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New Mobile App Makes it Easy for Borough Residents to Share Materials with Library's "Queens Memory" Website

-- First of Its Kind in New York City When Launched in 2010, Queens Memory Is Unique in Its Partnership with Queens College --

QUEENS, NY, May 31, 2017 – Whether you're a recent arrival in the borough or a long-time resident, no doubt you've captured some vibrant memories of your Queens life in photos, news clippings, and other materials.

Thanks to an improved website and new mobile app, it's now even more convenient to send your personal materials to [Queens Memory](#). This program at the Queens Library was begun in 2010 as a community oral history project by Natalie Milbrodt while she was conducting independent study and earning her Master's degree in Library and Information Science at Queens College. Supported initially by a grant from the Metropolitan New York Library Council, it was the only project of its kind among the three New York City public library systems.

Queens Memory empowers borough residents to record life, past and present, in their own families and communities. To date, the project has collected over 300 oral history interviews, from teens to residents in their nineties, hailing from 23 countries and now living in more than 50 Queens neighborhoods. In addition, approximately 17,000 digitized items are available for viewing on the library's digital archives website.

Hired by the Queens Library in 2012 to oversee Queens Memory as a permanent program, Milbrodt is proud that the unique collaboration with her alma mater continues. "The Queens Memory team is committed to supporting students who wish to learn while creating something innovative in the field," she said.

The library found that talent in three interns from the NYC Tech Talent Pipeline's TTP Residency @ Queens College program. Managed at the college by Ying Zhou, TTP Residency @ Queens is a semester-long program designed to deliver qualified tech talent to local employers and short-term professional opportunities to competitive NYC undergraduates. A partnership between the NYC Tech Talent Pipeline, Queens College, and The New York Code + Design Academy, the program gathers valuable feedback from host businesses to better align tech education with the workforce needs of NYC employers. It is expanding to Lehman College in the Bronx this summer.

"We're thrilled to have provided the technical training necessary to the interns who developed the Queens Memory website and mobile app. NYCDA focuses on bettering the communities it serves and projects like Queens Memory provide a direct benefit to the community while allowing programmers to further hone their craft," said Jeremy Snepar, CEO of NYCDA.

TTP interns Jongbu Sherpa and Andy Yu worked primarily on the website redesign, and Aniqah Wahid developed the mobile app. Sherpa, a native of Nepal who now lives in Corona, graduated with a computer science degree last year. Yu, a resident of Flushing, graduates in 2018. Wahid, who grew up in Astoria, will graduate this fall with degrees in computer science and neuroscience. Sherpa and Wahid are now working in technology jobs at the Queens Library. "Aniqah, Jongbu and Andy epitomize the creativity and intelligence we look for in students we bring into this work," said Ankaj Patidar, the library's software development manager.

For Sherpa, who had some earlier web development experience, "The TTP internship particularly helped me to know how the application development process works within an organization," he said. "Guided by Mr. Patidar, I'm sure I acquired most of the skills I needed to become a better software developer."

"This internship was a great learning experience," said Wahid. "Giving Queens Memory a portable aspect—the ability for patrons to send personal histories, photographs and other records from smart phones—allows them to conveniently contribute to the library's permanent archival collection."

Those who want to send materials using an Android phone can access the free Queens Memory app from Google Play, and users of iPhones and other Apple mobile devices can find the app on the iTunes store. This app developed by the students is also live on the [main Queens Memory website](#).

Queens-related materials—digital and older, scanned photos, along with printed materials, manuscripts and even audio files are welcome submissions. For example, Queens Memory received a sound recording that was made during an entire Queens bus route. The different languages heard as passengers boarded along the way reflect the changing ethnicities of the neighborhoods through which the bus traveled.

Library personnel will review the materials for visual and/or audio quality, copyright ownership, relevance, and other factors, and will send feedback to the sender. All would-be contributors will know if their submissions have been accepted for posting. If approved, the materials are posted on the [DigitalArchives.QueensLibrary.org](#) website. Said Milbrodt: "At that point, anyone can publish them to the Queens Memory site in an album with a title and description. They can also select related materials from the digital archives to publish with their personal photos."

