

QUEENS

THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE

World-Class Graduate Programs

Read how Brett Turner and Nili Ness pursued the careers of their dreams





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From the Interim President



I am deeply honored to serve as interim president at Queens College, at the request of Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. Since I arrived at our beautiful 80-acre campus on June 1, I have been acquainting myself with our talented community. It has been a joy talking with and listening to students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of QC who believe as strongly as I do in our educational mission and in the college motto, “*Discimus Ut Serviamus—We Learn So That We May Serve.*”

Queens College has a proud history and an even brighter future, judging by the school's rankings in annual guides. For the past 28 years, the Princeton Review has ranked Queens College a “Best College.” Just recently, *Money* magazine listed Queens again among the best colleges in the United States. According to Stanford University economists, QC is in the top one percent of all colleges nationwide with the highest rate of economic and social mobility of its graduates. Nine out of ten undergraduates who obtain a degree in four years graduate debt-free. This past August, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* classified the college as one of the top ten schools nationwide for the diversity of its managers. Our students hail from over 150 countries and continue to benefit enormously from the expertise of a world-class faculty.

We're not content to rest on our laurels. In this issue of *Queens*, you'll read about expanded graduate offerings that enable alumni to advance in their careers (page 13); you might even think about going back to school yourself! You'll also learn how the revived Big Buddies program pairs QC students with at-risk children, creating relationships that benefit everyone involved (page 26). Of course, since this is an alumni magazine, we've included many features about people who attribute their achievements to the outstanding education they received at Queens College (pages 18 and 30).

We hope that this magazine will inspire you to keep in touch with your friends and classmates. Alumni events are held all over the country; for the complete calendar, visit <https://qccommunity.qc.cuny.edu/pages/alumni-pages/alumni-upcoming-events>. We also hope that you'll write us at qmag@qc.cuny.edu and share your latest news or your favorite college memory.

We much appreciate your support for today's students and look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Interim President William A. Tramontano

Cover: Through their graduate work at Queens College, Brett Turner and Nili Ness found a world of opportunity. Photo: Audrey Tiernan.

QUEENS
THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS COLLEGE
FALL 2019, Vol. XXII, No. 1



Carol Hochman



Matthew Higgins



Rere Grist



Dina Axelrad Perry

Distinguished Alumni Inspire the Class of 2019

Distinguished QC alumni from previous years came back to campus in late May to give the class of 2019 an all-star sendoff.

Carol Hochman '71 delivered the keynote at the Baccalaureate Convocation in Colden Auditorium on the evening of Tuesday, May 28, when she received the Queens College President's Medal. Hochman is president of RHH Capital & Consulting, Inc., which works with new and existing businesses in the retail, apparel, and licensing fields. In her previous position, she was president and CEO of Danskin. Before that, she was the group president for non-apparel at Liz Claiborne.

A QC Foundation Board member and one of its former chairs, Hochman serves on the advisory boards of Feed, a socially conscious business that combats world hunger, and the Westport Corporation, a leather goods manufacturer. Hochman is also managing director of Golden Seeds, an angel investment group. In 2015, she received QC's Lifetime Achievement Award.

On Thursday, May 30, Matthew Higgins '98 took his turn as the main speaker at QC's 95th commencement. Higgins is chief

executive officer and cofounder of the private investment firm RSE Ventures, vice chairman of the Miami Dolphins, and a guest shark on the ABC-TV reality show "Shark Tank"; he appeared most recently in the episode that aired on Sunday, March 17. On campus, he is admired for establishing the Linda Higgins Empowerment Scholarship in honor of his late mother, a QC alumna. Two of this year's proud graduates—aspiring CPA Rosanna Batista, and would-be teacher Tameka Edwards-Hepburn—earned their degrees with the support of this scholarship.

Higgins received an honorary doctorate in humane letters, as did two other notable QC alumni: Rere Grist '54, a pioneering African American soprano in an era when few women of color were accepted as concert and operatic stars, and Dina Axelrad Perry, who has enjoyed a long and successful career in the financial sector, working for Chase Investors Management Corporation, Neuberger Berman, and for the past 26 years, Capital Group.

In a Worthy Exchange, Alum Funds Annual CERRU Event

When bankruptcy attorney Susheel Kirpalani '91—a partner at Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan LLP—read about QC's Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding (CERRU) in a previous issue of this magazine, he became intrigued. As a child of immigrants, he understood the value of a center that promotes tolerance, cultural diversity, and the use of nonviolent communication tools. He set up an endowed fund to support CERRU's signature annual event, known since 2017 as the Susheel Kirpalani Innovation Exchange. (The next exchange, on reimagining leadership, will take place on November 13 from 5:30 to 8:30 pm in the Student Union Ballroom.)

"The Innovation Exchange is a place for people to go to talk about and hear about issues that really matter to everyday life," says Kirpalani. "I think you should have some discourse over issues that matter in a setting that's very safe."

A native New Yorker, Kirpalani spent his early childhood in Corona, then moved to Long Island with his family. When it came time to choose a college, he went to SUNY Albany; after one semester, he returned home and enrolled at QC, majoring in drama. "I can't minimize the importance of it being affordable and accessible," recalls Kirpalani. "I wanted to work and wanted to pay my way through college."

After taking several classes in economics, he made it his major. A pre-law course piqued his interest in the legal field. "I grew up in a patriarchal immigrant society where you don't say much and don't express your views," notes Kirpalani. "In a law class, it's the exact opposite. You want to express your opinions



and you have to defend them or change them." Upon graduating, Kirpalani passed on a job offer from the business sector and entered Fordham University School of Law. With his background in economics, bankruptcy law turned out to be a great fit.

Kirpalani is widely respected for his expertise. *Law360* named him a "2018 Bankruptcy MVP" for his representation of the largest group of bondholders stemming from Puerto Rico's financial crisis. He testified before Congress regarding the fairness of the restructuring title of the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act, which was ultimately enacted into law. He has also been invited to speak on panels across the country on topics related to financial crisis litigation, distressed investing, and bankruptcy.

IN MEMORIAM



Margaret Hayes Adame '61

President and CEO of Fashion Group International (FGI)—a nonprofit organization for fashion industry professionals—and a recipient of the Queens College Leadership Award, Margaret Hayes passed away on February 28 at 79. Hayes was a cosmetics buyer at Bloomingdales when Saks Fifth Avenue recruited her. She spent 17 years as Saks' senior vice president and general merchandise manager, overseeing seven divisions. In 1994, she moved to FGI, which produces runway trend presentations, seminars, business symposiums, and special events for the fashion industry, including apparel, accessories, beauty, and interior and home design. Hayes served on the boards of International Flavors and Fragrances, LIM College Fashion Education Foundation, Montefiore Medical Center, Movado Group, and Theodore Rapp Foundation. The American Cancer Society, American Jewish Committee, City of Hope, Children's Hospital at Montefiore, and Fragrance Foundation are among the organizations that gave her humanitarian and business leadership awards. In 2000, she received the prestigious Medaille de la Ville de Paris.



Allan Loren '60

A math major at Queens College, Allan Loren did graduate work at American University before embarking on a business career that encompassed important positions at Cigna, Apple, American Express, and finally Dun & Bradstreet, where he was chief executive officer from 2005 to 2010. A Queens College Foundation Board member for more than 10 years, he established the Joan and Allan Loren Scholarship with his wife, whom he met on campus. Since his death on April 12 at age 81, family members and friends have been honoring his memory by making contributions to the scholarship.



Warren Phillips '47

Former publisher of the *Wall Street Journal* and chief executive officer of its parent, Dow Jones & Company, Warren Phillips died on May 10 at the age of 92. All of 16 when he matriculated at QC, Phillips interrupted his studies to serve in World War II; on his return, he worked as a campus correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune* and the *New York Times*. Rejected by Columbia's Journalism School, he settled for a proofreading job at the *Wall Street Journal*,

which made him an overseas correspondent after he quit the copy desk and began filing features as a freelance based in Germany with *Stars and Stripes*, a military newspaper. Phillips' *Journal* and Dow Jones career took him from London to Chicago and back to New York City as he rose in the ranks, reaching the company's top jobs in 1975. Upon retiring in 1991, he founded Bridge Works Publishing Company with his wife, releasing fiction titles. He donated his papers to the Queens College Archives and Special Collections.



Marie Ponsot

By assigning herself ten minutes of writing a day, former QC Professor Marie Ponsot, who passed away on July 5 at age 98, became one of the nation's most admired poets. Her first volume was *True Minds*, featuring love poems to her husband—the title referenced Shakespeare's Sonnet 116, "Let me not to the marriage of true minds/Admit impediments." The couple's divorce left Ponsot, who taught at Queens College from 1966 to 1991, the custodial parent of seven children. Working in spare moments, she stuffed a desk drawer with the poems about divorce, family life, and nature that would comprise her second collection, also referencing Sonnet 116: *Admit Impediment*. Ponsot would release five more collections. Her long and distinguished career was marked by numerous honors, including the Shaughnessy Medal of the Modern Language Association, the Delmore Schwartz Memorial Prize, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, a lifetime achievement award.



David Starr '42

An iconic figure within the Advance Publications media company and in Springfield, Massachusetts, where he was the long-term publisher of *The Republican*, QC alumnus David Starr died on July 1 at 96. Starr freelanced for the *Long Island Press*—an Advance property—while studying at QC, worked as campus correspondent for both the *Daily News* and the *New York Times*, and even served as the college's director of public relations. The *Press* snapped him up at his graduation, aware that he was about to enter the army. Demobbed, Starr returned to the *Press*; apart from brief stints at two other publications, he stayed at the paper until it folded in 1977. Then, because he told Advance that he wanted to run his own paper, he was given responsibility for

The Republican. As publisher, Starr played a prominent role in the revitalization of Springfield and supported local institutions, such as the symphony, the public radio station, and native son Theodor Geisel, aka Dr. Seuss, who is honored with a memorial garden that Starr helped to establish. In 2017, Massachusetts presented him with a Governor's Award in the Humanities.



Charles Wang '67

Immigrant entrepreneur, philanthropist, and hockey booster Charles Wang died on October 21, 2018, at 74. Wang was 8 years old when his family left Shanghai for New York City. A self-taught programmer, he co-founded the software company Computer Associates International—now known as CA Technologies—with QC classmate Russell Artzt. Business success enabled Wang to launch Smile Train, a charity that works with medical teams in nearly 90 countries to offer free pediatric cleft palate surgery. In 2001, he bought into the New York Islanders, holding a majority stake for 15 years and becoming so smitten with hockey that he worked to promote the sport in China. His other projects include a cookbook, *Wok Like a Man*.



Doris L. Wethers '48

Today, all 50 states require hospitals to test newborns for sickle-cell anemia—a potentially lethal hereditary condition seen not only in African Americans but also in people of Caribbean, Central American, East Indian, Mediterranean, and Southeast Asian descent. Those regulations, as well as improved treatments for individuals diagnosed with the disease, are legacies of Doris Louise Wethers, a pioneering African American female doctor who died on January 28 at the age of 91. A chemistry major at QC, Wethers graduated from the Yale School of Medicine and interned at the newly desegregated District of Columbia General Hospital. Because District of Columbia General would not accept black residents, she completed her training at Bellevue Hospital in New York. Wethers went on to launch sickle cell programs at a series of institutions including St. Luke's, the precursor of today's Mount Sinai St. Luke's. An authority in her field, she chaired the 1987 National Institutes of Health panel that recommended universal sickle-cell screening for newborns, and lived long enough to see this practice adopted across the country.



