



QCC Wins International Robotics World Championship

On April 17th - 19th, the QCC robotics team won the 2015 VEX Robotics World Championship tournament in Louisville, Kentucky, beating Auckland, New Zealand in the final round. It is believed to be the first World Championship ever won by a two-year college.

Supported by NASA, the tournament involved more than 850 teams from 29 nations around the world competing in elementary school, middle school, high school, and college & university tournaments.

The victory for QCC culminated 14 years of building a world-class robotics program at QCC and within the Worcester Public Schools. **Betty Lauer**, Professor of Computer Systems Engineering Technology at

QCC, also serves as Coordinator of QCC's Computer Systems Engineering Technology Program and advisor to the Robotics Club. She has been running a robotics curriculum since its inception.

Lauer says about half the public elementary schools and all of the middle schools and high schools in Worcester have robotics programs. Part of what makes QCC's program work so well is that the college-age robotics students give of their time and expertise to teach and mentor younger robotics participants.

"It's cool going in to schools and seeing the kids light up over robotics," said Leland Crowther, 19, who was a member of the championship team. "Once they get their hands on robotics pieces they get



QCC Wins International Robotics World Championship (Continued)

fixed on it. That's all they think about."

"Part of what we're trying to

do here is to create a pipeline of students excited about STEM," said Professor Lauer. "The program reaches into the elementary, middle, and high schools in the Worcester Public Schools, so by the time they arrive on our campus they are already interested in our STEM programs."

QCC's Advanced Robotics Initiative is supported by the Governor's @Scale program, EMC, and the QCC Foundation.

"I think part of what our championship proves is that you don't have to go to a big name school to get high quality programs," said Professor Lauer. Just to qualify, the QCC teams were up against 14,000

teams worldwide including institutions like Rice, Purdue, and Virginia Tech, she said.

Qualifying rounds are held regionally throughout the country, including one that was held in late February this year at QCC. "It's grown so much that our campus isn't even big enough anymore," said Professor Lauer, who noted more than 100 high school robotics teams signed up for the qualifying tournament at QCC this year.

Teams that make it through the qualification process are given the same obstacle course challenge. Robots are then judged by six categories, including speed and precision. Only the teams whose robots perform best are selected to compete at the World Championships. This year, of the 12,000 U.S. teams that qualified, only 850 were invited to Louisville.

"I had won tournaments in high school before, but there was never as much excitement as this," said Crowther.

"There were 30,000 people in the auditorium watching the final round, and there were pyrotechnics and laser shows - it was really quite a flashy event," noted Professor Lauer, "But I think what really made the magnitude of the win sink in for our team was when kids from other high school teams came down to the floor to get their autographs."

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Celebrates A Successful Year!

Under the leadership of Professor **Carol Murphy**, the QCC VITA volunteers aided individuals and families across Worcester to complete their 2014 tax returns and claim the highest possible refunds. Along with volunteers working from Worcester Community Action Council and Worcester State University, the QCC volunteers, stationed at Plumley Village, filed over 2000 returns this season. Their combined efforts resulted in the return of \$2,904,194 to tax payers in Worcester. Thanks to Professor Murphy and her loyal team of volunteers (Many of whom have graduated from QCC!) for their efforts through one of the snowiest winters on record!





QCC EmPowHERs Women on April 28

Ally Whalen, the Director of Women's Economic Empowerment at the YWCA of Central Massachusetts, spoke to us about EmPowHER, a Young Parents Program serving 14 - 23 1/2 year-olds funded by the Department of Transitional Assistance. Program participants can be pregnant or parenting, and have not completed high school. Through the EmPowHER program, the young women receive guidance and support they need to achieve their HiSAT, which is the equivalent to a GED. Ultimately, the EmPowHER program, "Helps build their goal of self-sufficiency," said Whalen.

According to Whalen, QCC is their college referral of choice because, "QCC really understands the non-

traditional student." President Carberry has spoken to the group in the past, and the program emphasizes the importance of education for their young parents. Whalen also noted that many participants are taking classes at QCC, and they also hire numerous interns from QCC's Human Services program.

Also that day, Sarah McLaughlin, QCC's Senior Admissions Counselor, addressed participants of the EmPowHER Surge: Transitions Through Technology. She gave a presentation about the benefits of attending QCC, costs and financial aid, and the enrollment process.

