



**Report of the President
to the
Academic Senate
February 16, 2016**

Enrollment Update

The College has concluded a most successful spring enrollment cycle, having met or exceeded most of our targets and projections. As of February 2, we have enrolled 14,590 students, including 1034 freshmen and 856 transfer students. Included in this newest cohort of freshmen are 135 students who successfully completed the CUNY Start program.

The Office of New Student Engagement, led by Dr. Carol Allyne, had a notable launch offering 500 newly admitted students information, resources and support. Working closely with the Office of Admissions, Testing and Academy Advisement, New Student Engagement Spring activities concluded with a Welcome Week-- an exciting line-up of events and activities during the first week of classes designed to successfully "onboard" the newest members of our Community.

The Office of Admissions is now focused on Fall 2016, having already received our first group of freshmen applications for the Fall semester.

Faculty/Staff Honors and Accomplishments

- Good News! Our NCLEX pass rate for 2015 was 91.01%, the highest in CUNY and most of New York State, which has an average of 80.57%. Queensborough's pass rate was also higher than Hunter (89.1%), Lehman (81.2%), and LaGuardia (89.7%).
- The QCC Presidential Fellowship Program (PFP) is intended to provide support for mid-career faculty who require additional resources to engage in scholarly activities, to enhance their opportunity for promotion. The goal of this program is to encourage mid-career faculty who are working to develop a strong record of scholarly activity for promotion to the next rank. Three faculty, Hamid Namdar (Engineering Technology), Patrick Wallach (Math and Computer Sciences), and Constance Williams (Library), were recipients of the PFP.
- The QCC Award for Excellence in Faculty Scholarship is awarded to *tenured faculty*, and recognizes a "sustained and distinguished record of scholarship or creative performance, evidenced by publications, professional presentations, and/or creative works." It is offered every two years. This year's recipients for this prestigious award were

Moni Chauhan (Chemistry), and Nidhi Gadura (Biological Sciences and Geology). There will be a ceremony on April 5, 2016 to honor their accomplishments,

- Please join me in congratulating Dr. Urszula Golebiewska for sharing the 2016 Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. This extraordinary prize of three million dollars was awarded to a total of five teams comprised of more than 1,300 individual physicists. Urszula was part of the team that investigated neutrino oscillation, and all members will share in the recognition for their work.
- Congratulations to Professor Jules Allen on his new book *Marching Bands*, a photographic essay on black marching bands across America. The book, which was published in collaboration with the QCC Art Gallery, has received glowing reviews in The New York Times, among other publications. Four of the five books by Professor Allen were published by the Gallery, including the Gallery's first ever published book, *Hats and Hats Not*, which accompanied Professor Allen's first QCC Art Gallery exhibit.
- Another new book, *The Con Men: Hustling in New York City*, is coauthored by Professor Trevor Milton of the Department of Sociology at Queensborough and Professor Terry Williams of the New School for Social Research. They were recently invited to give a reading and lecture about the book at the New York Public Library on the sociological reasons why con artists play their games and the psychological tricks they use to win.
- Prof. Mirna Lekić (Music) was awarded a *CUNY Diversity Projects Development Fund* grant to share contemporary chamber music from Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Japan, Taiwan and Tunisia with residents of New York City. Two concerts will be presented to the public free of charge by Ensemble 365, a group comprised of CUNY Graduate Center students and Alumni.

Student/Alumni Honors

- We congratulate QCC students Yueli Chen and Yi Jiang, who were named Phi Theta Kappa/USA Today All-New York Scholars. This past summer, Yi Jiang participated in a Research Experiences for Undergraduates internship at Vanderbilt University where she conducted research on biohybrid solar cells. She was the only community college student participant in the program. I am grateful to Drs. Emily Tai and Paris Svoronos for their tireless work as advisors and mentors to the students in our Lambda Sigma chapter of the national Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.
- In January, Engineering Technology students Kelvin Henry and Brian Munevar were selected as two of eight finalists to make it to the final phase of the CUNYCapOne Community College Innovation Challenge competition. More than twenty teams participated in the Challenge, which was held at Baruch College. In May, the finalists will compete for over \$25,000 in prize money. The CUNYCapOne event featured keynote speakers Steve Blank, creator of the Lean Startup movement, and Harry Smith of NBC and CNBC. Both participated as a result of special invitations by Queensborough. Drs. Christine

Mooney and Edgar Troudt, Assistant Professor in the Department of Tourism and Hospitality at Kingsborough Community College, are Co-Principal Investigators of a grant that is supporting the competition. Congratulations Christine for the outstanding work you do with these students.