Remembering John Kinder '41

The QC community was saddened by news that John Kinder, a member of the college's first graduating class, passed away on October 17, 2018. A youthful 16 when he matriculated, Kinder earned a degree in mathematics. Upon graduation, he served in World War II, putting his education to good use in the artillery division by calculating cannon trajectories. Thereafter, he spent two decades in the reserves while building a career in life insurance. In the company of his daughter and grandson, he made a memorable appearance on campus on October 11, 2017—exactly 80 years after the college opened its doors—when he received the 80th Anniversary Alumnus Award. "My dad believed in the college's mission and goals, and he was so very proud to be a part of the QC legacy," says Kinder's daughter, Lois Watkins.

A DREAM Comes True for Undocumented Students



A college education has become more attainable for countless immigrants throughout New York City and State. Thanks to the Jose Peralta New York State DREAM Act, which went into effect in July 2019, undocumented students may apply for the Excelsior Scholarship, the Tuition Assistance Program, and other types of state-administered financial aid. To be eligible, students must have completed high school diplomas or GEDs at New

York institutions; for details, go to <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/dream/>. (Bear in mind that state-funded programs have different deadlines.)

The DREAM Act was named posthumously for its original sponsor, a Queens College alumnus who was the first Dominican-American elected to the New York State Senate. "The late Senator Peralta was an early outspoken champion of this cause, and he would be proud to know that this day has come," said CUNY Chancellor Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. "As a graduate of Queens College, he understood the many ways that extending opportunity to Dreamers and other undocumented New Yorkers would benefit the university and its students alike."

Non-science Graduates May Seek a Certificate of Pre-Health

In spring 2020, QC will begin offering a post-baccalaureate pre-health certificate, the only program of its kind within CUNY.

This certificate is designed for college graduates who want to enter health professions—such as dentistry, medicine, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, physician assistant, podiatry, and veterinary medicine—but lack the requisite undergraduate background. The two-year program combines academics with customized advising and tutoring services, and helps participants attain experience in research, clinical volunteering, and community

service. Those who complete the program will be prepared to take the appropriate standardized tests and apply to health professional schools.

The program will be open to individuals who earned a BA or BS with an overall GPA of at least 3.0; applicants must have completed no more than 25 credits of required pre-health course work, with a grade of B or better in those classes. To learn more about QC's post-baccalaureate pre-health certificate, send an email to Mika.Vesanen@qc.cuny.edu.

Professor Documents Threatened Languages

Languages all over the world are at risk of disappearing; Daniel Kaufman (Linguistics) is trying to conserve them here in New York City. Words aren't all that Kaufman is documenting. "Each elder speaker within a small language community will have unique knowledge of that language and culture that can easily be lost if it's not passed down or recorded," says Kaufman, who was recently cited in the *Christian Science Monitor*.

Not surprisingly, Queens is the epicenter of global linguistic diversity in New York City, where as many as 800 distinct languages are spoken. Kaufman conducts part of his research on campus at his language documentation lab, one of only a handful in the United States. Recording languages is the easy part. "Real language documentation involves a lot of transcription, translation, and grammatical analysis," he explains.

Kaufman involves students in his work and plans to create a public repository for the material collected through his lab. In addition, he is committed to understanding what happens in New York to the members of small language communities. "What aids them or prevents them from using their languages here?" he wonders. "Do they face discrimination for using their languages? Do various dialects of a language blend with each other in the city, as we might expect in a melting pot?"



To date, Kaufman has helped produce documentation for dozens of endangered and indigenous languages. He is an expert in Austronesian languages, which are found in Island Southeast Asia, Madagascar and the Pacific.



DINA AXELRAD PERRY POOL

Transformative Gift Makes a Big Splash

Administration members, student athletes, and of course the donor—who was the captain of the women’s swim team during her time at QC—made a big splash with the dedication of the Dina Axelrad Perry Swimming Pool in FitzGerald Gymnasium on Wednesday, April 10, 2019. The upgraded pool was part of an extended overhaul that included new starting blocks and benches. Shower and locker rooms were renovated, meeting requirements for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance as well as recent changes in law with respect to gender identification.

“The renovations have and will dramatically impact all of our programs,” observes Interim Athletics Director Rob Twible. “The

improvements have been way overdue and will positively impact our athletic, recreational, educational, and community programs. The upgrades not only enhance the aesthetics but also expand the functionality of all the spaces.”

Dina Perry has enjoyed considerable success in the financial services industry since receiving bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Economics (’67 and ’71) at QC. Her previous philanthropic efforts on behalf of the college include endowing the Dina Axelrad Perry Professorship in Economics (currently held by Francesc Ortega). She also established the Dina Perry Student Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to economics or business majors who demonstrate financial need, or fellowships to graduate students in economics or business.

Two other projects made names on campus for esteemed members of the QC community. On November 5, 2018, Room 277 in the Music Building was dedicated in honor of Andrew Saderman ’78. After graduating from QC, Saderman received a master’s degree in

collaborative piano from the New England Conservatory. Subsequently trained as a piano technician, he held this title at ACSM from 1989 until his death in 2017. A scholarship was established in his memory thanks to his mother, Lydia Saderman, and sister Nadia Hall, a QC alumna.

On May 1, 2019, Science Building B301 was dedicated as the Dr. Robert Bittman Laboratory. Bittman ’62 majored in chemistry at QC. Upon completing his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, he returned to his undergraduate alma mater, where he would teach for 48 years. Named a CUNY Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry in 1988, he was internationally known and respected for synthesizing lipid-based molecules to study lipid biochemistry in cancer cells. The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology recognized his achievements by giving him the Avanti Award in 2004. Bittman passed away in 2014; his wife Marlene and family honor his memory by supporting a scholarship for research fellows in his name.

Researchers are studying **pediatric heart disease**.

The Biology Department is researching **cancer** and **neurodegenerative diseases**.

Family, Nutrition & Exercise Sciences is working to reduce the risk of **heart disease** in people living with **HIV**.

Researchers are studying the **brain** and **kinematic movement** in an effort to help children with **cerebral palsy**.

The School of Earth and Environmental Science is investigating **climate change** and **solar energy**.

The Mathematics Department is exploring the field of **machine learning**.

The Physics Department is exploring the use of **high-temperature superconducting devices**.

The Neuropsychology Laboratory of **Aging** and **Dementia** is studying the effects of aging on brain behavior.

The department is studying behavior analysis of people with **autism** and **other developmental disabilities**.

The Psychology Department is studying **post-traumatic stress disorder** and **depression** in **adolescents**.

The Computer Science Department is using mathematical algorithms and statistical models for **self-driving cars!**

The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is studying **metastatic breast cancer**.

Advancing Scientific Research

For more than 80 years, Queens College has provided countless graduates with the tools needed to become award-winning researchers, doctors, scholars, technicians, and mathematicians across all the scientific disciplines.

The tradition continues today with cutting-edge research that is advancing scientific discovery. To ensure that current and future students benefit from these opportunities, we respectfully ask that you “Join the Experiment” and lend your support to the areas below:

- **Graduate Fellowships**

Fellowship opportunities attract master’s-level students and provide access to promising students of limited means.

- **Doctoral Student Research**

Funds provide our research faculty with the resources needed to support doctoral students.

- **Faculty Research**

Initial support for early-stage research enables faculty to launch projects and raise additional funds from other sources.

- **Engaging Students in Scientific Conferences and Competitions**

Participation in conferences and competitions allows students to be engaged in current research in the scientific community.

- **Maintaining Equipment and Upgrading Laboratories**

State-of-the-art equipment expands our research capabilities and provides students with up-to-date facilities.

JOIN
THE EXPERIMENT

To learn more about the Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (DMNS) at Queens College, please visit our website: www.qc.cuny.edu/DMNS

To make a gift, please visit our website at qccommunity.qc.cuny.edu/thesciencefund or call 718-997-3920.

High-achieving Alums

The summer brought news that Mets broadcaster Howie Rose was elected to the New York State Baseball Hall of Fame; his career started at campus radio station WQMC. Andrea Davis and Christopher Rosa have been given new titles in CUNY. Davis, formerly the university's associate vice chancellor for corporate, foundation, and major gift development, was named interim vice chancellor for university advancement. Rosa, previously the interim vice chancellor for student affairs, was appointed assistant vice chancellor for student inclusion.



Howie Rose



Andrea Davis



Christopher Rosa

For information about graduate programs, visit www.qc.cuny.edu/GraduateExperience

Degrees of Success

Queens College's graduate programs boost students' professional prospects

By Bob Suter

The numbers don't lie: Graduate degrees are a good investment. And with its combination of low tuition and high-quality programs, Queens College is a particularly good place to obtain a graduate degree.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, while people with master's degrees and bachelor's degrees age 25 and older have virtually the same unemployment rates—2.1 percent and 2.2 percent, respectively—master's degree recipients have median weekly earnings of \$1,434 compared with bachelor's degree recipients at \$1,198. That's about \$12,272 more per year.

As computed by Dean of Institutional Effectiveness Cheryl Littman using data from the New York State Department of Labor and the CUNY Central Office, Queens College master's degree recipients from 2011–2012 were earning \$10,000 to \$15,000 more than bachelor's degree recipients three years after graduation. "That difference narrowed somewhat by five years out from graduation," she notes, "but it is still between \$8,000 and \$10,000."

With a wide range of graduate course options, low tuition, and convenient scheduling, Queens College is committed to making an advanced degree as easily attainable as possible—not only for those seeking to enter a field, but also for those with established careers seeking further advancement.

As Glenn Burger, QC's interim dean of Graduate Studies, points out: "Education courses are leaders in this regard, particularly post-master's certificate programs that are designed for teachers who've already got their initial and master's certification and who then are needing to take an additional 30 to 60 credits for professional advancement for salary and things. So, these are often people who are coming after work."



Students with established careers are often trying to fit graduate courses into busy work schedules. Thus, QC, according to Burger, is intent on finding ways to make graduate study more accessible by expanding course offerings available online or in hybrid form. He notes QC's MSED in Consumer and Family Science Education will be completely available online this fall, where it can be pursued by anyone anywhere with an Internet connection. So, too, will a new post-master's certificate in Ethical and Equitable Practice in Secondary Education and three new advanced certificates in Special Education. These join existing online programs such as the Continuing Bilingual Certificate offered through Early Childhood Education. Risk Management will also convert its certificate program



Getting a Reel Experience at Satchmo's Home

Visting Manhattan in early August, Charlie Watts, celebrated worldwide as the percussionist of the Rolling Stones, detoured to Queens to stop by the Louis Armstrong House Museum.



In addition, he points to the uniqueness of some QC offerings, such as the MFA in Social Practice and the MFA in Literary Translation, one of only two such programs in the country. “Data analytics,” he notes, “is attracting students nationally, as well as internationally and regionally.”

For anyone considering graduate study, Burger emphasizes that the whole admission process is online. “We do our best to make that as seamless as possible,” he says. “Also, we recently made the application process for the Accelerated MA an online one that will make that much simpler and easier.”

And if someone needs further inducement to come to Queens, Burger mentions that this year for the first time Graduate Studies had over \$400,000 in scholarship funding from the Queens College Foundation. The same amount will be available next year and very likely in subsequent years. Previously, he explains, no graduate funding was available except if individual departments had an alumni fund or the foundation had money from an individual donor; the foundation provided scholarships only for undergraduates.

“It’s recruitment money which next year will be divided between part-time scholarships of \$5500 and full-time scholarships of \$8500. It pays for six credits for a part-time student or nine credits for a full-time student,” he explains. “This will be a great boon to attracting out-of-state students and foreign students.”

The reason for this windfall? Burger says, “It was our outgoing president [now CUNY Chancellor, Félix V. Matos Rodríguez] who made a really strong case for graduate education.”

Brett Turner

MA in Data Analytics and Applied Social Research

www.qc.cuny.edu/GA-BrettTurner



The director of Audience and Business Analytics for the New York Hall of Science, Brett Turner was born and raised in Queens and attended public schools: “I had role models growing up who really instilled the importance of education in me at a very young age.”

