



**Report of the President
to the
Academic Senate**

April 14, 2015

Enrollment Update

- Summer 2015 registration is off to an early but brisk start with 1400 students registered and over 100 courses being offered.
- The Office of Admissions is processing admitted student records and admission deposits for the Fall 2015 cycle. The College will begin to accept Direct Admission applications in early May.
- Academic Advisement/Registration: Advisement for CONTINUING students is now underway in the Academies and in the special program offices. Registration for CONTINUING students will be available beginning April 9th. Advisement and registration for NEW students begins Thursday, April 9th in the Academies. This cycle, new students will meet with an Academy Adviser to discuss their program of study in their respective Academy and following their initial conference, "Tiger" Peer Advisers will monitor and assist new students to register themselves.

Financial Aid/Scholarships/Grants

- The Fall 2014 Continuing Student Academic Merit Scholarship is still available for eligible students to apply. The deadline for students to submit their application online is Tuesday, April 21st. Visit QCC's scholarship webpage at www.qcc.cuny.edu/scholarships to learn about this and other exciting scholarship opportunities.
- The 2015-2016 Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is currently available on-line for students and families to begin the application process now. Currently enrolled students who plan to register for Fall 2015 seeking NYS or Federal financial aid, must re-submit their FAFSA by Monday, April 20th.
- The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation awarded QCC a three-year grant, of up to \$100,000 per year, for three years, to provide one-time, emergency grants to students in good standing with short-term financial emergencies to enable them to remain in school, rather than being forced to leave or drop out. The college completed the first year of the grant on December 31, 2014 and successfully awarded \$100,000 to Queensborough

students in need. As of March 31, 2015 the college has awarded \$55,068 for the second year of the grant which runs through December 31, 2015. Ms. Veronica Lukas, Executive Director of Student Financial Services, will be sending periodic e-mail reminders to the college community outlining the grant eligibility and encouraging faculty and staff to refer students to apply. Ms. Denise Scalzo, Associate Director of Student Financial Services, will serve as the Grants Manager for this campus initiative. Please refer students with short-term financial emergencies to Ms. Scalzo at your earliest convenience. Additional information can be found at www.qcc.cuny.edu/scholarships.

- Please encourage our students to avail themselves of the valuable and free resources through the QCC Single Stop Program. A list of the services provided include (but are not limited to) financial benefits screening, financial counseling, legal assistance, tax preparation services and more. Additional information can be found on their website at www.qcc.cuny.edu/singlestop.
- The University is a partner school with **The Dream.US Scholarship Program** to assist undocumented students in obtaining scholarships. The Dream.US Scholarship Program provides college scholarships to highly motivated undocumented students who entered the United States as minors under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protect Status (TPS), and who, without financial assistance, cannot afford a college education. All funding is provided by private donations to The Dream.US organization which funds students across the country. Queensborough is pleased to announce that we have two students currently enrolled for the Spring 2015 semester who were selected as scholarship winners. For the Spring 2015 application cycle, there are 25 students who applied for the scholarship which will be awarded for the Fall 2015 semester. Winners will be announced soon.
- Through the generous donation of the Stella and Charles Guttman Foundation, **the Guttman Transfer Scholarship** was established by CUNY to award up to \$4,000 over four semesters of undergraduate study to high-achieving CUNY community college graduate who plan to continue their education at one of five CUNY senior colleges. To date, 19 Queensborough graduates have been awarded Guttman Scholarships since its inception in 2014. To date, we have 39 students who have applied for the Fall 2015 scholarships.
- **Milestone Scholarship:** To encourage timely degree completion, continuing QCC students who began in Fall 2014 and have completed between 26 and 29 credits towards their degree at the end of this term are eligible to receive a Milestone scholarship for a credit course taken at QCC this summer. The scholarships are intended to support a student reaching the “thirty- credit milestone” of his/her Queensborough degree within one calendar year. The student must have a minimum GPA of 2.75 to be eligible for this scholarship. The Office of Academic Affairs has identified 320 students identified as milestone candidates, and sent these students an invitation to apply for this summer’s Milestone scholarships.

Faculty Honors

- Professor Jules Allen, Department of Art and Design is featured in *Salute to Scholars* magazine, Winter 2015. Jules is a renowned art photographer whose work, primarily focused on the contemporary African American experience, is in the permanent collections of many important museums. As a teacher and mentor to his students, he guides students to find their creativity through insight and artistic expression.
- Dr. Simran Kaur, Department of Biological Sciences and Geology, has been awarded a **Fulbright Scholarship** to conduct faculty development workshops and assist professors at Guru Nanak Dev University (Amritsar, India) in incorporating high impact practices into their courses. The Fulbright program aims to increase understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. It is the flagship international education exchange program sponsored by the US government with the goal of establishing open communication and long term collaborative relationships. Dr. Saur's Fulbright is based on her work with High Impact Practices, including undergraduate research and service learning.
- Dr. Azita Mayeli, (Mathematics and Computer Science), is the recipient of the **Feliks Gross Endowment Award** presented each year to assistant professors in recognition of outstanding research, or potential for such, in the humanities or sciences, including social and life sciences. This is the City University of New York's (CUNY) highest award for assistant professors. Dr. Mayeli, the only community college faculty member to receive the award, was selected for her contribution in mathematical science and interdisciplinary fields, such as in the communication theory, signal processing, and astrophysics, and study of large data, for the past 15 years.