There is also wonderful news to share about our alumni:

- Former Chemistry student Emily Hughes Yosh has been accepted into Rutgers New Jersey Medical School. On completing Queensborough in 2008, Emily matriculated into the Honors College at SUNY Stony Brook and was accepted into their highly regarded pharmacology program. There, her research in osteoporosis led to publication and presentations on the development of a novel compound to treat this prevalent disease. Congratulations to her mentors, Dr. Jun Shin and Dr. Paris Svoronos of the Department of Chemistry, and Dr. Regina Sullivan, of the Department of Biological Sciences and Geology.
- Renzo Samame, who earned his LS 1 (Chemistry) Associate degree in 2007, went on to obtain his bachelor's degree in Organic Chemistry from Hunter in 2009. He was then accepted with a full-time graduate fellowship at the University of California-Irvine, where he co-published two peer-reviewed journal publications, along the way to earning his doctoral degree last November. He will continue his career on a post-doctoral assignment at UCLA. While at Queensborough, Renzo presented his findings at more than eight American Chemical Society conferences. Dr. Luis Vargas and Dr. Svoronos had the pleasure of witnessing Renzo develop into a future potential faculty member.
- Kevin Chavez, Class of 2012 and a Biochemistry graduate from Stony Brook is completing his first year in Medical School at Stony Brook on a tuition free scholarship. Another 2012 graduate Marjorie Morales is also a Biochemistry graduate at Stony Brook. She is finishing her first year in Medical School at Albert Einstein, her choice among the five different MD programs in which she was accepted.
- Dr. Hoda Mirafzal, a 2003 Queensborough graduate, is a Lecturer in Physical Chemistry at California Polytechnic State University. She earned her bachelor's in science at Cooper Union, and subsequently studied at the University of California, Merced, where she earned her doctoral degree in 2011. At QCC, she conducted research under Drs. Sasan Karimi, Pedro Irigoyen and Paris Svoronos.

Opportunities/Resources for Students

Now through April 15, 2016, Single Stop will make Free Tax Preparation available for QCC students in the Student Union, Upper Level. In addition, we will have one Saturday session on March 5, 2016. Please encourage students to take advantage of this free service. Further information about this program and hours of operation are available from the Single Stop Office, L-432A or at <http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/singlestop/TaxPreparation.html>.

General Education Task Force

At its February 5, 2016, meeting the General Education Assessment Task Force reviewed results from the faculty survey on the General Education Outcomes as well as results from the Fall 2015 Digication Pilot. The Task Force will be convening a forum for all faculty to discuss themes from the survey and possible revision of the college's general education outcomes.

The Task Force will be sending requests to all the academic departments for participation in the Spring 2016 collection of student work (artifacts) to be evaluated according to the four outcome rubrics created by the Task Force and posted on the Assessment website, at <http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/assessment/geatf.html>. This year student artifacts will be loaded into the ePortfolio platform, Digication. Faculty development sessions will be offered in support of this project, and student support will be provided by the ACC.

Assessment Update

As in past semesters, the Assessment Institute for QCC faculty will be held this spring semester over four successive Fridays—February 19 and 26 and March 4 and 11—from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. in LB24. An invitation to the faculty was sent out on January 28, and the cohort is being formed. Interested faculty should ask their department chairs to forward their nominations to Dean Arthur Corradetti. Since its inception in fall 2014, over one hundred faculty members have participated in the institute.

BTECH Update

On Friday, January 29th, 74 BTECH sophomores launched their college careers by attending their first college class, (SP-211) Speech Communication. These sophomores were deemed qualified to attend the course at this time as a result of their academic standing at the high school and their performance in the course specific Indicators of Student Readiness, designed and developed by the college faculty and high school teachers. Students who are not currently attending SP-211 will have an opportunity to enroll in a later semester. Earlier in the week, students and their parents attended a 3.5 hour QCC Orientation at which consistent themes emerged from all the speakers: the recognition that students are responsible for their education; that they must advocate for themselves; and they must behave as responsible adults while on campus and in class. Vice President Denise Ward kicked off the event with advice that this is a turning point in their educational careers; one, in which, they need to begin owning their education through self-advocacy and strong communication with faculty, advisors and support staff on campus. In addition, Dr. Andrea Salis and Assistant Dean Laura Bruno described the three components of the Academies; Dr. Carol Alleyne discussed college readiness; Dr. Brian Kerr and the Office of Public Safety spoke about safety and security on campus; and their faculty, Assistant Professor, Jodi VanDerHorn-Gibson and Lecturer, Elaine Thompson, reviewed the course Rules of Conduct and Syllabus. Ashley Legitime, BTECH College Liaison and Advisor, walked the audience through the Student Consent Forms and then over to smile for their QCC IDs. Additionally, all the high school teachers and staff members

of BTECH were present. The BTECH staff feedback praised the consistent message and culture of QCC being generated by all speakers which, going forward, they will fully support when the students are at the high school. With time for Q and A, the Orientation proved to be an informative and very worthwhile event for all involved and served to strengthen the partnership and teamwork between BTECH and QCC staff, teachers and faculty.

Grants/Grant Opportunities

Queensborough faculty submitted 64 proposals for the PSC CUNY Research Awards, up from 58 submissions in the last round. A post-application satisfaction survey is underway to obtain feedback and improve the Grants Office services to faculty.