He credits Queens College for giving him the skills he needed to earn his degrees and advance in his career. While pursuing his undergraduate degree in Psychology, he held a job at the New York Hall of Science where his work to fulfill the museum’s mission to bring STEM education to NYC school children increasingly involved analyzing data. Consequently, he remained at QC to obtain an MA in Data Analytics while continuing to work at the Hall of Science. “I was able to work during the day, be a student at night, study on the weekend and still manage to complete my master’s degree in the two years that I expected to complete it in,” he says.

Turner appreciates the fact that faculty in the Sociology Department regularly email listings of employment opportunities to current and former students. The department also regularly offers seminars for faculty and former students on the latest techniques in the field to help keep their skill sets up to date.

“I would suggest to aspiring data analysts that they come to Queens College because they’re going to learn valuable skills that they don’t even recognize that they need,” he says. “The program is

certainly going to teach the skills necessary for data analysis. . . but you’re also going to learn how to be a good and responsible researcher, which allows you to more than just analyze data but conceptualize exactly what data you need to answer the questions that are important to society.”

Nili Ness

MLS in Library and Information Studies

www.qc.cuny.edu/GA-NiliNess



A correctional services librarian for Queens Library, Nili Ness credits Queens College for connecting her with the job that she loves: helping inmates at Riker’s Island experience the world beyond the prison walls via reading books.

Born in Israel, Ness spent a couple of childhood years in India before moving to Los Angeles, where she lived from ages 6 to 17. Raised by a single mother, she says, “My mom came to this country with two suitcases and four kids. . . Didn’t really have a lot of money growing up; kind of a chaotic home life,” she says, explaining that her mother was pursuing her PhD. “But we always had tons and tons of books around. We literally had books in every room of the house. Books allowed me to see outside the four walls where I was growing up.”

After a stint working as a substitute librarian in a high school, Ness recalls thinking, “This is really nice. I feel like I’m doing something good in the world.”

Affordability was the deciding factor in choosing QC over Pratt to pursue her MLS in Library and Information Studies. During her studies, a QC alumna (and the woman who would later become her supervisor) came to QC to speak about teen services and mentioned a part-time position Queens Library was hiring for. “It connected me to the work that I genuinely love doing,” she says.

“It’s just so rewarding to see the excitement that people [Rikers prisoners] have when we come in,” says Ness, who enjoys the challenge of accommodating the special needs of individual patrons, such as someone with sight issues requiring large-type reading materials. She also does research to answer individual reference questions and will on occasion “softcover” books available in hardcover to accommodate Rikers’s prohibition on hardcover books. Additionally, she promotes a video visitation program which allows people to go to local library branches and have one-hour free video chats with their loved ones who are incarcerated at Riker’s.

Ness, who had also considered pursuing a career in journalism, says, “I really appreciate that the program at Queens emphasizes the core tenets of librarianship including intellectual freedom, access to information and privacy issues.”

“I did always want to do something where I thought that I was giving back in some way. . . I came to appreciate this idea of working with underserved populations, and I’m thankful to Queens College for that.”

Reflecting on her graduate studies experience, she observes, “I had teachers who were thoughtful, interested, and interesting and really imbued me with a sense of what librarianship is all about. The relationships you build in the program will also benefit you later in your career.”

Robert Gunther

MFA in Creative Writing and Literary Translation

www.qc.cuny.edu/GA-RobertGunther



An associate producer for WNYC Public Radio’s news program “The Takeaway,” Robert Gunther credits QC for giving him the skills he uses in his work daily.

The oldest of six children, Gunther grew up in Valley Stream. While he was in high school, his mother was obtaining her undergraduate degree from QC. He was impressed by the way QC accommodated her work and family responsibilities, “which I think speaks to the realities of students in New York,” he says. “They have a lot going on; they have a lot to do; and Queens College makes it happen.”

Gunther got his own undergraduate degree at Fordham. “Private school was fine,” he says, “but when I was looking for a graduate program, I had a better sense of what I wanted to do and the kind of value that I wanted for my education. Queens College was a natural choice.”

“The [MFA in Creative Writing and Literary Translation] program offered small classes where everyone is really passionate about the work they’re doing. I thought it would be the way to take my writing to the next step,” he says. Being taught by professors who were well-published appealed to him when he compared QC’s programs with other MFA programs in the New York City area.

“It offers something unique in that it’s one of the only MFA programs in the country that offers literary translation as something you can center on. I focus on fiction, but I also had a lot of translation experience from my time in the Peace Corps.” Through the program he was able to translate a novel by an Ecuadoran writer, and through a relationship the program had with a publishing house, the novel was published for an American audience. “Without Queens College I would have never had that opportunity.”

Also through QC, Gunther was able to secure an internship at the “Brian Lehrer Show” at New York Public Radio, WNYC, which in turn led to his current position with “The Takeaway.” “I know it’s a cliché to say it, but this really is my dream job,” he says. “Not a day goes by that I don’t use the skills that I learned at Queens College at WNYC. The experience that I got at Queens College’s MFA program is invaluable.”

Albert Scanlon

MS in Family and Consumer Sciences Education

www.qc.cuny.edu/GA-AlbertScanlon



Albert Scanlon teaches Family and Consumer Sciences for grades 6, 7, and 8 at the Orville Todd Middle School in Poughkeepsie. He credits QC for giving him the ability “to be a professional anywhere.”

Born and raised in Queens, he’s the first in his family to earn a master’s degree. “I come from a traditional Irish, Italian-American family,” he says, noting he and his three brothers were

raised by a stay-at-home mom while his father worked two jobs “in order to send the kids to good schools.”

Scanlon, who graduated from St. Francis Preparatory School, says as early as middle school he knew, “I wanted to be a teacher. It’s a rewarding and challenging career; you’re always on your feet and I just love it. . . Being able to have an impact on children, it’s just a rewarding field to go into.”

“In middle school I was always a very shy kid. So, I wanted to become the role model for that very shy kid who didn’t always fit in, who struggled in school,” he says, noting he’s proud and amazed that he can stand in front of dozens of middle school students every day.

“I wish I had had Family and Consumer Sciences in my school growing up. I feel like I would have been able to make better-informed decisions,” he says. “We teach practical skills that kids are going to use in their career and in college and in their life: nutrition, consumerism, business, fashion, sewing, career planning, financial management and budgeting.”

“Teaching in content areas that I’m so passionate about makes my job the best,” he says. He also believes his teaching in a field traditionally dominated by women helps break gender stereotypes in the eyes of students.

Scanlon particularly appreciated the online and hybrid programs at Queens, which allowed him to use time he would have spent commuting on his studies. “Also, being able to interact from the comfort of my own home, on my own time, I feel I was able to give more meaningful responses and communicate more appropriately with my colleagues and the professor. The Blackboard interface and the tools used on the hybrid and online courses are very helpful and really create a community of learning.”

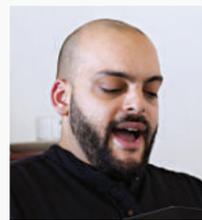
Scanlon is also appreciative of the network of colleagues and former professors he can draw upon: “I take things that I learn and use them in my class the very next day, so it is continual professional development for me.”

“I think the graduate Family and Consumer Sciences Education at Queens College is the best in the state,” he remarks. “The number of professionals enrolled in the program, the professors teaching the program, how the program stays relevant with the ever-changing education field and the new tools and technologies used in education—I think it’s the best.”

Jeff Kasper

MFA in Studio Art and Social Practice

www.qc.cuny.edu/GA-JeffKasper



A working artist and former professor of Socially Engaged Art at Queens College and director of Public Engagement for a small nonprofit called More Art, Jeff Kasper recently accepted a position as a tenure-track assistant professor at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst Department of Art teaching interdisciplinary art and design. He credits the QC MFA program not only for what it teaches but also for giving artists like himself the contacts and connections with entities that artists will most likely work with beyond graduation.

Originally from Queens, Kasper grew up on Long Island and was educated entirely in private schools, including receiving private art lessons from age seven. “I was lucky enough to have art education throughout most of my life,” he says.

He obtained his BA at City College but elected to come to QC for his graduate degree.

“Uniquely, Queens College is one of the only schools in the world to have a concentration in Social Practice Art,” he says, explaining that it involves working in media and settings which people may not necessarily associate with art. “I knew that Queens College has a reputation for artists who are educators and activists.”

Being in New York City, one of the major centers of the art world, was another element in his decision, as was the ability to have his own studio and individualized program of study and support. Additionally, he notes that many of his fellow students were full-time educators, and QC was exceptional in its willingness to accommodate the demands of their work and family responsibilities.

Kasper lauds the long-standing collaboration between the MFA program, its social practice component, and the Queens Museum of Art for the opportunities it provides students to mount exhibitions and make contacts: “Since graduating, I’ve been able to get fellowships and artist commissioning opportunities that I wouldn’t have been able to get without the support of my cohort and the MFA faculty.”

“I’m the first in my family to receive a master’s degree and as a first-generation American, I find it an amazing privilege to be a leader in my field.”

Jisun Oh

MSED in Early Childhood Education Special Education

www.qc.cuny.edu/GA-JisunOh



Jisun Oh works as a special education teacher for P.S. 24 in Flushing. She credits Queens College for the close relationships with professors who provided the support that enabled her to complete her studies and receive her teaching certification. “I met such great professors who really mentored me and guided me to become a special ed teacher,” she says.

Oh received her undergraduate degree at Alfred University where she majored in Early Childhood, Childhood Education and Child Psychology before deciding upon her graduate studies at Queens. “I have a brother with special needs,” she says. “He played a vital role as to why I pursued Special Education. I was really interested in the Project I Care Program at Queens College. There were two parts that interested me: They wanted us to serve a lower-income population and they wanted us to serve a population where there were children with special needs. That’s where my heart was at. So, I knew that this was exactly where I needed to be.”

Oh’s parents immigrated to the United States as teenagers. Oh initially lived in Queens a short distance from QC but moved to Long Island while in middle school. In high school she says she found it difficult to fit into a less diverse population and cliques. As a consequence, she says she spent more time speaking with her teachers, such as during lunch hour, which she says influenced her decision to become a teacher.

Oh says her mother encouraged her to become a teacher, telling her that her Korean name, Jisun, means wisdom to know something and to teach someone. Combined with her experiences with great teachers in high school, she says, “By my junior year in high school I knew a hundred percent for sure that I was going to become a teacher.”

Of her graduate studies at QC, she says, “I met such great professors who really mentored me and guided me to become a special ed teacher.”

Mohammed Cisse

MS in Photonics

www.qc.cuny.edu/GA-MohammedCisse



A laser engineer at Photonics Industries International, Mohammed Cisse grew up one of ten children in Mali. His father was a businessman and he had a stay-at-home mom, he says. All of his siblings (seven sisters, two brothers) went overseas to study. Cisse majored in Economics and Mathematics in Mali before himself coming to the United States in 2006.

Cisse studied physics at City College where he was a teaching assistant for a few years before deciding he wanted to go into the field of photonics. Ultimately, he determined that Queens College was his best option. “The professors are really expert in the field and it has a state-of-the-art laboratory that is similar to the working environment of the industry,” he says.

Cisse’s company builds lasers for a variety of industrial applications: medical, telecommunications, military, etc. “I am responsible for testing and setting up testing procedures for every component that we put in our laser systems,” he says. “I knew that I was ready the first day that I was working there. I was like, ‘Wow, this is exactly what I was doing at Queens College the whole time!’”

“The photonics program at Queens College stands out because they have many relationships with the photonics industry in general,” says Cisse. “They help you find internships in the industry. One of my advisors, Dr. Deych (Physics), actually sent my application to Photonics Industry International. They called me for an interview. Two days after the interview they called me and gave me an offer.”

