

QCC *connection*

A Publication for the Alumni and Friends of Quinsigamond Community College ♦ Fall 2005



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A Message from the President

Dear Alumni and Friends:

“I leave a legacy of which I am exceedingly proud. The College is strong and on as sound a footing as it has ever been. We have a terrific faculty and staff, strong academic programs, and great students.”

On the cover:
Sandra Kurtinitis



I am writing this letter to you as both a first and a last. First, because this is the first issue of an exciting new alumni and friends publication known as the *QCC Connection*. Totally redesigned as a news magazine rather than a newsletter, the *QCC Connection* will showcase alumni, friends and college news in what we hope will be a lively, yet informative venue, highlighting the many wonderful initiatives and achievements of faculty, staff, students, graduates, and friends. It will be your magazine, and we want to hear from you regarding what works, what doesn't, and what we can say to include you.

That said, this is also the last letter I will extend to you as the President of Quinsigamond Community College. On November 1, I will become the Chancellor of the Community College of Baltimore County, the largest community college in the state of Maryland. I always thought I would retire from Quinsigamond Community College. I never expected that the capstone of my career would be to assume such a huge job: to become the leader of a major institution with three campuses, 77,000 credit and non-credit students, and a \$140 million budget.

As I move on, I leave a legacy of which I am exceedingly proud. The College is strong and on as sound a footing as it has ever been. We have a terrific faculty and staff; strong academic programs; great students; a remarkably high level of student support services; the new Harrington Learning Center that is best in its class; a proposed \$11 million allocation from the Commonwealth to renovate the now empty 30,000 square feet of space in the North Wing of the Administration Building into enrollment and technology centers and

make additional campus improvements. In addition to these accomplishments, the College has money in the bank in spite of four years of acute economic downturn, and our first million dollar gift from the generosity of the Francis A. and Jacquelyn H. Harrington Foundation.

Considering all that the College has going for it, these accomplishments lead us to launch QCC's second capital campaign to raise \$4 million to access \$11 million in state funds to renovate the North Wing and our very out of date science labs. The College in itself is strong; it is so much more than the president. I am leaving, but the College is well positioned to move forward on this campaign. To do so is vital. A college that serves 12,000 students a year cannot afford to have 30,000 square feet sit idle and unused nor can it continue to function with science labs that were equipped in the 1960s. And who would wish to walk away from the proposed \$11 million allocation which Governor Mitt Romney recently announced to the campus? To access the Commonwealth's funds for these renovations, the College must raise \$4 million on its own. We have already raised \$1.5 million; we ask your help to raise the other \$2.5 million.

As I depart from Quinsigamond Community College, I take leave of the College and the region I have loved. I do so feeling immense pride in the progress we have made. Quinsigamond Community College is indeed well on its way to becoming one of the most progressive in the state. We want you to be as proud of QCC as we are and as engaged in its future. I wish all of you a very fond farewell. Sincerely,

 Sandra Kurtinitis

Governor Announces \$11 Million

for Campus Improvements

When the governor says he'll be paying a visit, the natural inclination might be to roll out the red carpet and polish the silver. Quinsigamond officials decided the tattered blue carpet in the musty North Wing of the Administration building would make a more appropriate statement.

In July, Gov. Mitt Romney came to QCC to announce an \$11 million state allocation for campus improvements, including \$9 million to renovate the North Wing. Rather than greet the governor in the new Harrington Learning Center or another attractive spot on campus, administrators ushered the governor, his entourage, and the media into the former library space in the North Wing, now a graveyard for antiquated computers. The intended message, that one of Quinsigamond's oldest buildings was in desperate

need of an extreme makeover, was well received.

Quinsigamond's allocation would be part of a proposed \$1.28 billion budget for capital projects throughout the state, including \$63 million for public colleges in Central Massachusetts. "By targeting these resources to construct new facilities and upgrade existing ones, we can put our higher education system in a position to deliver the first-class facilities that our students deserve," the governor told a crowd of faculty, staff and students gathered for the July 18 announcement.

