

CUNY Will Train New Generation of Demographers

In 2004, Andrew Beveridge, sociology professor at Queens College, discovered an enclave of Afghans living in Flushing, only a few blocks from his office on campus.

He found these new New Yorkers by studying, with a demographer's intensity, some brand-new numbers from the latest census.

Beveridge's insight into the demographics of the Afghan enclave was included in an enlightening feature article in the *New York Times*, telling about young Afghan women struggling to balance ethnic traditions with the vicissitudes of daily life in New York.

As demographers predict huge increases in the number of Asian and other New Yorkers settling in Flushing and other neighborhoods, such skills are taking on a special urgency.

And Beveridge wants others to be able to do the kind of work he does. In furtherance of that desire, he and a handful of other seasoned demographers from around the University helped create a new CUNY Institute for Demographic Research.

The new Institute is expected soon to begin hiring numbers-crunching scholars, with University administrators hoping the Institute will be fully staffed in about four years with ten senior scholars.

Selma Botman, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, boasted that CUNY has some of the best-known demographers in the country. And now the University's envied reputation in this area will deepen and expand.

"The demographers at CUNY are sought out and quoted by journalists at all the major newspapers," Botman said.

"Armed with data on immigration, voting patterns, mortality and so much else, these scholars also are respected and trusted for their ability to fairly interpret the data that they uncover. With our current demographers as our foundation, CUNY's reputation in this growing field of demography will be multiplied several times over."

There are a number of veteran demographers at CUNY who regularly appear as sources of hard-to-obtain data, in newspapers and magazines, as well as on television and radio and on the Internet.

Call them the Deans of Demography.

Among the veterans are: Beveridge; Neil G. Bennett, professor at the Baruch School of Public Affairs and the CUNY Graduate Center; Sanders Korenman, an economist who teaches at the School of Public Affairs at Baruch; and Ted Joyce, professor of economics at the Zicklin

School of Business at Baruch.

Others are extremely skilled at using databases, but are better known as practitioners of the discipline in which they teach. John Mollenkopf, for example, is consulted widely for information about voting patterns but is considered primarily a political scientist, as opposed to a demographer. "You could call me a political demographer, I guess," Mollenkopf said in an e-mail.

At Queens College, Dean Savage, chair of the sociology department, is another skilled cruncher of numbers. Like the others mentioned above, he was very instrumental in establishing the new Institute for Demographic Research.

Bennett said CUNY's new Institute is filling a big void. "There's been an absence of places at which you can train for demography in New York City for decades," he said.

Initially, administrators will hire three demographers this year,

and those scholars will be based at Baruch College's School of Public Affairs, The Graduate Center and Queens College, where strong work in demographics is already being done. Officials then plan to hire seven more demographers for the new CUNY-wide Institute. over the next four years. The project is expected to cost over \$1 million to operate.

But CUNY demographers say the Institute could bring in millions of dollars more annually, in grants and contracts from government agencies and foundations that study, for example, health and mortality in the developing world or in the United States.

Bennett, who has had formal training in demography from the Office of Population Research at Princeton University as well as a doctorate in sociology, was one of the prime movers behind the new institute. He is also the founding director of the New York Census Research Data Center, another important resource for demographic study that is expected to open soon at Baruch. A second location of the center at Cornell University is already open.

The center, one of nine in the nation and the only one in New York City, will allow researchers to study the most detailed census data, which is normally kept confidential to protect respondents' privacy. Korenman of Baruch is the current executive director of the census center.

But it is the CUNY Institute for Demographic Research that is creating great expectations for the training of a large new crop of specialists. "I expect that we'll create an environment of great intellectual vitality in the field of demographics at the Institute," Bennett said.



Professor Neil G. Bennett, renowned for researching marriage patterns of American women, and mortality rates of developing nations, teaches at the Baruch School of Public Affairs and at The Graduate Center.

MARCH						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
			1	2	3	4
	Peter Carey FAKE Queens College 2 PM \$5, \$15	Queensborough Community College Queens College 1-3 PM Free				College of Staten Island The Super 3 PM \$15 \$12 \$10
Queens College Chelsea vs Columbus New York Sohail Shabbal 2 PM \$5, \$15	Queens College Spring Peter Cary with interviewer Leonard Lopate 7 PM \$10	New York City College of Technology Workshop 8 PM Free	8	9		11
				City College College Wide Career Fair 12 PM Business attire suggested		Lehman College Tchaikovsky Ballet and Orchestra's SLEEPING BEAUTY 7 PM \$30, \$25, \$20
Brooklyn College Jazz Eclectic repertoire spanning the history of jazz 2 PM \$30, \$25, \$20, \$15	College of Staten Island Special Musical history lesson for school children 9-45 AM Free	14	15	16	17	18
			Queensborough Community College 1 PM Free	College of Staten Island 8 PM \$45, \$42, \$39		Queens College 8 PM \$45, \$40, \$39
Lehman College The Breath-taking and Mesmerizing 2 PM \$25, \$15	Queens College Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist Frank McCourt with Leonard Lopate 7 PM, \$10	21	22	23	24	25
			Queensborough Community College 4 PM	Borough of Manhattan Community College 10:30 AM \$15, \$10	Queensborough Community College Workshop for H.S. teachers 9 AM Free	College of Staten Island featuring Tony Curtis & Barbara Eden 8 PM \$75, \$70, \$65
Queens College Neil Hoffman 2 PM \$15	The Graduate Center Reading of a play 6 PM Free	28	29	30		
			Queensborough Community College 1 PM Free	Queensborough Community College 9 AM Free		

APRIL						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
						College of Staten Island Ugandan musician uses African instruments 1 PM \$15, \$12, \$10
Queensborough Community College Retro 1940's musical revue 7:30 PM \$42, \$30, \$35	College of Staten Island Virtuoso piano recital 8 PM \$25	Lehman College 8 PM \$35, \$30, \$25, \$20				8
						Lehman College 8 PM \$100, \$50, \$45, \$35
Brooklyn College Variety of Jewish music with a group of ten dazzling musicians 2 PM \$25	Lehman College 4:30 PM Free					15
						Queensborough Community College 8 PM \$42, \$39
Lehman College Lehman Woodwind Quintet 2 PM Free						
College of Staten Island 3 PM \$55, \$50, \$45	York College 6 PM Free	26	27	28	29	
		Queensborough Community College 1 PM Free	Heston Community College 1 PM Free	College of Staten Island 8 PM \$40	Lehman College 8 PM \$45, \$40, \$35, \$30	

CUNY Matters

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