Watch a video of the interview with Ally Whalen and Sarah McLaughlin's presentation at

<https://youtu.be/apgcrYR2xmg>



No Evil Project

On April 2nd, the QCC community took part in the social art project, the No Evil Project (www.noevilproject.com). Frustrated by the public discourse that seemed to pit people against one another, WPI graduate Troy Thompson started the No Evil Project.

Participants in the project write three words to describe themselves, and then take photos of themselves posing in the iconic three wise monkey sayings: see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil. As Thompson put it, "It's a way for people to show that they are not defined by their labels."

Here's what the No Evil Project looked like at www.QCC.edu/no-evil





QCC Recognizes Final Ten Guardians

QCC Board Chair **Stacey DeBoise Luster, Esq.** and **President Gail Carberry** presented awards to the final ten winners of the QCC Guardians at a celebration in the Doubletree Hotel in Westborough on April 27th. As part of the 50th anniversary celebration of Quinisigamond Community College's service to Central Mass, QCC Guardians were presented to 50 alumni who have made significant strides in their personal life and in their community as a "guardian protector". This is in keeping with the spirit of the College's mythological mascot, the Wyvern, who was the guardian protector of our sister city, Worcester, England.

Guardians number 41 - 50 are as follows:

- **Said Nafai**, class of 2005. President and Owner of Forward Motion Rehabilitation.
- **Serena Neslusan**, class of 2003. LMHC, Clinical Supervisor, Crossroads Agency, Worcester.
- **Joseph O'Brien**, class of 1996. Former Mayor & City Councilor, Worcester.
- **Geraldo Maldonado**, class of 1995. Director of Marketing & Institutional Advancement, Centro Las Americas.
- **Sean Lauziere**, class of 2011. Massachusetts Senate Committee on Post-Audit and Oversight.
- **Katherine Fairbanks**, class of 1989. Owner of Millbury Rubbish Removal, and CEO and President of DirtyGirl Disposal, Inc.
- **Mary Aframe**, class of 1981. Founder and Owner of the Women's Image Center.
- **Richard Auclair**, class of 1961. Retired Obstetrician and Fertility Specialist.
- **Scott Boosahda**, class of 1981. Adjunct Professor at QCC, Teacher at Burncoat High School.
- **Roobye Vega**, class of 2008. Second Lt., Army National Guard, Counselor at Melmark New England.

The QCC community congratulates these outstanding representatives of our college on this honor.





QCC and Worcester State University Sign on for 3+1 Nursing Program

QCC and Worcester State University have joined forces on the **3+1 Nursing Program**, an affordable pathway for registered nurses who hold a diploma or associate degree to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.

On April 22, WSU President Barry M. Maloney and QCC President Gail Carberry signed an agreement at QCC's Healthcare and Workforce Development Center assuring the smooth 4-year pathway and transfer of credits. Students in the **3+1 Nursing Program** will take three years of coursework at QCC and then, for their fourth year, complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree at WSU.

"We are committed to addressing the workforce need for more bachelor's -holding nurses and to providing a high quality, student-friendly pathway for achieving that in cost effective way," said President Maloney.

President Carberry said, "We are delighted to offer this new program for our nursing students who want to advance their careers. Demand for nursing care is increasing as our population ages, and employment for nurses is projected to increase substantially over the next 10 years. We are also excited about the opportunities that this program offers to bring more students to Downtown Worcester, in the heart of the area's Medical City."



While students can become registered nurses with an associate degree, consensus is growing that a more highly educated nursing workforce is needed to manage the increasing complexity of hospital care and non-hospital nursing situations.

"When a student finishes an associate degree program, a lot of them think it's the end of the line for them," said **Jane June**, Dean of the School of Health Care at QCC, "They think 'Oh good. I'm finally registered,' and they don't think



about further education. But when they get out and practice they will quickly recognize that a bachelor's degree is going to open additional doors for them."

To remove some of the barriers to a BSN, the curricula at both schools were closely examined to avoid course duplication and to align program requirements. Students will earn 90 carefully planned credits at QCC before transferring to WSU to complete their studies.

