

Media Alert

For Immediate Release 04/25/06

Celebrating 40 Years of Nursing Education at QCC

WORCESTER—Quinsigamond Community College will celebrate 40 years of nursing education with a reunion of more than 200 nursing students and faculty on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at the QCC Campus, 670 West Boylston St. from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Founded in 1966 by Betty Forest, the QCC nursing program has graduated more than 2,700 students since its inception. Since then, QCC nursing alumni have practiced in hospitals throughout Central Massachusetts, assisted disaster relief efforts in Florida and the Gulf Coast, been civic and community leaders in the health care field, and done humanitarian work in third-world countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and Kenya among others.

As part of the celebration, QCC will be honoring a nursing alumna who has made significant achievements in nursing or in support of the profession and has the potential for further continued achievement in the profession. Among the nominees are Donna Lazarik, adult immunization coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Dr. Stephanie Chalupka, professor of nursing at UMass-Lowell, and Carol Eliardi, assistant professor of nursing at Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and a practicing lawyer. All three will be in attendance Saturday, April 29 for

-MORE-

the naming of the Nursing Alumni Achievement Award recipient.

Additional festivities at the event include a historical retrospective of the nursing profession by QCC nursing education founder Betty Forest, a performance by nursing humorist Carol O'Flaherty and an appearance by former QCC President Sandra Kurtinitis.

Funds raised from the event will be used to upgrade nursing laboratories and fund nursing student scholarships.

The reunion is open to the public and admission is \$50.

Schedule of Events

Theme: "How Nursing Has Evolved at QCC over the Last 40 Years."

- **9 a.m. to 10 a.m.** Registration in the Harrington Learning Center (HLC). Continental breakfast available in rooms 109A/B.
- **10 a.m. to noon:** Down Memory Lane Program in Hebert Auditorium
 - Welcome from Interim President Sheila Sykes.
 - Short narrative slide show about how nursing has changed at QCC over the last 40 years. Betty Forest, founder, will give a short talk about her memories of starting the Nursing program 40 years ago.
 - "Humor Path" a five minute skit with nursing humor collected from QCC nursing alumni.
 - Presentation of the Nursing Reunion Alumni Achievement award.
 - Retrospective fashion show of alums modeling old QCC nursing uniforms.
- **Noon to 2 p.m.** Lunch Buffet in HLC Living Room
- **2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Carol O'Flaherty, R.N. and nurse humorist presents "Cork the Whine!" for CEU credit in Hebert Auditorium.
- **4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Coffee and cookies in the HLC. Time to network, catch up, and look at vendor tables. Raffle drawing.

-30-

For more information, contact Victor Somma, Director of Marketing and Public Affairs, at 508-854-2729 or vsomma@qcc.mass.edu.