Student Honors

- Sylvia Salamone was selected among 1700 applicants as a GOLD SCHOLAR on the **All USA Community College Academic Team!** This national scholarship program, sponsored by Coca Cola, is administered by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Daysi Proano was selected as a Bronze Scholar on the national team. Competition for these honors was fierce as only 150 students were awarded scholarships from more than 1,700 applications. Selection as Coca-Cola Scholars was based on scores the students earned in the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition. An independent panel of judges considers outstanding academic rigor, grade point average, academic and leadership awards, and engagement in college and community service in the selection process. This program is sponsored by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and is administered by Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. Congratulations to Daysi and Silvia, not only for this achievement, but also for embracing service to their community and for being exemplary student role models!
- Several QCC students have secured summer internships to conduct undergraduate research at prestigious universities: Daysi Proano (Forensic Sciences major) has been

awarded a summer research internship (REU) at Princeton University in Biophysics. This is an extremely competitive program with less than 10% acceptance rate- mostly to juniors and seniors from prestigious colleges. This is the second year in a row that a QCC student was accepted to a Princeton REU- last year it was our 2014 graduate Sandy Enriquez. Ms. Proano was also invited by Boston University. Luting Chen, an honors student in chemistry (and member of ASAP) was awarded a summer research internship at Boise State University

- The work of Lisa Baw “Windows of Inspiration”, is featured at the QCC Art Gallery (until April 9). Lisa has been painting since the age of five and has since used the art form to overcome significant physical challenges. At 17 she took up oil painting as a way of training her hand-eye coordination, and discovered her life's passion in the process. For the past six years she has continued her painting studies under Beata Szpura, (Art and Design Department), and Lisa dreams of one day teaching art to kindergarten children with the hope that it will change their lives as it has changed hers.

Grant Opportunities

(Please contact the QCC Office of Sponsored Programs for additional information and assistance)

- **National Science Foundation:**
 - **“The Big Data Collaborative”** Deadline: 5/20- NSF will direct its current efforts to develop new methods to derive knowledge from data; construct new infrastructure to manage, curate and serve data to communities; and forge new approaches for associated education and training.
 - **“The Geophysics Program”** Deadline: 6/3 (Collaborating with the Directorate for Geosciences and Division of Earth Sciences) - The Geophysics Program supports basic research in the physics of the solid earth to explore its composition, structure, and processes from the Earth's surface to its deepest interior.
- **National Endowment for the Humanities:**
 - **“Latino Americans: 500 Years of History”** Deadline: 5/1 (Collaborating with the A.L.A.) - The program is designed for libraries, museums, community arts and cultural organizations, historical societies, public television station affiliates, state humanities councils, and others that seek to facilitate informed discussion in their communities about the long and fascinating history of Latinos in the United States.
 - **“Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges”** Deadline: 8/21 - To create opportunities for community college faculty members to study together while improving their capacity to teach the humanities, enhance or develop areas of need in an institution's humanities programs, and give community college faculty access to humanities resources through partnerships with other institutions with appropriate resources.

“Collaborative Research Grants” Deadline: 12/9 - Collaborative Research Grants support interpretive humanities research undertaken by a team of two or more scholars, for full-time or part-time activities for periods of one to three years.

- **Spencer Foundation** was established to investigate ways in which education can be improved around the world. The Foundation is thus committed to supporting high-quality investigation of education through its research programs and to strengthening and renewing the educational research community through its fellowship and training programs and related activities. “Small Research Grants in Areas of Interest” Deadline: 6/2 and “Lyle Spencer Large Grant Program” Deadline: 7/9

General Education Task Force Update

- The General Education Task Force has developed a process for collecting electronic artifacts of student work from courses in each academic department, using a Drop Box set up by the ACC. The academic departments have identified courses that will be participating and the outcomes by which each set of artifacts will be assessed. To ensure anonymity, all artifacts will have student and faculty names and course sections removed; students who are video-taped for evaluation of the speaking rubric will be asked to fill out permission forms for that use. Evaluation will take place in June. The Task Force has reviewed General Education Outcomes statements of other colleges as well as national Gen Ed frameworks and has begun to draft a foundational statement for general education at the College and to identify outcomes most critical to be assessed. In May the Task Force will submit a report to the Senate on its accomplishments during 2014-15 and its timetable for completing its charge during 2015-16.