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September 06

Statement in Support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program and our undocumented immigrant students, from Queens College President Félix V. Matos Rodríguez

August 25

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August 22

Nine-Piece Student Band and 10-Member Dance Team to Welcome Over 1,800 New Queens College Students in a New Orleans Jazz-Style Procession

August 21

An Overview of AT&T and the Local Communities with Marissa Shorenstein, President, AT&T East Region

August 17

Queens College Choral Society Invites New Members to Join for "Season of Unity" 2017-2018

July 17

Louis Armstrong House Museum Breaks Ground on New \$23 Million Education Center

July 12

Queens College is Ranked in the Top 5% of Money Magazine's 2017-18 "711 Best Colleges for Your Money" Listing

July 12

Louis Armstrong House Museum in Queens, NY Announces Groundbreaking Ceremony for New \$23 Million Education Center

June 27

Finding Common Ground Through Art—Young Muslim Teacher Inspires and is Embraced by Young Israel of Queens Seniors

June 22

Queens College Scientist Stephen Pekar Will Join First Major Expedition to Explore the Lost Continent of Zealandia

June 19

Queens Memory actively engages community volunteers and partners and continues to work with Queens College, especially departments such as history, sociology and anthropology that can access the archives to enrich their curricula. And Queens Memory Outreach Coordinator Lori Wallach works at the [Center for Teaching & Learning at QC](#) to help faculty and staff contribute every semester to the project.

"This community involvement leads to a heightened appreciation of shared experience and the value of history and preservation," said Milbrodt. "At the heart of this work is the idea of democratizing the process of history-making—empowering people to contribute to and define their local history."

About Queens College

Queens College graduates the most teachers, counselors and principals in the metropolitan area. The college contributes to the local talent pool as a powerful economic engine and a leader in tech education, with more computer science majors than any college in New York City. Queens College also has the third-highest number of accounting and business students in all of New York State. Students from across the country and around the world are attracted to study at the Aaron Copland School of Music. Its renowned faculty and alumni include nationally recognized composers, conductors and performers who have received nearly 40 Grammy Awards and nominations over the past 40 years.

Queens College enjoys a national reputation for its liberal arts and sciences and pre-professional programs. With its graduate and undergraduate degrees, honors programs, and research and internship opportunities, the college helps its nearly 19,000 students realize their potential in countless ways, assisted by an accessible, award-winning faculty. Located on a beautiful 80-acre campus in Flushing, the college is cited each year in the Princeton Review as one of the nation's 100 "Best Value" colleges, as well as being ranked a U.S. News and World Report Best College and Forbes Magazine Best Value College thanks to its outstanding academics, generous financial aid packages, and relatively low costs. Visit our [homepage](#) to learn more.

About the NYC Tech Talent Pipeline

The NYC Tech Talent Pipeline is an industry partnership at the NYC Department of Small Business Services designed to support the growth of the City's tech sector and deliver quality jobs for New Yorkers and quality talent for New York's businesses. TTP works directly with industry and academic partners to improve alignment of tech education pathways with the needs of NYC's growing tech ecosystem in order to better prepare New Yorkers for tech jobs.

About The New York Code + Design Academy

The [New York Code + Design Academy](#) is a technology education provider with a mission to make learning to code accessible to all. Founded in 2012 and now operating under Strayer Education, Inc., NYCDA provides intensive full-time and evening part-time courses for adults, and classes for kids and teens.



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Hundreds of Elementary School Students from Queens and the Bronx Demonstrate How They are Fighting "Nature Deficiency Syndrome"

May 31

New Mobile App Makes it Easy for Borough Residents to Share Materials with Library's "Queens Memory" Website

May 26

Queens College to Offer the Only Master's in Science Education Degree in NYS for Teaching Both Math and Computer Science

May 25

Queens College Offers Over 600 Affordable Summer Courses in Three Sessions From June Through August

May 22

A Conversation on the NYC Film Industry with Julie Menin, Commissioner of the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment

May 22

Congresswoman Grace Meng Will Be Speaker and President's Medal Recipient at Queens College 93rd Commencement Ceremony, May 26

May 11

Queens College to Celebrate Award-Winning Students on Campus Quad, Monday, May 15, 12:15-1:30

May 10

Media Advisory for Monday, May 15, 3:45

May 09

Family-Friendly Concert of Mexican Music on May 21

May 08

Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding Honors Cofounder Mark Rosenblum at First Annual Gala May 15

May 08

Queens College Choral Society Presents Haydn's Creation