The majority of Quinsigamond's state allotment would go toward renovating the North Wing of the Administration Building, with \$2 million set aside for other campus improvements. The North Wing renovation, slated to begin fall, 2007, will create a new technology center, an all-inclusive enrollment services center, and reconfigure

office space. The project's anticipated completion date is 2009.

"We had our first ever governor's visit, and it was a big day for us," said QCC President Sandra Kurtinitis. "We lined up \$11 million for campus improvements. We've worked hard to make this happen, and by having made the prudent decision to fund the North Wing design study ourselves this year, we are in a perfect position to move quickly."

This fall, the QCC Foundation launched a capital campaign to raise the remainder of the money needed to transform the aging wing into a modern facility suited to meet the needs of 21st century students. The project will maintain the architectural integrity of the building, which is being considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, an esteemed preservation program administered by the National Park Service.



"We had our first ever governor's visit, and it was a big day for us," remarked President Kurtinitis, pictured with Governor Romney.

Photo courtesy of the Worcester Telegram & Gazette.

First Guardian Angel Scholarship Awarded

The phrase “full ride scholarship” had never been part of the QCC lexicon. But it is now.

In an initiative meant to make a huge impact in the lives of Quinsigamond students, the QCC Foundation has created the Guardian Angel scholarship. This scholarship awards \$7,000 to a full-time student – enough to cover tuition and fees throughout a two-year degree program.

In October, the Foundation awarded its first Guardian Angel scholarship to Janelle Wilson of Shrewsbury, a Business Administration major. The benefactors of this first scholarship were QCC President Sandra Kurtinitis, who donated \$3,500, and the Foundation, which contributed \$3,500 from proceeds raised in the Sept. 26 Golf Classic.

“I feel a great sense of accomplishment because I’ve worked really hard,” Janelle said. “Not only is this an honor, it’s a blessing!”

One of the goals of the QCC capital campaign is to increase awareness about the Guardian Angel scholarship program, and encourage donations to benefit additional students. Full-time students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or above, demonstrate financial need, and express through an essay the significance such an award would make in achieving their educational goals, are eligible to apply for this competitive scholarship.



Janelle Wilson



Jim Harrington stands in the Harrington Learning Center near the plaque honoring his parents.

The Legacy Continues

The Capital Campaign for QCC

For the second time, Jim Harrington will lead the Quinsigamond Community College Foundation's capital campaign to raise money for much-needed campus renovations and improvements. *The Legacy Continues* campaign seeks to build upon more recent academic and physical enhancements that have transformed QCC into one of the most progressive community college campuses in Massachusetts.

The Foundation has accepted the challenge to raise \$4 million over the next two years. The contributions from philanthropic foundations, corporate donors, alumni, and friends will go directly toward creating enrollment and technology centers in the North Wing of the Administration building, renovating the three outdated science laboratories in the Surprenant Building, and enhancing student scholarships and support, faculty development initiatives, and program support.

During the “quiet phase” of

the campaign, the Foundation already has raised over \$1.5 million toward its goal, which includes the \$1 million gift from the Francis A. and Jacquelyn H. Harrington Foundation, \$300,000 from the Fuller Foundation and \$250,000 in a federal match.

The remaining \$2.5 million will be raised over the next two years. Jim is joined in this effort by co-chair Bob Axline, CEO of Plasticard Systems, Inc., and a member of the Foundation Board.

“Quinsigamond Community College has wisely chosen to embark upon a multi-million dollar capital campaign, which in partnership with a proposed \$9 million investment by the Commonwealth, will make possible the creation of both an enrollment center and a technology center, thus bringing the now largely empty North Wing into state-of-the-art readiness for tomorrow's students. In addition, science labs, still filled with 40-year-old furniture and equipment, will be brought into the 21st century.”

Technology Programs to Benefit from Campus Renovations

"Quinsigamond is not just an educational institution. It is a place that transforms lives," says Betty J. Lauer, assistant professor and coordinator of QCC's Computer Systems Engineering Technology program. "QCC empowers students with the knowledge and tools they need to help them make good decisions about their future and take advantage of the wealth of opportunities in the world."

