

# GATEWAY *to* COLLEGE

PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

It's hard to believe that we just completed our fifth program year, and graduated our fifth class. Our first graduation took place in a small conference room with just a few people in attendance. This year, we filled the Hebert Auditorium! As our program continues to grow, it's important to acknowledge the people who help us succeed every year; the staff and faculty here at QCC who work directly with students, staff who work "behind the scenes" in the Business Office, Registrar's Office and Dean's offices, guidance counselors who continue to refer students to our program, and especially our public school partner, Uxbridge Public Schools. We appreciate everyone's contribution, both large and small, to keep our program running smoothly. Gateway to College has made an incredible impact on many students, and it would not be possible without your help.

## *Program Excellence Award*

SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

Gateway to College at Quinsigamond Community College was awarded the Program Excellence Award by the Gateway to College National Network, recognizing outstanding data and outcomes for the 2015-2016 school year. Our program exceeded established benchmarks in four categories: first term grades, one year persistence, two year persistence, and graduation rate. We had the network high for two year persistence and graduation rate, both of which were 75%.

## *Graduation*

CLASS OF 2017



We had our largest graduating class this year— 30 graduates! We held graduation on May 24, 2017. The auditorium was filled with the families and friends of our graduates. We heard remarks from Mike Rubin, the principal of Uxbridge High School, and Jane Shea, the Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs at QCC.

Rose Buck-Grossi and Teresa Watts both gave very moving speeches about the impact that Gateway to College has had on their lives and their futures. Rose closed out her speech by remarking, "I am sure all of you can agree that this has been much more than our gateway to college, it has been the gateway to the rest of our lives."



**2016-2017 Gateway to College Graduates:**

Jonathan Azize ★ Megan Battista ★ Samantha Kaylynn Beauchamp ★ Ashley L. Blackman ★ Rose K. Buck-Grossi ★ John M. Cusolito ★ Megan J. Devlin ★ Alexander Ryan Farinelli ★ Sean Fitzpatrick ★ Patrick M. Foisy ★ Amber Kaitlin Frazier ★ Laurel E. Holland ★ Deanna Ruth Hultquist ★ Nathan D. Manna ★ Jacob Margadonna ★ Olivia Mayotte ★ Jacqueline McQuaid ★ Patrick E. Morin ★ Shelly K. Nguyen ★ Katie Pearl Palmer ★ Kyle Rochon ★ Tais G. Rosario ★ Joshua Brandon Sadri ★ Kyle J. Strait ★ Kaitlyn Rose Stewart ★ Robert J. Tomczyk ★ Casey Margaret Tompkins ★ Corey Urban ★ Teresa Marie Watts ★ Alyssa Wilmot

Most of our graduates plan to matriculate at QCC, but a few will move on elsewhere:

Nathan Manna - Holy Cross ★ Patrick Morin- Military ★ Kyle Rochon - Military ★ Josh Sadri - Hampshire College ★ Casey Tompkins- Hampshire College ★ Teresa Watts- Assumption College ★ Alyssa Wilmot- Marines



This year, we saw 8 Gateway to College students graduate from Quinsigamond Community College!

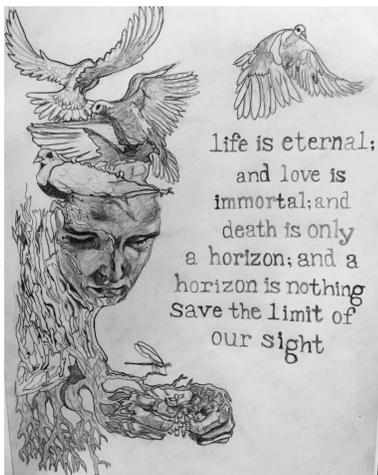
Katherine Barber, AA, General Studies (High Honors) ★ Noelle Haslam, AS, Interactive Media & Digital Design (Highest Honors) ★ Dylan Marengo, AS, Criminal Justice ★ Susan Mayes, AA, Liberal Arts (High Honors) ★ Steven Scichilone, AA, General Studies (Honors) ★ Doug Swartz, CE, Energy Utility Technology ★ Darien Ward-Andrade, AA, General Studies ★ Teresa Watts, AA, General Studies (Honors)

After graduation, our alumni have some exciting plans! Kaydi and Teresa will be attending Assumption College, Noelle is going to Worcester State University, Steven will be attending UMASS Boston, and Doug is continuing on at QCC to receive his AA in Energy Utility Technology. Dylan has opened his own business, Lucky's Aquarium, which is an exotic fish store located in Worcester.

# Alumni Spotlight

FAITH POIRIER

I'm officially an Art Illustration student at UMASS Dartmouth. All of my extra college credits have given me a lot of wiggle room in being able to decide what major I wanted to choose, in the sense that in every major I chose I would already be at least a semester ahead of everyone else, if not in a year. I was on the swim team this year, which was really fun and helped me meet all of my now closest friends at school. I've really been enjoying the amount of diversity within the school, and I am loving all of the main art professors, they are brilliant! In the middle of the semester, I actually changed my major from Liberal Arts to Art Illustration because of some of the amazing teachers that I met, and of course my overall interest in the arts. First semester, I made the Dean's List and second semester I made the Chancellor's List, which is something I'm definitely proud of. I also got an article written about me and one of my art pieces in the school news paper which I thought was pretty exciting.



# *FabLab Showcase*

## ROBO-PUPPET CLASS

Led by instructor Alex Gray, our students participated in a technology based class in the FabLab. This class fulfilled the requirement for a high school lab science course. Students learned about the engineering design process and basic robotic hardware. In small groups, students created robots (robo-puppets) that could perform simple tasks. The robots were able to open their mouths and move their eyes. Peter, Apryl, and Jon used the 3D printer to make teeth for their robot, and fabricated a cookie for him to eat. Showcase attendees were impressed by the depth of students' knowledge regarding the coding and fabrication process used to create the robots. The Fab Lab is a maker space that can be used by students, entrepreneurs and the community to create prototypes and test design ideas.



# *Stay in Touch*

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Instagram/Twitter: @QCCGTC

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