BTECH

- Six QCC faculty, Wendy Ford, Marilyn Katz, and Anthony Kolios from the Business Department and Merlinda Drini, Michael Lawrence, and Hamid R. Namdar from Engineering Technology attended the April SAP University Alliance conference. Working with SAP staff and faculty from around the country and Canada, they learned how to develop learning modules, based on the latest SAP technologies, which will be incorporated into their curriculum. BTECH students competed for spots as BTECH Ambassadors. Winners will present at the QCC Partners for Progress Gala and a SAP event later in the school year. A meeting with chairs Kathleen Villani, Stu Asser, Sasan Karimi, Joe Culkin and Monica Trujillo, and professors Todd Holden, Michael Dolan, Belle Birchfield, and Margot Edlin, and Interim Vice President Paul Marchese, to discuss the development of the rubrics to assess the Indicators for Student Readiness (ISRs) was held in late March. When implemented, these indicators are intended to close the gap between high school and college curricula and increase behavioral skills to college levels.

Upcoming Events

- The QCC Art Gallery will feature two special exhibits on Thursday, April 16th, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Representing the expertise and talent of the faculty and staff of QCC's own Department of Art & Design is the Faculty & Staff Exhibition. Running concurrently is the seventh annual Juried Student Exhibition displaying a broad range of talent from the students currently pursuing their artistic aspirations at QCC. All are invited.
- The College's student led grass-roots fundraiser for merit scholarships, Walk to Aspire will be held on Wednesday, April 22 at noon on the QCC Track. More than 14 teams with students, faculty and staff are expected to participate, and seek sponsorship from students, colleagues, family and friends.
- Dr. Deborah Dwork of Clark University will present a lecture "Holding On Through Letters: Jewish Families During the Holocaust" on Sunday, April 26th at 1pm in the KHRCA. Dr. Deborah Dwork is the Rose Professor of Holocaust History and founding Director of the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University. In her presentation Dr. Dwork will explain the ingenious ways Jewish families in Nazi Europe bypassed the censors and kept in contact, and how letters became threads stitching loved ones into each other's constantly changing daily lives.
- A favorite spring event is QCC's Asian Cultural Festival, held this year on Wednesday, April 29, from noon to 2:00 in the Student Union. Several campus clubs and organizations cosponsor the event that features live performances, arts & crafts and food. All are cordially invited to join this celebration.
- Our College's annual fundraiser, the "*Partners for Progress*" gala will be held on Thursday, April 30. This year's event honors *Frank Korzekwinski, Corporate Partner of the Year*. Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Real Estate Lending Officer of Flushing Bank, Mr. Korzekwinski has served on the QCC Business Advisory Council for the past four years, and has provided generous financial support through Flushing Bank to the QCC Fed Challenge team and referred our students for internships and job opportunities at Flushing Bank; *Liren Wei, Art Gallery Partner of the Year*, is the Managing Partner of the Accounting firm Wei, Wei & Co., LLP, the largest Chinese-owned Certified Public Accounting firm in the United States with offices in New York, Los Angeles, and Beijing. Mr. Wei is a major supporter of the QCC Art Gallery; *The Alumni Partner of the Year*, is a special memorial tribute to a beloved faculty member, *Vicki Kasomenakis*, Class of 1981, who was an accounting professor at Queensborough for nearly twenty years. Vicki served as an academic advisor, Chair of the Ceremonial Occasions Committee, and also coordinated the student-run Business Society. As a tribute to her, the Business Society will be renamed The Vicki Kasomenakis Business Society. Funds raised at our "Partners for Progress" gala support Student Success, Faculty Development, the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center & Archives (KHRCA), the QCC Art Gallery and the Queensborough Performing Arts Center (QPAC).

- Queensborough's Eleventh Annual *Honors Conference* will take place on Friday, May 1, from 11am to 5pm in the Medical Arts Building.
- CUNY's Annual Conference on Coordinated Undergraduate Education (CUE) – *Engaging for Impact: CUNY as a Catalyst for Change* will be held on Friday, May 8, at The City College of New York, 9am to 5pm.
- The film, *Conspiracy*, will be screened at the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center on Tuesday, May 12th at 1 pm. The film depicts the top-secret Nazi meeting held to debate the merits of Hitler's 'Final Solution,' the extermination of the entire Jewish population of Europe.
- Barbara Rothman, a former QCC faculty member will discuss her book "No Road For Me To Africa" in the KHRCA on Thursday, May 14th at 6 pm. The book, a compilation of letters, postcards and notes translated from Yiddish and Polish, documents the life and correspondence of the Bermans, a Jewish family of tailors in Warsaw during the Second World War.
- Queensborough's 54th **Commencement** Ceremony will be held on Friday morning, May 29, 2015. Our Grand Marshal is Dr. Joe Culkin. The academic procession will be led by Dr. Paris Svoronos (faculty marshal) and Ms. Bonnie Cook (HEO marshal). Dr. Adam Ludke will lead the AA candidates, Dr. Chantal Damas will lead the AS candidates and Dr. Nina Sarkar will lead the AAS candidates. *Faculty members and HEOs are encouraged to participate in this event, which is so very meaningful to our graduates and their families. Those participating in the commencement ceremony may order their academic attire through the QCC Commencement Webpage at www.qcc.cuny.edu/commencement. The deadline for ordering academic attire is Monday, April 27th.*