The CSET program, along with Computer Information Systems, Basic Engineering, and the Electromechanical, Electronics, Manufacturing, and Telecommunications programs, will be housed together when the new technology center in the North Wing is completed in 2009.

The CSET program trains students for employment as computer networking and computer technology specialists – two careers that are listed by the American Association of Community Colleges as the second and fourth highest in-demand job skills.

Quinsigamond has stepped up to this demand by offering challenging state-of-the-art programs, degrees, and certificates, including a new degree program in computer forensics. To better prepare students for these high-tech careers, three new computer and engineering classrooms, equipped with the highest end software and hardware available, were created this summer at a cost of nearly \$350,000.



West Boylston artist and former QCC student Mark Waitkus' watercolor of the North Wing. The building will be renovated to include enrollment and technology centers.

The Legacy Continues...

The Campaign at a Glance

Through this capital campaign, Quinsigamond Community College will continue its legacy of academic excellence and community service. With your generous support, the College will make much needed improvements to enhance academic programs, increase financial support for students, and expand research and professional development opportunities for faculty. Business and community leaders from throughout Central Massachusetts are committed to helping the QCC Foundation reach its \$4 million capital campaign goal.

We invite you to support YOUR community college.

Enrollment & Technology Centers:	\$2,500,000
Science Laboratories:	\$1,000,000
Student & Faculty Support:	\$500,000
Total	\$4,000,000

Vision, Transformation, Style

Define the Kurtinitis Era

Sandra Kurtinitis arrived at Quinsigamond Community College on March 1, 1995 dressed in denim and wearing a hard hat. While most people would have chosen their finest suit for the first day of their first college presidency, Sandra wanted her attire to send a clear message. She was ready to get to work revitalizing the campus.

And that she has. Under the leadership of QCC's fourth president, enrollment has doubled, a magnificent new library and resource center was built, and the College's reputation was elevated throughout the greater Worcester community. The physical appearance of the campus was transformed from disco era décor to reflect 21st century style and efficiency. Threadbare rugs were replaced, dreary brown hallways and offices were given fresh coats of bright paint, directional signs were installed, and landscaping was enhanced to beautify the grounds. Among the many technological improvements made on campus, the number of computers grew 100-fold, from 120 to over 1,200.

Her impact extended well beyond West Boylston Street into the greater Worcester region. Sandra chaired the Worcester regional Chamber of Commerce and the Colleges of Worcester Consortium, and built lasting partnerships with Worcester Public Schools and area businesses.

As she leaves QCC to become chancellor of the largest community college in Maryland, she will be remembered for her vision, her style of leadership, her fairness and honesty.



"From her first day at Quinsigamond wearing a hard hat and surveying the campus from the boiler room to the rooftop, Sandra has continued to be at the top of her game. Her vision of the College and her accomplishments have gone above and beyond our expectations. Not only have the programs at the College been examined and refined, but the addition of new facilities and buildings has been a dream come true. Sandra has been a true leader who is respected not only by those at the College, but also by those in the community."

Arthur Krupnick
Professor Emeritus

"It has been said that circumstances and situations attract leaders with personal and professional abilities necessary for the time and the task. Sandra's arrival was on cue. As a visionary President, she identified strengths, acknowledged deficiencies, and initiated plans to bring the College to a place of prominence in the Worcester area and the Massachusetts Community College system. Most importantly, she demonstrated an open, honest, and fair leadership style."

Nancy Donohue-Berthiaume
Professor of Psychology
Coordinator of Staff

Sheila Sykes, Interim President

Sheila R. Sykes, Quinsigamond's Vice President of Administrative Services, has been appointed interim president of the College by the Board of Trustees while the search for a permanent replacement for Sandra Kurtinitis is underway.

Sheila steps into the role with more than 30 years experience in education, including extensive knowledge of community college operations and academics. Throughout her career, Sheila has built a reputation as being a positive, creative, and ambitious leader.