“If you are a professional like myself, Queens College won’t interrupt your work life because it has classes in the evening. Also, the library is open almost all the time, and they have great faculty who will help you any way they can.”

Cisse hopes to someday start his own company. He says, “I can say that I’m very proud of myself for achieving the American dream, thanks to Queens College.”

Kuron Harris

MS in Risk Management

www.qc.cuny.edu/GA-KuronHarris



A credit derivatives sales assistant for JP Morgan Chase & Company, Kuron Harris observes, “Without a doubt, had I not completed my master’s degree at Queens College, I would not have gotten my last two jobs.”

Born in Brooklyn, Harris was the second oldest of six sons raised by his single mother, who moved the family to Elmont when he was six. A talented athlete, he received a football scholarship from Albany State University, where he studied sociology, mathematics, and economics. Considering a career as a math teacher, he came to QC to receive a BA in mathematics but ultimately decided he preferred to use his math acumen to further himself in the field of finance.

“I was doing really well as a banker but was not able to transition over to the corporate side of things,” he says, citing his desire to move from retail banking to corporate banking as the reason he elected to pursue an MS in Risk Management at QC.

Small class size and the accessibility of faculty are qualities he particularly appreciates about the QC program. Additionally, he says, “Queens College is here to help from the day you arrive on campus to the day you retire. The professors not only help you excel in the program, but after the program. I feel like they’re there for you the whole time. It really is a family environment, and it really doesn’t go away.”

He says he’s glad to benefit from the networking culture of the graduate program and glad to contribute to it by speaking with anyone with any sort of question about his field “because that’s the culture of Queens College and that’s the way it should be.”

Christina Seid

MA in Education



Christina Seid is the second-generation business owner of Chinatown Ice Cream Factory (CICF), founded by her father. The shop has served ice cream and brought smiles to New York City locals, celebrities, and tourists for over 40 years. Seid recently expanded the CICF brand to include the Flushing Ice Cream Factory and will also be

opening the Lower East Side Ice Cream Factory in Essex Crossing.

Seid has a long history of community activism and has served on dozens of committees and boards, such as Chinatown Youth Initiatives, Asian Women in Business, and New York Cares. Her accolades include the Neighborhood Leadership Award from the New York Women’s Foundation and The Annual Founder’s Award from the Chinatown YMCA. Seid holds a BA in Psychology from the University of Rochester.

A Tale of Two Sisters

QC put Amber and Celeste Guth on the path to meaningful careers

By Leslie Jay

Amber Guth '79 is a specialist in surgical oncology and breast surgery at NYU Langone Health; Celeste Guth '82 is global head of financial institutions investment banking at Deutsche Bank. Both women say that the education they received at Queens College enabled them to build meaningful careers.

The Guths are the daughters of a broadcasting engineer and a nurse whose first meeting sounds like a scene from a romantic comedy. "My dad was in the hospital with acute appendicitis," says Celeste. "My mother—a Turkish immigrant of Armenian descent—was a nursing student." They married and settled in Forest Hills. Amber and Celeste attended PS 101 and continued their education at Hunter High School in Manhattan, then an all-girls school. Amber accelerated her studies and graduated a year early. The first member of her household to pursue a four-year degree, she enrolled at QC.

"When I started college, I wasn't sure which direction to go in," Amber recalls. "I was interested in the liberal arts, writing, and literature. But I was also very mechanical, hands-on. Science fit my personality." She majored in biochemistry, assisting in the lab of her mentor, Burton Tropp, for several years. Then she went to the New York University School of Medicine, ultimately joining its faculty and becoming NYU Langone's first female attending surgeon.

Originally a generalist, like other surgeons trained in the 1980s, Amber performed abdominal, pediatric, thoracic, and vascular procedures as well as breast surgery. "After I got married and had two kids, it got crazy," she explains. "I closed down my general practice and expanded my breast practice." She derives tremendous satisfaction from working with her patients, noting that "Medicine is a real gift. When women come to me, it's an amazing transfer of trust." Her reputation preceded her when she visited QC through Professionals on Campus in November 2017, drawing a full house to Kiely Hall 170. Of QC, she says, "It gave my sister and me an amazing opportunity to make of ourselves what we wanted to make of ourselves."

Celeste agrees. Following her sister's trajectory, she finished high school a year early and matriculated at QC. "First semester, I took Economics 101 with Michael Dohan, even though everyone told me not to, because he was too demanding," Celeste reports. "By spring, I was his teaching assistant. Then I taught in the statistics lab."



Celeste (left) and Amber Guth toast their alma mater at Queens College's 29th Gala.

Realizing that she wanted to pursue a business career, she double-majored in economics and computer science, minoring in math. Accepted by every business school she applied to except Harvard, she worked for two years and reapplied, this time successfully.

Hired by Goldman Sachs upon her graduation, Celeste spent 29 years with the company, rising to the title of vice chairman of the Investment Banking Division's global financial institutions group and, like her sister, combining a high-powered career with marriage and raising two children. In 2015, Celeste moved to Deutsche Bank. Deeply grateful to her alma mater and her mentor, she established an endowed scholarship in Dohan's name. She was awarded the Queens College President's Medal in 2017.

Angel Investors Class of 2019

We salute our ANGEL INVESTORS who have led by example in generosity, spirit, and commitment to the mission of Queens College. Your investment in our future is the finest gift we could receive.

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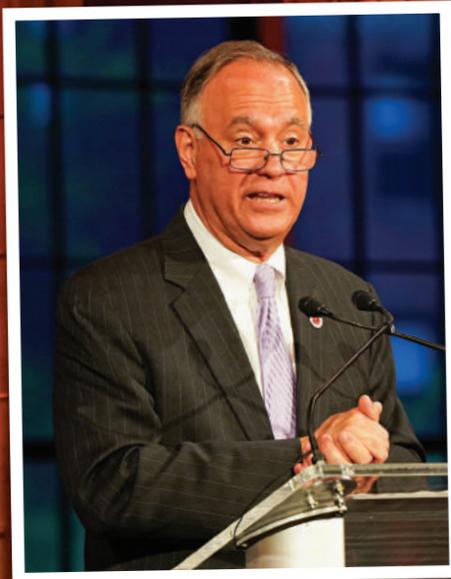
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GALA 2019

QUEENS COLLEGE'S 29TH GALA was hosted at Guastavino's in Manhattan on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

Master of Ceremonies Juliet Papa '78 of 1010 WINS welcomed guests who enjoyed a wonderful evening of entertainment, alumni recognition, and student achievement.

Every year, our Gala honors alumni and friends who serve as role models for our students. It is a night on which we say thank you to remarkable individuals who have combined notable careers with a dedication to philanthropy. As the college's principal fundraiser, the Gala raises much-needed support for students' cost of education.

Professionals campus

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

The program provides students with the opportunity to learn from and interact with seasoned professionals representing multiple industries and sectors. Our renowned speakers are considered experts in their fields, role models for career success, and, most importantly, they all got their start at Queens College.

Bringing students of the past together with students of the present, Professionals on Campus is proud to recognize the exceptional participants for the 2018–2019 academic year.

Featured Alumni Speakers for the 2018–2019 Academic Year

Philip Berry '73 | President, Philip Berry Associates

Kim St. Clair Bodden '81 | Senior Vice President/
Editorial and Brand Director, Hearst International

Paulette Mullings Bradnock '84 | Chief Auditor,
BNY Mellon

Georgia de Havenon '94 | Research Associate,
Brooklyn Museum

Raymond Edwards '84 | Vice President,
Kimco Realty Corporation



John Giraldo '91 | Senior Vice President and
Global Controller, NBCUniversal

Anat Gourji '96 | Senior Vice President, Technology
Governance and COO, Federal Reserve Bank of NY

Todd Higgins '98 | Co-Founder, Crosby & Higgins LLP

Harris Horowitz '78 | Managing Director,
Global Head of Tax, BlackRock Inc.

Freda S. Johnson '68 | Former President,
Government Finance Associates, Inc.

Barbara Justiz '81 | Owner, Barbara Justiz Advisors
Incorporated

John Kastanis '72 | Former President and
CEO, University Hospital

Robert Lehman '83 | Partner, Ernst & Young

Jacqueline Lyons '85 | Vice President of Network
Operations, MSG Media

Michael Minikes '65 | Managing Director and
Vice Chairman of Prime Finance, JP Morgan

Vince Misiano '72 | Television Director

Juliet Papa '78 | Reporter, 1010 WINS

Gerard Passaro '79 | Senior Vice President,
Network and Technical Operations, MSG Media

Frederick Peters '79 | President, Warburg Realty

Mark Rose '85 | Chairman and CEO, Avison Young

Susan Sills '62 | Artist

Lowery Stokes Sims '70 | Retired Curator,
Museum of Arts and Design

Linda Sutkin '98 | Vice President and
Financial Advisor, William Blair

Robin Ware '77 | Co-Founder and Vice President,
Hotels at Home

Fred Wilpon | CEO and Owner, NY Mets



Remembering QC Today To Create a Better Tomorrow



Queens College was there for you when you needed it, providing a high-quality education at little or no cost. Make sure that Queens College will be there for tomorrow's students by including QC in your estate plans today. Your gift—which you can direct to any department or program—will keep QC's quality education accessible to students determined to make a better life for themselves.

By remembering Queens College today, you will help prepare our next generation of leaders, thinkers, and doers, and inspire answers to tomorrow's biggest challenges. You can make an impact in the following ways:



BEQUEST

- A bequest is made by naming the Queens College Foundation in your will or living trust.
- You may designate a specific amount or a percentage of your estate to the Queens College Foundation.
- Your bequest gift will be exempt from state and federal estate tax.

LIFE INSURANCE

- If you designate the Queens College Foundation as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, the proceeds will not be subject to federal or state estate taxes.
- Transferring ownership of a life insurance policy to the Queens College Foundation during your lifetime may qualify you for an income tax charitable deduction. In addition, if your policy is not fully paid, your future premiums would be tax deductible.

RETIREMENT AND ANNUITY ACCOUNTS

- By naming the Queens College Foundation the beneficiary of a retirement account, you can make a gift that will benefit the college and reduce or prevent taxation of the account—likely to be one of the most heavily taxed assets in your estate.
- You can designate the college as the beneficiary of all or a portion of your IRA, 401(k), 403(b), Keogh, SEP, or other qualified plan by contacting your plan administrator.

DONATING FROM YOUR IRA

- People older than 70½ can transfer up to \$100,000 per year from a traditional IRA to the Queens College Foundation. This would count as the required minimum distribution and would not be taxable.
- The transfer would essentially lower the taxable income for the following year.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

- With a transfer of \$10,000 or more, you can establish a charitable gift annuity which will pay you (and/or a loved one) a fixed rate for life with the remaining balance being used to support Queens College.
- You will receive an immediate income tax charitable deduction for a portion of your gift.

Below is an example of language for a bequest given to support the general purposes of Queens College or to support a specific department or scholarship:

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CONTACT INFORMATION

To learn more, visit queenscollege.giftplans.org or contact the Development Department at 718-997-3920 or plannedgiving@qc.cuny.edu.



Legacies Impacting Today's Students Campuswide

Recently, loyal alumni, faculty, and friends have been especially generous in their estate plans. These donations will have a lasting impact and contribute to the future success of Queens College, and we are truly grateful.

Robert M. Levy, husband of Jane Rosen Levy '45, made a bequest to Queens College in honor of his "college girl." Living in the same apartment building, they met on the roof while both were studying. Mr. Levy worked on Wall Street for 45 years. One of the things both Jane and Robert loved about the college is the international character of the student population. His generous estate gift for capital improvements to the college will enable Queens College to offer the best education experience for our diverse school community.