"When they've completed their QCC courses, they can just come right in to WSU," said Stephanie Chalupka, Associate Dean of Nursing at WSU. "It will be perfectly seamless."



QCC's Children's School Celebrates Highest Quality Rating

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) School at QCC hosted state officials, families and students of their award winning Children's School on April 16th to celebrate earning the highest quality rating from the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care. QCC's Children's School is the first in the state of Massachusetts to earn their Level 4 designation.

Similar to the well-known star system for hotels, the Department of Early Education and Care's Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) evaluates state-wide child care programs by levels one through four; four being the highest level of quality.

Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care Tom Weber was on hand to congratulate QCC President Gail Carberry and the entire Children's School community and said, "Quinsigamond Community College took a courageous step to become the first Level Four program, and to get there first is no small feat. This is the highest honor that can be bestowed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. QCC has been truly devoted to children and their families and has blazed a path for others to follow. QCC has become a major actor in the positive development of early education and care in this region."



"This program has been a labor of love for so many people here," said QCC President Gail Carberry. "We have worked very hard to build a program of the highest quality at QCC, and it shows. We are not only providing an exceptional experience for the children and their families here, we are also providing hands-on training to the men and women who will be the future outstanding teachers in this region." President Carberry



presented an official citation from the Massachusetts Senate on behalf of Senator Harriette Chandler [D-Worcester].



Perhaps the most ringing endorsements of the program came from the children and families themselves.

Jim McKeog of Worcester graduated from QCC in 1992 and sends his daughter Ada to the QCC Children's School for pre-school. His son also graduated from the program. "We could not be happier about this program," said McKeog. "My mother runs a daycare program herself, and she was the one who recommended QCC to us. The attention and communication between parents and faculty is phenomenal. My son had some issues while in the school, and I can't say enough about how they worked with him and with us. We're delighted." Ana, 3, concurred. Her favorite part of school is, "dress up." It is an important training component for Ana, who aspires to be a princess when she grows up.

The Massachusetts QRIS evaluates children schools programming and implementation within five categories: Curriculum and learning. Safe, healthy indoor and outdoor environments. Workforce qualification and professional development. Family and community engagement. Leadership, management and administration

"The evaluation process is team-oriented, and QCC professionals campus-wide played a big role in earning Level 4 status," QCC's Director of the Children's School, Nancy Knight said. "I am very proud of my staff and thankful for their hard work to enable us to achieve this level of quality."

Abby's House

QCC President Gail Carberry was the featured speaker at the Abby House's Spring-Tacular fundraising event on Wednesday April 29th. Held at Acacia at Indian Meadows Country Club in Westborough, more than 240 people attended the Spring-Tacular for a food and wine tasting with jazz music, a silent auction, and inspirational speakers, which raised more than \$30,000 for the organization.

Since 1976, Abby Kelley Foster House, Inc. (www.abbyhouse.org/) has provided more than 12,000 homeless women and children with a safe place to stay, regroup, and rebuild. Abby's House was one of the first shelters for women, with or without children, in the U.S. At present, it is one of two family shelters in the area that does not require its guests to be on welfare. With 78 units, Abby's House is the largest provider of affordable housing in Worcester designed to meet the needs of women and children.

"We reached out to Dr. Carberry because she is a shining example of a woman who has overcome barriers to achieve success," said Justina Lachapelle, Development Director at Abby's House. "She



understands the infrastructure and emotional support you need to overcome obstacles in life, and she truly understands the importance of education for people to succeed."

Following Dr. Carberry's remarks, the audience heard from Jessica, a young woman who is an Abby's House resident who is also enrolled at QCC. Jessica is thriving at QCC, earning admission into the Commonwealth Honors Program and into *Phi Theta Kappa*, the national honors society for community colleges.



Left: Coach Lars Farnham, Head Women's Basketball Coach – 10 years coaching at QCC; Center: Coach Hadley Camilus, Head Men's Basketball Coach – 9 years coaching at QCC; Right: Coach Najee Muhammad, Assistant Women's Basketball Coach – 10 years coaching at QCC

QCC Honors Basketball Coaches for Years of Service

Words cannot express how grateful we are to have these coaches on our team. They are responsible for the success of our student athletes while they are here at QCC and their continued support years after they graduate from QCC. Thank You to our Coaches for their year round Dedication to the Student Athletes, the Intercollegiate Program and to Quinsigamond Community College.

