King’s first college to use fastest microbial ID system

The King’s College biology department recently received a donation of advanced laboratory equipment to be used for the identification of bacteria. The equipment was donated by Microbial Identification, Inc., (MIDI) of Newark, Delaware. According to MIDI, King’s is the first educational institution in the United States to use the equipment.

The Sherlock Microbial Identification System by MIDI, Inc, is used worldwide by health care providers for bacterial identification and clinical diagnosis. The College received a novel sample preparation method, called Sherlock Instant FAME, which will allow King’s students and faculty to identify bacteria samples in less than 15 minutes. Previously, identification took two hours.

Pictured using a portion of the new equipment are, seated, from left: Chad Welsh, biology; and Gary Jackoway, VP of R&D for MIDI, Inc. Standing: Craig Kunitsky, global marketing director for MIDI; Dr. David Glick, biology; and Thomas Tobin, biology.

College hosts two-day Latin America Conference

King’s will host a two-day interdisciplinary conference titled “Landscapes of Latin America: Economic Development, Ethics and the Environment in the 21st Century,” April 24-25.

The conference sessions will examine the changing business, political, economic, cultural, ethical and natural landscapes in the countries of Latin America.

Funding for the conference is provided by the McGowan Center for Ethics and Public Life and a Department of Education Title VI, International Studies Grant to King’s College. The McGowan Center for Ethics and Public Life serves as a hub for research, assessment, and publication of best practices in ethics and moral development.

There will be plenary and concurrent sessions on both days of the conference.

Keynote speakers include Rev. David Farrell, C.S.C., founder and director of the Instituto de Pastoral de la Familia in Lima, Peru; Eduardo Marques Almeida, VP of TechnoServe, a world leading non-governmental organization designed to alleviate poverty in rural areas of Latin America through business and entrepreneurship development; Senator Juan Fernando Perdomo of Mexico; and Kim Byriel, VP international for Inter-Metro.

A highlight of the conference will be a luncheon address of noted Cuban-American poet and fiction writer, Gustavo Perez Firmat, the David Feinson Professor of Humanities at Columbia University. He will deliver an address titled “Havana Manana: Cuba in the American Imagination.”

Among the topics discussed in the concurrent sessions will be business in Latin America, immigration issues, health care, internationalizing education, economic policy, foreign investment & Latin America and environmental issues.

The conference will close with a presentation by Miguel Pinedo-Vasquez, professor of environmental science at Columbia University who will speak on "Research and Implementation of Development and Conservation Projects in Amazonia."

Registration fee for the conference is $80 and includes access to both days of programs as well as three meals a day on Thursday and Friday.

Complete information on the conference is available at: http://www.kings.edu/idc/

For more information, please contact Dr. Margarita Rose, professor of economics and the Herve LeBlanc Distinguished Service Professor at King’s, at ext. 5778.
C&B jazz quartet return to campus to perform ‘Fiesta!’

The C&B Quartet, a jazz ensemble composed of flute, guitar, bass and percussion, will perform a free concert, featuring a lively blend of Pan American music, from tango and chorino to swing and bop. The concert, titled “Fiesta!”, will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, April 25, in the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center.

Members of the C&B Quartet include Larry Carsman, Peter Bloom, Ricardo Monzon, and Andy Blickenderfer. The quartet performs in venues across the Northeast and their latest CD “Amoroso: The Heartbeat of Brazil” is available on the Boston Musicworks label.

For more information, click on the “Experiencing the Arts Calendar” link, located in the scrollbar on the bottom right corner of the College Web site, or contact Robert Yenkowski at ext. 6044.

Local Latino artists to display original works in Widmann

Five local Latino artists working in a variety of mediums, including sketches, oil landscape paintings, watercolor and sculptures, will showcase original creative works in the Widmann Gallery in an exhibition, titled “Creating an Identity: Latino Artists in NEPA,” from April 24-May 30.

Creative works include sketches by David Castro, a student at Coughlin High School; oil landscape paintings by Henry Rodriguez of Wilkes-Barre; watercolor paintings and charcoal sketches by Rod Gereda of Kingston; and, acrylic paintings by Alina Tellez-Bueno, who is temporarily residing in Scranton. Made of a variety of materials, including cardboard, acrylic paint and fabrics, Hector Tellez of Scranton creates “Catrinas,” which depict four scenes of traditional Mexican festivities, including the “The Day of the Dead.”

Artists will discuss their work during a gallery talk from 6-8 p.m. Friday, April 25, in the Widmann Gallery. The exhibition is free and open to the College community. Gallery hours: Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sat. and Sun., as arranged.

For information, contact Dr. Beth Admiraal at ext. 5754.

King’s Players cap season with ‘Anna in the Tropics’

The King’s Players will conclude this year’s theatre season by performing Nilo Cruz’s “Anna in the Tropics” at 7:30 p.m. from April 23-26 in the King’s Theatre.

This poignant and poetic play is set in Florida at a Cuban-American cigar factory, where cigars are still rolled by hand and “lectors” are employed to educate and entertain the workers. The arrival of a new lector is a cause for celebration, but when he begins to read aloud from “Anna Karenina,” he unwittingly becomes a catalyst in the lives of his avid listeners, for whom Tolstoy, the tropics and the American dream prove a volatile combination.

Directed by Bro. Jim Miller, C.S.C., the King’s Theatre Department brings a cast of students and alumni to the stage, including cast members Kevin Stemple (Santiago), Colin Walsh (Cheche), Valerie Saporito (Ofelia), Christina Boutros (Marela), Elsbeth Denman (Conchita), Edward Rafter (Palomo), Carlos Sanes (Juan Julian); and Sean Colin Hankins (Eliades).

The play is free for King’s students, faculty and staff. For more information or to reserve tickets, call the box office at ext. 5825 or e-mail boxoff@kings.edu.

People at King’s

Dr. Terrence Mech, director of the D. Leonard Corgan Library, participated in the Middle States Commission on Higher Education evaluation visit to Berkeley College, New Jersey.

“A Warrior Bishop of the 12th Century: The Deeds of Albero of Trier” by Balderich, was recently translated, with an introduction and notes by Dr. Brian A. Pavlac, professor of history and department chairman. Medieval Sources in Translation 14 (Toronto: Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, 2008).

Physician Assistant professors Barbara Sauls, EdD, PA-C, and Jocelyn Hook, MPAS, PA-C, were recently recognized as a Distinguished Fellows of the American Academy of Physician Assistants.

Go green for Earth Day

Food, music, prizes, and educational displays will be part of The Green Initiative at King’s Earth Day celebration, which will be held from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, in Regina Court. King’s President Rev. Thomas O’Hara, C.S.C., will give the opening remarks.

Each year, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970, and is designed to inspire awareness of and appreciation for the Earth’s environment. The Green Initiative at King’s was formed to promote social responsibility by fostering greater environmental awareness and action among the members of the College community.

For more information, contact Bridget Costello, assistant professor of sociology, at ext. 5745.

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