Winifred Schreiner Clark '45, studied history and education and planned to become a teacher, but her life took her in a different direction, working in corporate libraries for over 20 years. A member of the New York Chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club, Winnie met her husband, Franklin B. Clark, on a club trip to Norway. After her marriage, she moved to Athens, NY, but never forgot her time at QC. Attending Queens College at a time when tuition was free, Winnie wanted a way to give back to the school that gave her such a "great education." Winnie decided to establish a charitable gift annuity, which pays her a guaranteed income for the rest of her life. She has been so pleased with her



annuity and still considers herself "so lucky to have not paid a penny in tuition," that Winnie has decided to establish a second charitable gift annuity for the benefit of Queens College!

A biology major, Rosalynd Wolfson Klipper '43, was a member of the Biology Club and secretary of the Pre-Medical Society. After graduation, Mrs. Klipper worked in a research lab. Unfortunately, she developed a number of allergies to various chemicals and was forced to leave. She went on to work in retail sales, eventually owning her own business. She was a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. As a proud alumna of Queens College, Mrs. Klipper decided to leave a generous bequest for the greatest needs of the college.

Chaim Freiberg, a musician and teacher, studied with Nadia Reisenberg and remembers her as "a brilliant pianist and distinguished teacher with whom I had the privilege to study both on her visits to Jerusalem and as a student at Juilliard." His decision to establish a charitable gift annuity with Queens College was motivated by knowing her long and distinguished career as a professor in the music department at Queens. Mr. Freiberg is contemplating establishing his third charitable gift annuity.

With a Little Help from Some Friends

QC Students Serve as “Big Buddies” in Revitalized Program that Mentors Homeless Youth

By John Scarinci

According to the Coalition for the Homeless, the homeless rate in New York City is at its highest levels since the Great Depression. The numbers are staggering: The city has more than 14,000 homeless families, with over 21,000 homeless children. The Big Buddy program at Queens College—a mentoring program that pairs a QC student with a homeless child—plays a small role in helping some of these families.

QC partners with Briarwood Family Residence, a shelter in Jamaica, Queens, that offers temporary housing to more than 90 families. Briarwood matches children in the 7–15 age range with Queens College students. Those students reserve every Saturday during a semester to take their little buddies exploring New York City destinations, such as museums, historical landmarks, and state parks. On some Saturdays, educational workshops are held on QC’s campus.

The program is a win-win for everyone involved. The children get a chance to experience many New York City sites that they may not be able to see otherwise and have the opportunity to be mentored by a college student. These children also gain a sense of self-worth and a source of stability and support outside of their parents.

QC students get valuable experience, too. They learn practical skills such as management, communication, and leadership, and they develop more cultural awareness from working with a diverse group of children, all of which help them when they move on to their respective careers.

“It’s a great starting point for those who have an interest in working with kids,” said recent Queens College graduate Craig Booker, who earned his degree in human development and family studies and was a Big Buddy in Spring 2019. “You get to work one-on-one with a child. You learn that each child is different and has to be treated differently.”

“They definitely always have fun. They really look forward to having a Saturday where they have someone to talk to and somewhere to go,” added Helena Yeung, a senior English major who also served as a Big Buddy in Spring 2019.

The program is run by Karla Manning (EECE), who came to Queens College in 2017 following a four-year stint as an English teacher in Chicago’s public school system. Although she had never

run a homeless outreach program before, she had worked with students from impoverished backgrounds.

“When I was a Chicago public schoolteacher, homelessness was a taboo topic,” Manning recalls. “It was almost as if children who were homeless weren’t a priority or weren’t important. Even the principal at my school told us there would be children who were homeless, but we can’t tell you who they are. I thought, how can we help them if we don’t know who they are? If we aren’t doing anything to address it, or if we are not professionally trained, how can we really provide those services? When I started the Big Buddy program, I thought about that.”

Manning inherited the program from Arthur Salz (EECE), who started it in 1989 and helped more than 12,000 homeless children until his retirement two years ago. Big Buddy was in transition at the time Manning took over, with about six students enrolled in Spring 2018. By the following

spring, with support from the Office of the Assistant Provost, she had revitalized the program and tripled enrollment to 19 students.

Lacking experience as a program director, Manning had to learn on the job—no small challenge for a self-proclaimed perfectionist who assumed responsibility for Big Buddy on top of carrying the course load of a full-time professor. She devoted many hours to cold calling and meetings in order to set up activities for the children each Saturday. Over time, she developed strong relationships with organizations such as the Lewis Latimer House Museum, the Intrepid Museum, and the New York Hall of Science, and she hopes to add to that list.

Students also faced challenges during their times as mentors. Some reported initial difficulty in getting the children comfortable with them, but as the semester went on, the little buddies would warm up to them. Others said children would misbehave at times in the beginning, but again, the big buddies were able to adjust, winning the children’s respect by the end of the semester.

Mentors say their efforts were amply rewarded. The impact Big Buddy has on participating students is beyond what they could have expected. Teddy Gialitis, a senior elementary education and history major who participated in Spring and Fall 2018, was humbled by an interaction his little buddy had with a chess instructor one

“They definitely always have fun. They really look forward to having a Saturday where they have someone to talk to and somewhere to go.”



Under the leadership of Karla Manning (rear left, in orange), Big and Small Buddies visit notable New York City destinations; in August 2019, the group explored the Queens Zoo.

Saturday. During an icebreaking session, the instructor asked little buddies to state their name, age, and favorite super hero. The boy said, “My name is James, I’m eight years old, and Teddy is my favorite super hero.”

“The fact that I could have such an impact on somebody—when he told me I was his hero—that was insane. I never thought that could happen,” said Gialitis.

This past year, Manning introduced Teen Girl Butterfly, a sub-program of Big Buddy. Young girls, ages 10–17, met with a group of four QC mentors each Saturday, where they were taught about self-esteem, body issues, and enhancing their creativity. The children wrote poetry and journals and took part in self-encouraging talks.

Sophomore elementary education major Tasnim Sifa, a Teen Girl Butterfly mentor in Spring 2019, recalled how the girls’ eyes would light up when they started to understand a lot of the program’s teachings. She will continue to take part in Big Buddy in future semesters and hopes that many of the Big Buddies will do the same.

“Seeing the kids more consistently would really help them, both education-wise and mentally,” Sifa added. “They don’t have a level

of stability and consistency at home. If they see a mentor who is a good role model every Saturday, they will look forward to it. It would really help them.”

Manning’s plans for growing and improving the program include a partnership with Ridgewood Savings Bank, which would provide financial education to little buddies, and a STEM fun day on campus to interest them in science, technology, engineering, and math. Big Buddy has also received generous financial support from the Pinkerton Foundation and New York City Councilman Peter Koo over the next several years, which will help further aid the program’s growth.

“The Queens College student population is unique,” added Manning. “They can relate to these children. A lot of the students here work, take care of family members, or they may have their own children. They understand the value of getting an education. Many students have told me they will be the first students from their family to graduate from college. For the children who are homeless, to bring them on campus to show them a different life is powerful.”



Psychology Department Programs Serve Families

(From left) Doctoral student Theresa Fiani and ACE's Joshua Jessel and Sara Bauer work with a little girl in the Behavior Disorders Clinic.

QC ACES, the Queens College Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities Evidence-Based Services, brings together town and gown, supporting the community while fulfilling important educational and research functions.

The center builds upon three programs created in the Psychology Department: SIBS Club, for children with autism and their siblings; Baby Butterflies, inclusive enrichment classes for caregivers and babies of all needs; and the Behavior Disorders Clinic, intensive assessment and treatment services for children who exhibit problem behavior. In addition to serving the public, these initiatives serve students, especially graduate students in QC's master's and advanced certificate programs in applied behavioral analysis. Through ACES, these graduate students can receive training from experts in the field and the 1,500 supervised experience hours they require for certification and licensure.

Professionals who already have these credentials may fulfill biennial recertification requirements through ACES. "We started a series of workshops for Board-Certified Behavior Analysts who need continuing education credits [to maintain their certification]," says Joshua Jessel, executive director of the ACES center.

"[These programs] are also open to our eager students looking for extracurricular opportunities to learn more."

Long-term goals call for ACES to develop three divisions: Assessment and Treatment Services, Family Services, and Continuing Education. All of these efforts should enjoy the success of SIBS, which takes over the third and fourth floors of Kiely Hall's south wing each weekend. "We serve a minimum of about 20 families a semester and about 40 students are involved," says Emily Jones, who runs the club.

Heartfelt notes from grateful parents attest to the importance of the work done in the ACES center. Parents have reported high satisfaction with the services provided at the Behavior Disorders Clinic with one stating, "It has been a lifesaver for my son, and I know it will continue benefiting other children." A letter from a former student cites the SIBS Club experience for helping her find internship opportunities during her graduate studies in social work. "My undergraduate experience at Queens College was unique because of the valuable knowledge and experience I gained with children with autism and their families," she wrote. "I am looking forward to the continuation of building my career, which was strongly benefitted by the sibling program."

Changing Spaces

Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library evolves to meet today's needs

By Jeremy Czerw

The cozy, semi-private study carrels on Level 4 of Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library were due for an overhaul: Faculty's ability to access materials remotely left the desks underutilized. Now, with the removal of carrel doors and the addition of ADA-compliant furnishings, students use these spaces to read books, tap at laptops, and review lecture notes.

The carrel makeover is representative of dramatic changes taking place throughout the library.

On Level 1, architectural drawings lay out the plans for turning the well-loved, well-used study areas and lounge into an Innovation Commons, giving Rosenthal's new Makerspace room to grow. Never heard of a Makerspace? Imagine a shop class for the digital age, equipped with 3-D printers, laser cutters, sewing machines, and other tools. Nick Normal, head of the Makerspace, describes it as "a place for all to tinker, craft, design, and learn." Participants are learning and teaching others about robotics, sewing and crafts, hand tools and hardware, soldering, and more. The Makerspace holds Mending Mondays workshops, to help people repair items instead of throwing them away, and serves as headquarters for the new Queens College Robotics Club.

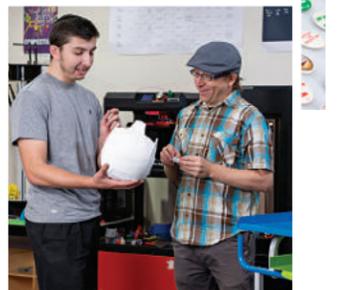
Level 2 of the library is slated to become a Learning Commons that will house the Queens College Writing Center and the Center for Teaching and Learning, currently located in Kiely Hall. Construction is also underway on Level 3, creating a climate-controlled, state-of-the-art home for the library's Special Collections and Archives. This space will feature an archival processing lab that will handle paper-based and digital collections, and a digital memory lab where users can learn about digital preservation.

Physical alterations aren't the only new developments at Rosenthal, where some of the most exciting innovations involve different approaches to the structure and availability of information.

"Many CUNY students report that high textbook costs are a significant barrier to academic success," says Emerging Technologies and Digital Scholarship Librarian Leila Walker. "Therefore, we are working to lower these costs by creating new, zero-cost materials that open up new opportunities to develop digital skills." Last April, during the library's first Zero Textbook Cost Day, Walker showed students how to find and register for courses that don't require expensive textbooks, and collected feedback on the impact of high materials costs. In a related initiative, she welcomed the inaugural class of the library's Digital Literacy and Open Educational Resources Faculty Fellowship. Eleven faculty members from nine departments came together to learn the fundamental principles of digital pedagogy and open educational materials. Each fellow designed new course materials that are easily adaptable and can replace expensive textbooks. "We are looking forward to



Above: Students review original photos and newspapers documenting the campus protests of 1969. Inset: Nick Normal (right) examines a project taking shape at the Makerspace.



continuing the program in 2019–2020," notes Walker. "Upcoming collaborations will give students the opportunity to develop digital projects alongside physical exhibits of archival materials."