Given and Presented by: **Lisa Gurnick and Josh Cole**, Athletic Department



Mass Life Sciences

April 27 - QCC Vice President **Dale Allen** was at Burncoat Middle School in Worcester to receive a \$5 million capital grant from the Mass Life Sciences Center (MLSC). A significant portion of the funds will be used to construct biology, chemistry and computer labs, enabling QCC to offer biology, microbiology and chemistry courses at its Southbridge campus for the first time.

Vice President Allen said the expanded life sciences labs will be used by 3,000 students per year. He also said the funds will be matched by a \$5 million capital campaign currently underway with the QCC Foundation and corporate sponsors. He singled out Michael Detarando, President and CEO of Incom, a fiber optics company in Worcester, for his support of the campaign, and thanked him for attending the announcement.

In a MLSC press release, Governor Charlie Baker said, "Massachusetts' flourishing life sciences community has created opportunities and spurred economic growth in every region of the state. These grants will further strengthen our workforce in order to meet the needs of this growing industry through enhanced training facilities and programs at our colleges, middle schools and high schools."

"We are most grateful to The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center for this exceptional grant, which will allow QCC to develop appropriate lab facilities for general sciences and specialized life sciences to better fill industry demand in our service area," said Dr. Gail E. Carberry, President of Quinsigamond Community College. "With MLSC's support, QCC will develop beginning and intermediate labs



in Southbridge and downtown Worcester and enhance our intermediate and advanced labs on the main campus, enhancing the biotechnology and life sciences infrastructure and creating a larger pathway to high demand industry sectors."

"The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center has truly invested in innovation, research, and development for life sciences across the Commonwealth," said Senate Majority Leader Harriett L. Chandler (D-Worcester), who also attended the event. "I would like to extend my congratulations to all the schools in Central Massachusetts that received grants from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, and look forward to seeing how the grants will be implemented."



Hanover Professors Emeriti Event

On April 30, 2015, QCC Retirees and Professors Emeriti gathered for a "50th Anniversary Tea" at the Hanover Theatre, followed by a tour of QCC's new Healthcare and Workforce Development Center, located on neighboring Federal Street in Worcester.

Pictured left: Warren Hawkins, Jim Rice, Gail, John Doon, Cyndy Erickson, Phyllis Samara with dog, Margie Bruce, Jean Nicholas, Bob Gillies, Chuck Barton, and Larry Morrison.





Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society News

Bowl-a-thon

The QCC family came together again this year in support of Lilly's Worcester Public Bookmobile to raise awareness for literacy in the Worcester area. On April 26th, the *Alpha Zeta Theta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa* held their 6th annual Bowl-A-Thon event at the AMF Bowling Lanes in Auburn. The event raised thousands of dollars for literacy.

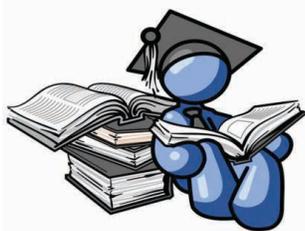
In a letter thanking the attendees from QCC, event organizers wrote: "Your support has made literacy a possibility for hundreds of Worcester elementary students. *Phi Theta Kappa* believes that literacy is a fundamental right and a key to success. This was and continues to be a community-wide effort. Once again, *Phi Theta Kappa*, and the children who benefit from the Bookmobile, thank you for your continued commitment to literacy and the success of students at all levels."



Have an interesting story to tell?

www.QCC.edu/submit-news

Deadline for the May 2015 *Guardian* is Friday, May 22.



Office of Institutional Research and Planning (IRaP)

SNAP STATS!

Congrats graduates! Graduation is just around the corner!

Characteristics of the Class of 2015

Gender	
60%	Female
40%	Male

Degree Achieved	
80%	Associate
20%	Certificate

Top 5 Programs	
11%	General Studies
10%	Business Administration
8%	Liberal Arts
7%	Criminal Justice
7%	Human Services

Age Range	
27%	17 - 22 Years
38%	23 - 29 Years
19%	30 - 39 Years
12%	40 - 49 Years
5%	50 - 64 Years
<1%	65+ Years