"I am honored and delighted to serve as QCC's interim president," she said. "In the months ahead, I will work hard to maintain the high standard of excellence established by Sandra during her tenure as president, and to keep the College focused on a series of important projects and activities."

As QCC's Vice President of Administrative Services, Sheila has served as chief fiscal and administrative officer, overseeing all aspects of the College's fiscal operations, physical plant operations, infrastructure, capital improvements, technology, campus security, and auxiliary services.

The Board of Trustees has retained the Association of Community College Trustees to serve as consultant during the search for a new college president. The Board anticipates appointing a new president next summer.



Sheila Sykes



Dear Alumni and Friends:

We hope you enjoy the new look of our news magazine, now known as the *QCC Connection*.

We found it only fitting to dedicate this inaugural edition to Sandra Kurtinitis for the leadership and vision she has demonstrated over the past decade as QCC's President. As she was departing, the QCC Alumni Association bestowed upon Sandra an honorary QCC alumni status in thanks for all she has done for our college. In the meantime, please join me in welcoming Sheila Sykes as Interim President of QCC.

Future issues of *QCC Connection* will provide a greater focus on the successes of alumni, faculty, and friends. In fact, upcoming issues will highlight alumni on the cover, with their success stories featured inside. We hope that you will send us your stories of success or tell us what you have been doing since graduation. This is your alumni magazine and we look forward to hearing your comments, suggestions and life stories.

In addition to a new alumni magazine, one of our key initiatives for the coming year is updating our alumni database with correct contact information. The only way we can keep you informed about the news at QCC is to know your correct mailing address or email address. Speaking of email, we will soon have the ability to send you *QCC Connection* via email — just let us know your email address and we will add you to our list-serv.

As an incentive for you to contact us, we're giving away two music iPods in a drawing. Those who send us their current address, email and phone number will be entered into a drawing to win an iPod. See details about the contest on the back page.

Once again, in order to make the next issues lively and exciting we invite you to share your news and stories with us. Feel free to email us at: alumni@qcc.mass.edu, or call the Alumni Relations office at (508) 854-4385. Nancy Chosta, Assistant to the Director, Bill Stark, Alumni Association President, and I, look forward to hearing from you!

With warm regards,
Mary E. Opanasets
Director of Alumni Relations

“Over the past 10 months the Alumni Association has raised more than \$22,000 through fund raising events that included our Classic Car Show and the National Players performance of Dracula. Proceeds from these events will enable QCC to purchase over 300 books for the Alden Library.”

Bill Stark,
QCC Alumni Association President



Driving for Scholars

The 8th annual QCC Foundation Golf Classic at Wachusett Country Club on Sept. 26 raised \$26,000, which will be matched by a challenge grant for a total of \$52,000 for QCC Foundation scholarships.

Nursing Reunion/40th Anniversary April 29, 2006

In recognition of 40 years of excellence in nursing education, QCC is hosting a reunion open to all graduates of the R.N. and L.P.N. programs. Come celebrate the nursing profession, network with other health care professionals, and reconnect with former classmates and professors! Proceeds will benefit future nursing students in the form of scholarships and improved laboratory facilities. For more information, call (508) 854-4385.

Phi Theta Kappa Reunion June 23, 2006

Members of the Alpha Zeta Theta chapter of the international honor society are invited back to celebrate their achievements and reconnect with friends and faculty at this first-ever PTK reunion. For more information, call (508) 854-4385.

iPod Contest

The QCC Alumni Relations Office is giving away two music iPods in a drawing. Alumni and Friends of QCC who send in their current address, email and phone number will be entered into a drawing to win an iPod. The drawing will take place on December 15, 2005 and winners will be notified. Information can be emailed to alumni@qcc.mass.edu, phoned in at (508) 854-4385, or sent by mail to Alumni Relations Office, QCC, 670 West Boylston Street, Box 35, Worcester, MA 01606. Don't wait, send your contact information today! *(one entry per person please)*

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ ST ____ Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

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