"Libraries are more important than ever; they are just changing," observes Chief Librarian Kristin Hart. "Libraries must constantly evolve to support the ever-shifting ways we engage in knowledge, information, identity, and the creative process." With an exciting year ahead, we invite you to visit and see the future of library services at Queens College for yourself.

BOOK THESE DATES

Monday, October 21, 2019, time to be announced
Fall Library Open House: Focus on the QC Makerspace

Wednesday, February 5, 2020 • 12 noon–1:30 pm
Library Town Hall: Tell Us What You Think

Thursday, March 5, 2020 • 6:30–8:30 pm
Alumni Reception in the Library

QC Legacies, Continued

By Leslie Jay



Last year, this magazine reported on families with a tradition of attending

Queens College. We return to that theme this year with two more accounts of children following in their parents' educational footsteps, enjoying the rich experiences available on this campus.

“To me, retiring means putting on new tires,” quipped Joseph Brostek at his 2010 retirement party, the occasion of this photo with his wife Carol. Opposite page, top: Joseph, Carol, and their daughter Carol.

Brostek Family

The Brosteks have had a long association with Queens College; Joseph Brostek '55, QC's unofficial historian, himself has chalked up almost 70 years! A Queens Village native who graduated from Xavier High School in Manhattan, Joe stayed in his home borough during college. “The price (\$30?) was certainly right,” he notes, speaking like the economics major he was. Efficient with time, too, he threw himself into all kinds of activities, serving as president of both Phi Omega Alpha and the Student Council while fulfilling the requirements of the United States Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps.

At a Newman Club meeting, he met Carol Heiser '54, a campus personality in her own right: She would become the club's vice president as well as president of her sorority, Sigma Delta Chi. They married in 1956 and moved to Topeka, Kansas, where Joe served with the Strategic Air Command. When his tour was over, they returned to New York City, where the family grew to five children. Joe embarked on a business career that encompassed sales, marketing, corporate identity, TV and events management, while Carol was a homemaker, active in her church and community.



Their third child, also named Carol, emulated her parents by matriculating at QC. “It offered me an affordable option close to home,” she says. “Many days I walked or rode my bike to school. The fact that it was my parents' alma mater was a bonus!” A

staff writer for the QC newspaper *Night Beat* and a psychology major, she graduated with honors, Phi Beta Kappa, in 1982; at that Commencement, the Brosteks were honored as one of the first of the college's second-generation families. (They had also been honored as Alumni Family of the Year in 1965.)

In 1986, Joe left the corporate world and joined the college as a consultant, eventually serving in five administrations. By 1988, he was the director of special events, a portfolio that included Commencement, service award ceremonies, groundbreakings, ribbon-cuttings, presidential events, and much more. Borough President Helen Marshall acknowledged his service by declaring June 2, 2005—the 50th anniversary of his graduation—Joseph Brostek Day in Queens. Marshall announced a second Joseph Brostek Day on March 9, 2010, at a party marking the namesake's retirement from QC.

In a more durable form of recognition, QC established the Joe and Carol Brostek Prize, which provides financial assistance to outstanding students who hold leadership roles on campus; subsequently, Joe made it a fully endowed scholarship. “I have been very pleased to meet the wonderful recipients over the years,” he reports. A widower since 2012, he treasures his children, grandchildren, and extended QC family, and remains involved with the college as an officer of the retiree's association. He is also quite active in many community organizations, including the Queens Historical Society.

Kohl Family

“In Pittsburgh, when I was in high school, women married one of the football players or got a job as a secretary,” observes Dianne Kohl '69. “Queens College opened up a whole new world to me.”

“It changed the direction of our lives,” agrees her husband, Jack Kohl '75, who enjoyed the range of QC's required courses, encompassing topics such as art appreciation and history.

The Kohls, who grew up in Steel City, were already married when they came to New York in 1961; Jack—formerly a child star who sang on the radio, accompanied by pianist Johnny Costa—hoped to pursue a career on Broadway. When that didn't work out, he got a job as a lab tech in QC's physics department. Upon learning that they could attend QC for free, husband and wife both



enrolled in the college, majoring in education. Living in the garden apartments opposite campus, they had an easy commute.

Dianne graduated first, taught in the Bronx for a year, and went on leave after the Kohls had their first child, Jackson, who made frequent visits to the physics lab until the family moved to Long Island. “I played with the air-track cars,” he recalls. His dad was equally at home in the department. Indeed, upon completing his education degree, Jack stayed at QC until 1995 instead of looking for teaching positions, while Dianne earned a master's in English at SUNY Stony Brook and eventually became an adjunct at Suffolk Community College.



Above: Jackson, Dianne, and Jack Kohl at the retirement party the Physics Department threw for Jack in 1995. Below, left: Dianne and Jack Kohl as Queens College students.

Their son matriculated at QC after failing to get into the Juilliard School, where he had studied piano in the pre-college division with Leonard Eisner; indeed, Queens named Eisner an adjunct professor, allowing Jackson to continue working with him. “ACSM was as good as it boasted about,” says Jackson. He remains particularly grateful to his subsequent piano teacher at QC, Gerald Robbins, who told him not to look at his hands while playing unfamiliar music for the first time. “That has allowed me to keep working,” adds Jackson. He also appreciated his liberal arts education, immersing himself in English classes. “In Professor Bette Weidman's ‘American Literary Transcendentalism,’ the single greatest course I ever took in higher education, I learned of the specific art of Emersonian/Thoreauvian indexed journal keeping, something I use as a writer each and every day.”

Today, Jackson—who earned a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of South Carolina—divides his time between piano and computer keyboards. He's a performer as well as a writer, with three novels and one collection of essays, *Bone Over Ivory: Essays from a Standing Pianist*, to his credit. He stays in touch with ACSM, literally—just last spring, he prepared for a harpsichord gig by practicing on one of the music school's instruments.

Let's talk about YOU!

Please participate in our alumni survey and share your QC experience! Tear off your completed survey and send it back in the envelope provided in the centerfold of this magazine OR take the survey online at qccommunity.qc.cuny.edu/survey! We look forward to hearing from you.

Title _____ First Name _____
 Middle Name _____
 Last Name _____
 Maiden Name (If applicable) _____
 Date of Birth _____
 Email Address _____
 Primary Address _____

Your Queens College Experience (please list all that apply):

My favorite professor(s) _____
 My favorite course(s) _____
 My fraternity/sorority and/or house plan _____
 Please list any extracurricular activities you participated in at QC (social and academic clubs, sports, student government, etc.)

My family members who attend/attended QC (check all that apply):

Spouse Parent(s) Grandparent(s)
 Grandchildren Siblings Children

Please answer Yes or No to the following statements:

	Yes	No
I still keep in touch with QC classmates	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I have fond memories of QC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to visit the QC campus sometime soon	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to attend an alumni event in my area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would attend an alumni event outside the NYC metro area	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to mentor a current QC student	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I would like to be more involved in Queens College activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My company can offer a paid internship to a QC student	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Queens College changed my life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special memories of Queens College you would like to share:

Education

Class year _____
 Major(s) _____
 Highest degree earned _____
 Institution _____
 Scholarships/awards received _____

Career/Military

**If retired please specify below and include your last job title and the organization you worked for.*

Professional/Business Title _____
 Company/Organization Name _____
 Military Service (If applicable): Branch _____
 Years of service _____

Current Interests

Hobbies/Interests _____
 Charitable causes that matter the most _____

 Do you use social media? If so, which are you active on? (check all that apply): Facebook Instagram Twitter LinkedIn

Jefferson Society Honor Roll

The **Jefferson Society Honor Roll** is our way to acknowledge and express appreciation publicly to all alumni and friends who have invested in the present and future growth of Queens College by making a planned gift. As you read the pages of Queens Magazine, you will see the best examples of how our commitment to creating visionary leaders positively impacts the campus, our community, and the world.

Vincent Algeri
 Harvey Alter
 Anonymous*
 Paul M. Bannett
 Jean C. Bartelt
 Judith Bilello
 Barry M. Blechman
 Camille Castaldi Blok
 Nita F. Jagoda Savitz Bowen
 Carolyn Williams Bricklemeyer
 William & Dorothea Cappadona Trust

Norma L. Chin
 Harold & Doris Chorny
 Winifred Schreiner Clark
 Paul J. Cohen
 Barry Cohen & Beth Fishman Cohen
 George Colman
 Lorraine Coyle
 Dr. Frances R. Curcio
 Carol Buhr Delany
 Walter Ding
 Ms. Wendy F. Donenfeld, C.P.A.
 Laurie Dorf
 Prof. Raymond Erickson
 Hillary Exter
 Carol Falcetti-Osofsky
 Eugene Fidell
 Dean Dave Fields, Linda Fields
 Les '65 & Shelli Flaum
 Chaim Freiberg
 Eileen Frey
 Harriet Friedes
 Davina Gelber
 Norma Houghton Gray

Len J. Graziano
 Muriel & Allan E. Greenblatt
 David M. Guskin
 Barbara Hamkalo, Prof. Emerita
 Robert M. Ingrassia
 Mary Keenan
 Lita Kelmenson
 David Lapin
 Beverly Horowitz Lazar
 Lilyan Rosenberg Levine
 Judith N. Sacks Levine
 Ellen Mendel
 Roberta Brooks Meyer & James E. Meyer
 Judith Natkins
 Frank Nervo
 Dr. Joan Friedman Newmark
 Stephen S. Orphanos
 Phyllis Pullman
 Donald T. Rave, Class of 1950
 Francine L. Reff
 Michael Renna
 Doug Ress '76
 Dr. Gerald Robinson
 Jacqueline Rosay
 Mark E. Rose
 Bella Rosenberg
 Anita Kladney Saffran
 Robert M. Sanders
 Ms. Bonnie Lee Schiffer
 Doreen Schmitt
 Rona Schneider
 Frederick A. Schoener
 Dana Seidman & Magnus Hedenlund
 Dr. Karen Lynne Siegel

Alfred M. Sils
 Leonard Sloane
 Liana Snyderman & Dr. David Snyderman
 Ira Spar M.D.
 Prof. Emeritus David H. Speidel & Margaret L. Speidel
 Judith Klein Steinman
 Dr. Lila Swell
 Susan & Ted Tashlik
 Lynda Pargh Wildman
 Penny Willis
 Marshall M. Wise, BA '69
 Frank Witt
 Arelene Eyeran Wolinski
 Leonard Yohay
 Michael & Renée K. Zarin

*144 Anonymous

In grateful memory: alumni and friends whose bequests have been realized since July 1, 2018:

Marsha Joy Baliff
 Norman L. Brodbar
 Anitra S Christoffel-Pell
 Ruth B. Ellis
 Robert M. Finks
 Kenneth S. Kasman
 Rosalynd W. Klipper
 Robert M. Levy
 Rene A. Miller
 John W. Pereira

Join the Jefferson Society

If you choose to provide for Queens College in your estate plans, we would be thrilled to welcome you to the Jefferson Society, named for Jefferson Hall, one of the oldest and most significant buildings on the Queens College campus.

You may become a member by making a planned gift through a bequest in your will, IRA, life insurance policy, or through a life income instrument such as a charitable gift annuity. Please contact our office and inform us of your philanthropic plans. We will keep your plans confidential, and you will join a growing group of alumni and friends who inspire others to provide for the future of the college in this significant way.

