

QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
of The City University of New York

*REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT*  
to the  
ACADEMIC SENATE

FEBRUARY 8, 2011

- As we begin the Spring 2011 term, I am very appreciative of the extraordinary work of so many colleagues over the last several years, especially these last months, to launch CUNYfirst as the University's new student information system. It was an extremely challenging process and staff members in Enrollment Management, Student Affairs, Finance and Administration, Information Technology, Academic Affairs, *especially the Registrar staff*, worked tirelessly in preparation for the system launch, often seven days a week, including days which were, for many of us, family holidays. Academic Department Chairpersons were invaluable for their counsel and their patience with the launch. Their support contributed in no small way to the enrollment numbers we achieved this semester. As of January 31, 13,229 students were registered for the spring term. Over 1200 in house and visiting students enrolled in our 2011 winter session.
- Fifty of our colleagues, including fifteen faculty members, elected to participate in the Early Retirement Incentive Program. A Farewell event (by invitation) will be held in their honor on February 8. Their contributions to our College through teaching and service are many—and on behalf of our students, whose lives they impacted, we thank them.
- Recipients of the second round of Pedagogical Research Grants for Spring 2011 have been named, with three projects selected for funding which ranged up to \$15,000. Congratulations to Ms. Lorraine Cupelli, Nursing, Dr. Sharon Ellerton, Biological Sciences, Ms. Arlene Kemmerer and Ms. Josephine Pantaleo, Basic Educational Skills, for their project: *Scaffolding Peer Mentoring Across the Curriculum*; Mr. Cary Lane, Basic Educational Skills and Dr. Urszula Golebiewska, Biological Sciences for *Learning Impacts of Effective Note-Taking in Biological Sciences*; and Dr. Anita Ferdenzi, Social Sciences, Ms. Sandy Peskin, Mathematics, and Dr. Vazgen Shekoyan, Physics for their project on *An Interdisciplinary Investigation of the Effects of Constructivist Pedagogy on Physics Achievement, Math and Physics Anxiety, Self-Efficacy, and Metacognitive Awareness of Pre-service Teachers at Queensborough Community College*. Thank you to the selection committee, Professor Kitty Bateman, Dr. Meg Tarafdar, Ms. Chris Johnson, and Vice President Karen Steele.

- Over the month of January, several dozen faculty and staff participated in a variety of faculty development activities including the second Institute for e Learning, Writing Intensive Certification, and a Learning Communities Think Tank. Organized by our faculty project leaders through the Office of Academic Affairs, these activities offered support to new participants in these initiatives including a sharing of best practices to develop and implement a variety of teaching modalities, as well as an orientation to the technology used to deliver it.
- The Convocation of the College was held on February 4, with the theme “Are We making a Difference: Using Research to Inform Practice.” It featured findings by Victor Fichera: *Academy Snap Shot, One Year Out*; ***Promising Models in Developmental Education***, introduced by Dr. Margot Edlin, with presentations on ***Math 05 Module*** by Dr. Michael Guy, Dr. Jonathan Cornick, Dr. Andrew Russell and Dr. Robert Holt of the Department of Mathematics; ***Basic Educational Skills Winter Programs*** with Dr. Jed Shahar and Mr. Cary Lane; ***Two for One: Using Academic Rubrics to Inform Course Assessment***, with presentations by Dr. Antonella Ansani, Ms. Suzana Alaiz-Losada, and Dr. Maan Lin on **Foreign Language Assessment**; Dr. Anne-Marie Bourbon, Dr. Lorena Ellis and Dr. Maurizio Santoro on **LA Academy General Education Assessment**; and Ms. Shele Bannon, Ms. Kelly Ford, Mr. Sebastian Murolo, Dr. Stephen Hammel and Dr. Ted Rosen presenting on the **Business Academy Cohort General Education Assessment**. Congratulations to all for their contributions to campus dialogues on these important topics.
- Another important activity impacting our campus community and our students is the University call for discussion and development of a framework on General Education with specific learning outcomes. It is vital for us as a faculty to engage in an organized effort to review our general education offerings and respond to this call, which emerged from several reports on articulation and its impact on students who transfer to CUNY senior colleges. I join Dr. Tai in support of a special Task Force of the Academic Senate, with representatives from our faculty governance groups, the Office of Academic Affairs, and faculty representatives from the disciplines, to lead discussion of general education, examine and propose any adjustments to our general education offerings as well as learning outcomes/competencies we, as a faculty, determine and implement.

Upcoming events:

- Queensborough students will compete in the *American Mock Trial Association’s Regional Mock Trials Tournament* to be held at Yale University the weekend of February 10-12. Queensborough is the only community college to participate in this round of the competition, which includes Yale, Princeton, NYU, Dartmouth, Cornell, Boston College, and Brown. Sixteen business students have been preparing for a number of months under the guidance of Professor Ted Rosen, Professor Kelly

Ford, Dr. Steve Hammel, and Dr. Marjorie Deutsch. The case focuses on the issues of negligence and product liability.

- As noted in my December report to the Academic Senate, Chancellor Matthew Goldstein will visit the campus on Wednesday, March 30 at 10:30 a.m. in Medical Arts, Room 136. Faculty, staff and students will be invited to attend and engage with the Chancellor, who will address the budget outlook for FY 12 as well as University initiatives.
- Faculty and staff are cordially invited to attend our twenty fourth annual *Partners for Progress Gala* on Thursday, April 28, 2011 at Terrace on the Park. This year, our three honorees are: The Flushing Chinese Business Association represented by Liu Tee Shu, President, and Peter Tu, Executive Director as our Workforce Development Partner; Nancy Aber Goshow, Managing Partner of Goshow Architects, as our Business Partner; and our very own Dr. Sheena Gillespie, as our Academic Partner. Proceeds from the Gala support student scholarships.