Bushell
Frank DeStefano
David Eizenman
Yvonne Lantelme Forrest
Jules Mitchel
Gerald Pesch
Jerome Reisman
Ruth Hinze Sawyer
Francisco Staffanell

Class of 1964

Ellen Birnbach Becker
Stephen Blau
Barbara Wallman Fass
Robert Gabriele
Judith Fellner Goldberg
Joanne Grady
Katherine Kolbert
Marcy Awerman Marlow
Lorraine Martin
Ann Loveless McCord
Lynne Kaufman Mulling
Helen Ogden
Barbara Jones Omolade
Roberta Blumenfeld Rosenbaum
Mitchell Rubin
Hector Ruiz
Arthur Strier

Class of 1965

Jeff Bennett
Jean Dickerson
Phyllis L. Pullman
Roger Ratner
Gerald Swimmer
Mary Tikalsky

Class of 1966

John Behrens
Carol Galin
Ruth Marx Greenberg
John Hillgardner

Ruth Landauer
Richard Peltier
Aaron Sher
Stephen Skye
William Tammelleo
Jonathan Weiss

Class of 1967

Carl Hodges
Henry Korsiak
Batya Lewton
Hyman Ozer
Mark Podwal
Michael Rabkin
Billy Stewart
Michael Strober
Elizabeth Tuchfeld Weiss

Class of 1968

Susan Berg Auerbach
Richard Benda
Lillian Gaura Colasuonno
Joan Ushkow Spector
Barbara Miroff Taub

Class of 1969

Anne Mary Donnellan
Sandra Douglas
David Fillmore
Marsha Osofsky Freeman
Judith Bombardi Girellini
Carl Kane
Miriam Acre Kivisalu
Philip Loughran
Lucille Heiz Michaels
Mary Tweedy

Class of 1970

Michael Cawley
Dorothea Christie
Lorraine Fowler
Edward Plotkin
Janet Simon Sosinsky
Kathleen Connell Turner
Carol McGahren Van Schaick

Class of 1971

Carolyn Horsham Clark
Eileen Deutsch
Marjorie Cardwell Jones
Ralph Newman

Class of 1972

Frank Abbate
Joan Ayotte
Carol Amira Bates
Frances Ehrenpreis
Carol Shaw Knudsen-Williams
Jeffrey Ringel
Eugene Romano
Marcella Timbs/Ackert Specce



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Class of 1973

Joseph Bochner
Linda Pittala Langseder
Michael Marin
Maura Greenberg Marks
Robert Nicholson
Susan Jonkoski Reino
Maureen Skelly
Mary Simmons Worthington

Class of 1974

Arthur Edelstein
Scott Fless
Rosalie Greco
Eileen Markson

Class of 1975

Allamay Richardson Anderson
Maurice Cherubini
Ira Rush
Argyrios Spanos
Roberta Haskel Zaktzer

Class of 1976

Lilyan Govendo Braver
Irmgard Carras
Peter Castelli
Sheila Intner
Gerald Migdol
Beth Schlansky

Class of 1977

Margaret Hass Calvano
Gerald Greenberg
Edward Griffith
Gloria Petitto
Frances Richard

Class of 1978

Alice Alers Aviles
Lorraine Bambauer
Rita Bobelis
Roland Cassis
Cheryl Ann Fellers
Liza Reznik Goldberg
Beverly Rubin
Rona Schneider
Rose Kaplan Swedlow

Class of 1979

Geneva Terry
Sharifa Yusuff

Class of 1980

Joseph P. Giacopelli
Geraldine Glass Major

Class of 1981

Helen Highnote Lucas
Bruce Goldberg
Thomas Harkins

Class of 1982

Althea Davenport Kelley
Richard Morgana

Class of 1983

Anne Schmutz
Steven Schneiderman

Class of 1984

Phyllis Vankleeck Harbach
Frances Skinner

Class of 1985

Norma Dotterer Gvardijan

Class of 1986

Kathy Goldman
Gisele Kerdavid

Class of 1989

Lee Levy
Jane Malinow Rosenson

Class of 1992

Margaret Pamplin

Class of 1994

Diane Kübler
Geraldine Frare Haverty
Catherine Mitchell Krein
Lois Wisnewski

Class of 1996

Thomas Neff
Kathleen Gormley Pultorak
Adey Tsegaye

Class of 1997

Sheila Cornelius
Melanie Uy Pinola

Class of 1999

Margaret Finn Zeuschner

Class of 2000

Racquel Townsend

Class of 2003

Deborah Battle Taylor
Amy Worth

Class of 2004

Lisa DeLange

Class of 2006

Melina D'amico-Lamberson
Francine Sanchez

Class of 2008

Linda Blanche

Class of 2012

Agnes Eshak

Class of 2013

Ronald Rafferty

Class of 2018

Geohaira Sosa

Faculty/Staff

Thelma Davidson Adair
Tesfaye Asfaw
Arthur "Ben" Chitty
Nicholas Coch
Jack Eichenbaum
James Fisher
David Kleinbard
Gopal Sukhu

Unknown Graduation Years

Jimmy Branch
John Caffrey
James Galvin
Sally Hagan
Joseph Joe Patrych
Grace Palermo Robbins
Trina Perlson Robbins
Mark Van Schenkhof

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SAVE THE DATE

Queens College's 34th Gala

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

Reflecting on our 33rd Gala, we are filled with gratitude for the wonderful evening we shared. We had the pleasure of honoring two remarkable alumni: Lee Fensterstock '68, and Frank Fan Yu '94. The night was beautifully guided by our emcee, Gail A. Marquis '80, and featured thrilling performances by our talented students, faculty, and alumni. We added a special touch to the Gala—a showcase of work by our incredibly gifted art students.

We look forward to celebrating with you this year! We are excited to invite you to Queens College's 34th Gala, taking place on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 583 Park Avenue. It's sure to be a memorable event.



Frank Fan Yu



Gail A. Marquis



Lee Fensterstock