Two new CUNY grant programs were announced in December to replace the CIRG and the 3CIRG grant programs:

- 1) The Interdisciplinary Research Grant (IRG) Program seeks to support and encourage faculty researchers who will tackle global challenges or problems that affect the needs of urban populations. The goal of this program is to provide seed funding for projects that will become eligible and competitive for external funding. CUNY expects to award approximately 8-10 one-year awards of \$40,000 each. Deadline for submission to the funding source: March 4, 2016.
- 2) The Community College Research Grant Program (CCRG) will support faculty research at CUNY community colleges through two distinct tracks: pedagogical research and support of faculty and students who participate in mentored research experiences. Deadline for submission to the funding source is April 1, 2016.

Please contact the Grants/Sponsored Programs Office as soon as possible if you are interested in applying to either of these grants.

Upcoming Events

- The QCC Art Gallery will open the exhibit, ***Uncle Charlie***, on February 18 at 5:00 p.m. This photo exhibition will present a richly textured portrait of a disturbed and complex man, Charles Henschke, the uncle and godfather of renowned photographer Marc Asnin. This photo-essay will be the first presentation of his full body of work on Uncle Charlie, a work that spans some 30 years.
- Also on February 18, the Gallery exhibition ***Carapace Explorations*** will open featuring paper structure pieces of the various designs and patterns of turtle shells. This show, created by Dr. Tony Monahan of the Department of Health, Physical Education and Dance, is the first major exhibit of the series.

- The Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center's major spring exhibition is ***Producing Silence: Hollywood, The Holocaust, and the Jews***, which formally opens on March 6. The Center will host a series of lectures and film screenings pertaining to the relationship between film, the Holocaust, and World War II. In addition to annual events such as the Freedom Seder on April 17 and the Internship Showcase on May 18, the Center will also offer spring 2016 lectures from the 2015-2016 KHRCA-NEH Colloquia: ***Gender, Mass Violence, and Genocide***. A special lecture on May 1 will honor Yom Hashoah and the history of the village of Le Chambon.

- A KHRCA/NEH Colloquia event, ***Gendercide: Inclusivity in the Study of Gender, Mass Violence, and Genocide***, will be conducted by Dr. Adam Jones, from the University of British Columbia on Wednesday, February 17th at 12:20 p.m.

- The Office of Academic Affairs will host a series of workshops this semester to support faculty in the efforts for tenure and promotion. The workshops are:
 1. ***Promotion and Tenure for Mid-Career Faculty***, February 19, 2016, 2:00 -3:30 p.m.
 2. General Information Session on ***Reappointment and Tenure Processes for Assistant Professors***, February 24, 2016, 12:30-2:00 p.m.
 3. General Information Session on Opportunities for ***Service to the College*** and Opportunities and Programs at QCC and CUNY for ***Professional Development***, March 4, 2016, 2-3:30 p.m.

- ***Newly Tenured Faculty*** will be celebrated at a reception sponsored by the office of Academic Affairs on Thursday, March 8, 2016, at 4:30 in the Oakland Dining Room. Seventeen colleagues from 11 academic departments will be honored as awardees of tenure/CCE. They are Dr. Helmut Loeffler, Mr. Klebert Andujar, Mr. Danny Li, Mr. Arkadiy Portnoy, Mr. Darryl Williams, Professor Edward Davis, Dr. Hayes Mauro, Professor Linda Meltzer, Professor Lorraine Cupelli, Dr. Wenli Guo, Dr. Eladia Raya, Dr. Yusuf Gurtas, Dr. Karan Puri, Dr. Vazgen Shekoyan, Dr. Isabella Lizzul, Dr. Dimitrios Kokkinos.

- The **QCC Job Fair** will take place on Wednesday, March 30, 2016 from 12:00 – 3:00 pm in the Student Union Lounge. Students in need of assistance with improving their resumes are encouraged to visit the Office of Career Services in the Library Building, Room 429 during walk-in hours on Mondays from 10:00 – 11:30 am and Tuesdays & Thursdays from 2:00 – 3:30 pm. More information on the Job Fair can be found at www.qcc.cuny.edu/careerServices.

- **2016 Partners for Progress Gala**
Queensborough's annual fundraiser, the ***Partners for Progress Gala*** will be held on Thursday, April 7th at Terrace on the Park. Please note the early date this year. An "Early Bird" rate of \$125 per ticket is available to faculty and staff until Thursday, March 3rd; after that date, tickets for faculty and staff will be \$150 (external supporters pay \$300 per ticket). Tickets may also be purchased online by going to the Advancement Office/QCC Fund website.

- On Thursday, April 14, 2016, the Office of Career Services will be hosting its annual **Etiquette in Action: A Business Dining Experience**. Interested students must apply by visiting the Office of Career Services in the Library Building, Room 429 to pick up an application. Completed applications are due back to Career Services by March 18, 2016 along with a copy of their Spring 2016 bursar receipt and a refundable deposit (cash or check) for \$20 made out to QCC. More information on this event can be found at www.qcc.cuny.edu/careerServices.
- **Elections** for the 2016-2017 QCC Student Government will be held Wednesday, April 13th through Wednesday, April 20th. Please encourage students to consider standing for election, and of course to cast their ballots. The last day for students to pick up election packets (to run for office) is Thursday, March 17, 2016