If Queens College is already in your estate plan and you have not yet informed us, please let us know so we may welcome you into the Jefferson Society! Please contact the Planned Giving Office at 718-997-3920 or plannedgiving@qc.cuny.edu



QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

1948: Marshall Sweetbaum was honored by Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), an organization that trains and provides service dogs, at the annual CCI Outstanding Service Awards last November. A World War II veteran, Sweetbaum started his own law practice in Lake Success, NY, which along with his son, he maintains to this day. Sweetbaum has worked with several veteran's support organizations throughout his career ... **1959: Donald Cifarelli** recently published his autobiography, *The Reluctant Warrior*. The book paints a vivid picture of the historical arc of the 20th century and details his life, from his immigration to America as a child to his time as a soldier in World War II, and to his struggles rejoining society following the war ... **1960: Peter Suedfeld** was named Officer of the Order of Canada; one of the country's highest civilian honors, it recognizes outstanding achievement, dedication to the community, and service to the nation. Suedfeld is considered Canada's most versatile psychologist and has been a pioneer in the field of restricted environmental stimulation therapy (REST). He is currently leading an Antarctic study in which weekly oral diaries are administered at the Halley VI and Mawson research stations; he is a co-investigator on a project on the International Space Station, studying the mental, emotional, social, cultural, and environmental adjustments astronauts must make on a long-term space flight ... **Irene Fairley's**



sculpture "Serpentine" is on display through November 11, 2019 at in the *Spirit of Place* exhibit at the Crane Estate in Ipswich, Massachusetts ... **1961: Helene (Gikofsky) Shalotsky** published her first book, *The Sunny Side: I Write it as I see it*, at age 78. The book "celebrates the universal truths of kindness, goodness, and gratitude." ... **1962: Lloyd Schwartz** was named the third poet laureate in the city of Somerville, Massachusetts. The city created the poet laureate position in 2015 to enhance the profile of poets and poetry in Somerville and surrounding communities. Appointed by the

mayor, Schwartz will serve a two-year term and receive an honorarium of \$2,000 per year. He is expected to bring poetry to segments of the community that have less access or exposure to it ... **1965: Richard Kline** is starring in the musical *Waitress*, which began a national tour last December. Based on the 2007 movie of the same name, *Waitress* tells the story of Jenna, a server looking for a way out of her abusive marriage. Kline plays the role of Joe, who offers support to Jenna ... **1966: Edward J. Ray**, president of Oregon State University since 2003, announced that he will step down on June 30, 2020. When he leaves office, he will be OSU's fourth-longest serving president since the university was founded in 1868 ... **1968: Paul J. Cohen** was elected national chair of InterFaith Family, an organization that seeks to empower people in interfaith relationships. In addition, San Francisco Hillel announced the first winner of the Paul J. Cohen Award for Student Leadership at a gala on February 24, 2019. The award was presented to San Francisco State senior Sasha Presley, who advocated for Jews on campus and gave media interviews to bring greater attention to their concerns ... **John F. Collins**, president and CEO of NYU



Winthrop Hospital, announced his plan to retire from the medical center, effective November 30, 2019. Collins served as president and CEO since 2009. He doubled the hospital's revenue and saw the number of employees grow from 6,500 in 2010 to over 9,500 today. He also oversaw the creation of a 95,000-square-foot state-of-the-art Research and Academic Center, which opened its doors in 2015 ... **1967: Eugene Kavadlo** has recently retired from his position as principal clarinetist with the Charlotte Symphony in North Carolina. He spent over 40 years with the orchestra ... **1971: Jane S. Gabin** published her first novel, *The Paris Photo*, inspired by a photo she found



of her father, Sgt. Alfred L. Gabin, with a French civilian family during World War II. The book conveys the story of an American soldier and his relationship with a French woman and her son after the liberation of France in 1944 ... **1972: Irene Buszko** (MFA) had a show of her paintings, *Flowering Trees in Victorian Richmond Hill*, at the Voelker Orth Museum in Flushing, April 6–June 30 ... **Simon A. Zysman**, a licensed clinical psychologist, published *Successful Heroin and Opioid Addiction Treatment*. Based on his professional experience, the book offers a deep look into his effective program for setting former addicts upon a road to recovery. Zysman has been invited to attend book-signing events at libraries and bookstores, as well as speaking engagements about the current heroin and opioid epidemic throughout Long Island and in the New York metropolitan area ... **1973: Gary Barnett** was recognized as one of New York's 50 most powerful people in real estate for 2019 by *City & State New York*, coming in at #10 on the list. Barnett is the founder of Extell Development;

his projects include some of New York City's tallest buildings, including Central Park Tower (1,550 feet) and One57 (over 1,000 feet) ... **Joel R. Gecht** published his second book, *Lander Circle*, a psychological suspense novel. He is also the author of *Amanda Memories*, a psychological thriller published in 2010 ... **Lauren Shapiro** had an article titled "A Childhood Visit to Macy's Santaland" on the PBS website *Next Avenue*; another piece, "Avoiding the Taste in My Own Medicine," was published by *Notre Dame Magazine* ... **Fred Skolnick**, a partner in the corporate/securities law practice of Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP, received the 2019 Excellence in Mentoring Award on January 31 from MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership. This recognition is given to an employee from a company listed on MENTOR's National Corporate Honor Roll, who both volunteers his time as a youth mentor and mobilizes others to engage in the mentoring movement ... **1974: Lewis Bartfield** was named chief division officer for the western division of the American

Lung Association in Wisconsin. Bartfield is responsible for enhancing the presence of the organization in 25 states in the Western United States. One of his main goals will be to fight to raise the legal age of smoking to 21 ... **Andrew Kimler** has been appointed to membership in the Eastern District of New York (EDNY) Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) Department Advisory Council for the 2019–2021 term. The mission of this program is to provide litigants with an opportunity to resolve their disputes expeditiously through court-annexed mediation and arbitration ... **Gregory Lasak**, a former state supreme court judge, entered the Democratic primary for Queens district attorney; he finished third in the election with 14.5 percent of the votes ... **1975: Daisy Cocco De Filippis** was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Connecticut Association of Latinos in Higher Education last December during its annual meeting in Hartford. De Filippis later received the Wonder Woman Award in April from the Malta House of Care, an organization that runs a mobile medical clinic providing high-quality, free primary health care to uninsured adults in Greater Hartford. "I am honored and grateful for the generous recognition of my work by such a worthy institution," said De Filippis ... **Patrice Stavile** joined Venable LLP's real estate practice as a counsel in its New York office. Stavile will bring experience in handling large and complex commercial real estate and sophisticated leasing transactions ... **1976: Anne T. Romano** was honored with the honorific title of DAME by the National Federation of Italian American Societies Inc. of Brooklyn, New York. Damehood is presented to women who have made a major contribution to the country at a national or international level; their work and achievements will be viewed as an inspiration to others, and they have influenced their peers.

She is the author of several books about Italian American heritage, including *Distant but Loyal*, where she writes about her parent's emigration from a small town in Italy ... **1977: Marc B. Sokol** was named a fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA) and of the Society of Industrial & Organizational Psychology—recognition given to APA members who are actively engaged in advancing psychology. Sokol is also the author of two books, *Impact Without Authority: What Successful People Know* and *Action Learning Guide: Real Learning, Real Results* ... **1978: JoAnne Falleta** (MA) announced that she will step down as director of the Virginia Symphony Orchestra after 27 years. Her final performance will be June 2020 ... **1979: Leslie Dunner** was appointed orchestra director for Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan. He joins Interlochen after 11 seasons with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. He aims to focus on pieces from the 16th to 20th century for this year's season ... **1981: Charles Degliomini** joined the senior leadership team at Rekor Systems, Inc., a leading provider of artificial intelligence and machine learning enabled automated license plate recognition systems. He was named executive vice president of government relations and corporate communications ... **Kimlon Ng**, principal partner of Olson-Ng Retail Consulting Group, saw it recognized in the March edition of *Retail CIO Outlook* as one of the top-ten merchandising groups for 2019. The article states: "With a cumulative experience of over 40 years, Olson-Ng stands as a bastion of support for upcoming young retailers" ... **1982: Jerry Siegelman**, a partner at Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, PC, joined the board of directors at Gold Coast Arts Center, a not-for-profit dedicated to promoting and supporting the visual and performing arts through education, exhibition, performance, and outreach ... **Alice Zinnes** (MFA) had watercolor paintings on display as part of an exhibition that opened in January at Blue Mountain Gallery in New York City ... **1984: Michael DeGrotte** has been hired as the first-ever associate executive



director at ACDS, a nonprofit that provides services for children with Down syndrome. His responsibilities include developing an adult residence that will allow older group home residents to age in place while addressing their complicated medical needs, and expanding opportunities in the Westchester special needs pre-school to include after-school clinical services and recreational programs ... **1987: Pete Crisafulli** was hired as a licensed real estate agent for Taylor Real Estate. It is a second career for Crisafulli, who spent three decades in social services and education ... **Lucia A. Silecchia** wrote an op-ed in the *New York Daily News* on the college admission scandal at USC and Stanford; she praised Queens College for the opportunities it provided for her ... **Patricia Sadiq** joined the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA) as a graphics specialist. IDA is a not-for-profit that provides objective analyses of national security issues and related national challenges, particularly those requiring extraordinary scientific and technical expertise ... **Lisa DeLoria Weinblatt** had her artwork



exhibited in several shows throughout the year. *School Lunch*, a series of paintings, was on display at the University of Maine, Farmington, last fall and was also featured in the NYC Armory Show Pier 92/94 in March. The same series was shown at the Delaplaine Art Center in Frederick, Maryland, in September 2019 ... **1989: Bernadette Boden-Albala** has been named the founding dean and director of the School of Population Health in the University of California, Irvine. She will supervise development and establishment of the school; after its approval, it will become part of the School of Medicine. Boden-Albala is globally accredited for her work in stroke and cardiovascular disease prevention and awareness ... **1991: Diane Feigenbaum Krebs** has joined the law offices of Jackson Lewis as of counsel. Krebs' practice focuses on representing employers in workplace law matters, including

Registration details and links will be posted on our alumni relations social media pages and our alumni webpage <https://qccommunity.qc.cuny.edu/pages/alumni-pages/alumni-upcoming-events>

The Nutcracker

December 15, 2019, 3 pm
Kupferberg Center – Colden Auditorium

Alumni Appreciation Discount | Promo Code: **SUGARPLUM**

Mezzanine seats: \$20 plus fee—originally \$23 plus fee (subject to availability)	Orchestra two front sides: \$25 plus fee—originally \$33 plus fee (subject to availability)
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Alumni ticket holders—enjoy cookies and hot cocoa/coffee courtesy of the Alumni Relations Office before the show.



<http://kupferbergcenter.org/event/thenutcracker/>






UPCOMING EVENTS

October 17, 2019
Thursday at 6:30–8:30 pm

Alumni Reception
Milestone Reunion
Classes of 1999/2004/2009/2014
City Vineyard (South Patio)
New York, NY

November 14, 2019
Thursday at 6:30–8:30 pm

Alumni Reception
Royal Sonesta Hotel
Cambridge, MA

February 9, 2020
Sunday at 11 am–1 pm

Alumni Brunch
The Westin Fort Lauderdale
Beach Resort
Fort Lauderdale, FL

April 2, 2020
Thursday at 6:30–8:30 pm

Alumni Reception
TWA Hotel at JFK Airport
(Ambassador Lounge)
Jamaica, NY

Registration details and links will be posted on our alumni relations social media pages and our alumni webpage <https://qccommunity.qc.cuny.edu/pages/alumni-pages/alumni-upcoming-events>

QUEENS ALUMNI NOTES

preventive advice and counseling ... Councilmember **Rory I. Lancman**, who represents New York City's 24th City Council District, finished fifth in the highly competitive Democratic primary for Queens district attorney ... **Joseph Levy** was listed as one of the "Top 20 Endpoint Security CTOs of 2019" by *Solutions Review*. He is currently the chief technology officer for Sophos, a cybersecurity company, ... **Mary L. Lo Re** (MA) has been named dean of the Touro College Graduate School of Business. She previously served as the director of business experiential learning and internships at the Nicolais School of Business at Wagner College ... **Eileen Speidel** was named Administrator of the Year by the Council of Administrators and Supervisors. She was recognized at an awards dinner in Plainview on March 14. She is in her 12th year as principal of Park Avenue Elementary School in North Bellmore ... **1992: Comedian Edward M. "Ted" Alexandro** (MA '94) debuted a new stand-up special called *Senior Class on Earth*, filmed at the Comedy Cellar's

Village Underground. It is the third stand-up special for the comedian who was described as "crafty, thoughtful, and extremely funny" by *The New York Times* ... **Steven Geisert** has joined Transamerica as senior manager of business development for retirement plans. He will focus on managing account relationships with Transamerica's top distribution partners ... **Thomas Ricupero** (AD) retired from his position as principal of Wilson Elementary School in Rockville Centre after 39 years in the district. Ricupero noted in an interview with the *Long Island Herald* that he plans to play golf and go fishing more often in his retirement ... **1993: Robert Akhbari** will be the new principal at two schools, Desert Canyon and Copper Ridge, in Scottsdale, Arizona ... **1994: Matt Maillaro**, assistant district attorney in the 18th Judicial District in Colorado, announced he is running for judicial district attorney in the 18th district for 2020. "Our community has grown and changed greatly over the last decade, and it is time for the district attorney's office to evolve and adapt to meet the new

challenges we face," said Maillaro in a statement through a campaign spokesman ... **1995: Clare Stokolosa** (MS) had her artwork on display in a solo show in Tuscany, Italy, at the hall of Teatro Signorelli. The show was hosted by the Circolo di Gino Severini di Cortona. The exclusive Central Italian art group typically exhibits Cortona locals, but it extended an invitation to Stokolosa, whose grandparents are from the southern cities of Foggia and Naples ... **1996: Anthony Cedrone** has been named assistant superintendent for business at the Wantagh School District. Cedrone previously held the same role at the Carle Place Union Free School District ... **Sarah Hofstetter** was elected a board member for Campbell's Soup Corporation. Campbell's Board Chair Les Vinney described her as "an innovative marketing and brand strategy expert" ... **Brian Paladino** has taken over as chief of the Lynbrook Police Department. Paladino, who grew up in Lynbrook, hopes to create a comprehensive traffic safety plan for pedestrians and to continue community outreach efforts so that law enforcement officers know and understand residents' needs ... **1998: Lina Puerta** (MS) had her work featured in an exhibit in August 2019 at Ille Arts in Amagansett. According to Puerta's website, her art examines the relationship between nature and the body. She utilizes a wide variety of materials in her sculpture—concrete, clay, resin, wood, foam, fabric, artificial plants, paper pulp and handmade paper, craft, and recycled items ... **1999: Michael Cardillo** was named a "Real Estate Rising Star" by *Real Estate Weekly*. Cardillo specializes in the sale of investment properties in the boroughs, predominantly Brooklyn ... **2001: Domingo Carrasco** had his artwork on display at Q.E.D. in Astoria. His series of abstract paintings, described as "thought-provoking and conversation-starting," were shown at the venue last December ... **Paul Pereira** (MA) was the grand marshal at the Village of Mineola's Portuguese Day parade. Pereira is the village's deputy mayor and has been a resident of Mineola for more than 40 years ... **2002: Leslie Pieters** (MS) was recently

named director of health, physical education, athletics and wellness for the Roosevelt School District. An active dancer, Pieters publishes action research and dance articles in various newspapers and journals ... **2003: Karl A. Mitchell** published *Afrika's Struggle: His Experiential Journey*. The novel follows the journey of Afrika, a young man descended from an African emperor ... **2004: Kristen O'Hagen** (MSEd) was elected a trustee to the East Rockaway Board of Education. "It is essential that as a district we embrace a cooperative culture between the school and the community, and increase communication between the two," O'Hagen noted on the school district's website ... **Katie Scarpati** (MSEd) was named the new principal of Mill Brook School, an elementary school in Concord, New Hampshire. She brings over ten years of teaching experience and four years of administrative experience to her new position ... **2005: Cynthia Cameron** has been hired as the new principal for Francis X. Hegarty Elementary School in Island Park. She had served as assistant principal in the Elmont School District since 2012. Some of her main goals include getting to know children and families and introducing a new reading program ... **Josh Kesner** was hired as the new senior vice president, director of card services at BankUnited. Kesner is responsible for launching the bank's commercial card program ... **Carlos Penalzo** has been appointed chancellor of Leeward Community College in Pearl City, Hawaii. Penalzo was previously a provost at St. Luke's College in Kansas City, Missouri; he also has more than a decade of biomedical research under his belt and is published in the fields of cell death and sex genetics. "I am humbled and honored for the opportunity to work with a community that has extended a family-style welcoming and demonstrated pride and commitment to the Leeward Community College mission: to work together to nurture, inspire, and advance the



educational goals of students with a special commitment to native Hawaiians," said Penalzo ... **Michael DiPasquale** (MA) was one of three middle school teachers in the Great Neck School District to be named Master Teacher through the New York State Master Teacher program. DiPasquale has taught for 18 years at North Middle School and teaches earth science and coaches boys volleyball ... **2006: Catherine O. Sweeting** (MA) was one of just 22 community college professors in the United States to receive Dale P. Parnell Faculty Distinction Recognition from the American Association of Community Colleges. Criteria for the award include demonstrating a passion for students and the classroom; showing a willingness to support students; participation on college committees; and going above and beyond what is required to ensure that students are successful in their academic endeavors. Sweeting is an English/literature coordinator and assistant professor of English at Hudson County Community College ... **Brian Wipperman** (MSEd) was selected the next CEO of MarcFirst, an agency that helps people with disabilities in Normal, Illinois. "I am excited to join an organization with such a strong reputation and a long history of service to McLean County," said Wipperman ... **2007: Tejas H. Desai** (MLS) published a new book, *The Brotherhood Chronicle, Vol. 1*. "In the essence of Queens, I wanted to write a genuinely multicultural crime trilogy that moves at a breathtaking pace. It takes on contemporary issues like religious fundamentalism, political corruption, the relationship between individual and community, as well as ethnic, cultural, and gender identity," said Desai ... **Jackie Azúa Kramer** (MSEd) saw release of her third children's book, *That's for Babies*—a story about growing up, for kids age 5 and older. Her previous titles are the award-winning *The Green Umbrella* (2017) and *If You Want to Fall Asleep* (2018) ... **Markos Papadatos**, an award-winning journalist, published his 10,000th article. He writes for several online outlets and is the senior editor of the *Hellenic News of America* and contributing editor of the *Greek-American Herald* ..

2008: Mohamed Amin was named a 2019 *Gay City News* Impact Honoree. He is the founder of the Caribbean Equality Project (CEP), a nonprofit LGBTQ group based in Queens. Through CEP, Amin works to end gender-based and anti-LGBTQ hate violence, to combat racism, and to dismantle systems of oppression ... **Janice Sued Agresti** (MSEd '11) has been selected as an academy fellow by the National Employment Law Council, an organization that provides valuable mentoring and educational skills for up-and-coming attorneys. Agresti is an attorney at Littler, the world's largest employment and labor law practice representing management, where she advises and represents employers in a broad range of labor and employment matters arising under both state and federal laws ... **Natalie Nakazawa** (MSEd) had her artwork on display at Transmitter in Brooklyn at the exhibit *The Wall that Went for a Walk*. This show explored the movement of metaphorical boundaries and physical borders, as well as the breaking of the fourth wall. Nakazawa's work is concerned with identity, multiculturalism, storytelling, archives, and patterns of migration ... **2009: Emily Asher** (MM), a trombonist, singer, and bandleader, performed with her Garden Party Band at Misericordia University last December for a seasonal concert, "Hot Jazz for the Holidays." ... **Milton Josephs** (MSEd) is the new assistant principal of Abbey Lane Elementary School and East Broadway Elementary School in Levittown ... **Jordan Schneider** opened up the restaurant Health Kitchen in Whitestone. The health-conscious establishment offers fresh salads; smoothies; acai, pitaya, and chia bowls; homemade Greek yogurt; and even its own customized coffee blend ... **2010: Erik Chocianowski** was accepted to faculty at Long Island High School for the Arts. Having served as a visiting lecturer at the school for the past three years, he now has a full-time position in the theater department ... **Benjamin Matis**, a cantor, is the new spiritual leader at Agudath Achim Congregation in Altoona, Pennsylvania ... **Bryan Miltenberg**

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(AD) was hired as the principal for Aquebogue Elementary School in the Riverhead School District . . .

Joane Vincent (MSEd) was hired as the assistant director of pupil personnel services at the Seaford School District. Her responsibilities include supervising special education staff and related services at the elementary, middle, and high school levels . . . **2011: Evan Jagels** (MA) performed with the Blake Fleming Trio at the annual West Korthright Center Gallery fundraising exhibition in East Meredith, New York. The jazz combo comprises three SUNY Oneonta music professors . . .

Vilan Trub wrote and directed the movie *The Dirty Kind*, which was in theatres in Los Angeles this past May and was picked up for home distribution in the United States and Canada. The movie focuses on an aspiring private investigator who accidentally uncovers a grisly crime, introducing him to a new and dangerous world . . . **2013: Carmen Cowick** (MLS '14) recently had her second book, *Crash Course in Disaster Preparedness*, published by Libraries Unlimited. Her book outlines a disaster management plan for librarians . . . **2014:**

Lina De La Cruz was elected president of the Masters' Association of Metal Finishing, the New York and New Jersey Chapter of the National Association for Surface Finishing (NASF). The NASF represents the interests of businesses, technologists, and professionals in the surface coatings industry . . . **2015:**

Eli Joseph was selected to participate in the *Forbes Under 30 Summit*, an event that brings young leaders together to learn, network, and collaborate. Joseph was also a TEDx speaker in Syracuse, where he gave the presentation "Can We Determine Team Success Without a Scoreboard?" . . . **Joseph Pascale** joined the Charleston, South Carolina office of Moore Beaston Woodham as a staff accountant . . . **2017: Eric Braunstein** and **Dylan Kaufmann** founded the company Dream Dribble and invented Dream Silencer, a product that allows basketball players to dribble a ball indoors without making noise. They recently partnered with former NBA-great Tim Hardaway, Sr. to promote the product and have a campaign on Kickstarter . . .

Moshe Herskovich was named *Real Estate Weekly* (REW) Rising Star. According to REW, "Moshe exhibits high acumen for valuation analysis and has an innate understanding of real estate investment dynamics." . . . **Anthony Sciaratta** had his first novel, *Finding Forever*, published by Post Hill Press. Set in the 1970s, the book tells the story of a young Italian American man who is hurting over a break-up when he meets a quirky Broadway actress . . . **2018: Vanessa Herrera** (AD) was hired as a legislative aide to Debra Mulé, who represents Nassau County District 5. Herrera will serve as Mulé's Hispanic community liaison . . . **Zaid Islam** (MFA) had his latest solo exhibition, *I was Colourblind*, displayed at Kala Kendra in Mohammadpur, Dhaka. The show explores the personal transition he experienced after moving from Bangladesh to New York City in 2016 and the similar transitions the United States went through as a nation during the same time period.

IN MEMORIAM
Robert Ascher '54
Thomas Jay Brahms '70
Douglas Collins '72
Evelyn Eichholz '94
Robert Fanning '48
Mary Farley '62
William Garrison '61
Lynne M. Geyser '60
William Goldstein '53
Allen Robert Gross '65
Gloria Holt '60
Helen Luciano '61
Judith B. Silverberg Novog '55
Thomas Matthew O'Leary '55
Mary Lou Burke Patrino '48
Rudolph Reichelt '50
Harriet F. Ruprecht '66
Peter Sokhom Sar '92

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