

QCC *connection*

A Publication for the Alumni and Friends of Quinsigamond Community College ♦ Fall 2006



**Connecting Young
Women to Technology:
QCC and Worcester
Public Schools**

A Message from President Gail Carberry



As the title of this brief but informational journal implies, “connections” are integral to the Quinsigamond Community College mission and philosophy. Clearly, we *connect* with students everyday through the imparting of new knowledge and skills, but QCC’s connections also extend well beyond the classroom – out into the Worcester community and beyond – in the form of partnerships and alliances.

Our local economy is fueled by brainpower. No longer do companies situate themselves along our region’s rivers to propel success. Today businesses situate in proximity to schools, colleges and training venues that will ensure a workforce prepared to create quality products and services to meet both worldwide and local consumer demands. Today, more than ever, local business and educational sectors must be full partners in mutual efforts to ensure quality education that leads to a high standard of living in Greater Worcester. Because 90+% of QCC’s students live locally and continue to do so after graduating from the College, we are continually evaluating our role in this community in the face of changing economic and societal demands.

As the community’s college, Quinsigamond has long embraced the opportunity to link various segments of the local educational spectrum, serving as an associate degree bridge between public schools and local baccalaureate colleges. However, QCC’s linkages run deeper than traditional admissions and transfer programs. True partnerships with the Worcester Public Schools and with other College campuses are enabling local residents to reach educational goals which they may never have considered possible. We are helping to create an educated population with the talent to drive the economic development of our region.

As the newly appointed President of Quinsigamond Community College, I bring a long-standing commitment to active community engagement that will further shape our extended vision for the campus. Moreover, as a leader who claims Greater Worcester as her birthplace and her family home, I bring a sense of pride in our local heritage, a sense of our community’s current challenges and strengths, and optimism for our region’s future.

This edition of Connections highlights graduates of QCC and public school students enrolled in a QCC partnership program which may one day lead them to the College. Each has connected with Quinsigamond in a way that creates individual growth and success.

With 20,000 alumni living and working in the Worcester area, you may already have a connection to QCC – as an alum, or as an employer, a parent or a friend of someone who has attended the College. We view our graduates as our greatest evidence of institutional success. We cannot rely on our past accomplishments, however, to serve this community’s present and future needs.

QCC Connection: Fall 2006, Volume 3

Published by Quinsigamond Community College
670 West Boylston Street, Worcester, MA 01606-2092
Phone 508-854-4385

Web page: <http://www.qcc.edu>

E-mail: alumni@qcc.mass.edu

Managing Director: Victor Somma

Editorial Director: Mary E. Opanasets

Writer: Meredith Galena

Photographer: Mike Nyman

Other Photographers: Wayne Brink, Michael West,
Shirley Dempsey-Anderson, James Fessenden

Design: Kim Cutler Graphic Design

Alumni Association President: Bill Stark

QCC Professor Connects Worcester Public Schools to Technology



Students of the Technology Academy for Girls build their personal computers.

Of all the colleges in Worcester, few can boast of a unique connection to the Worcester Public Schools the way Quinsigamond Community College can. That's because none but QCC have Professor Betty "B.J." Lauer leading the way to bring advanced technology programs to Worcester middle and high school students. Be it through her technical career learning projects, Women in Technology programs, or robotics programs, B.J. Lauer continues to make QCC the leader in providing technology programs to area youths.

This past summer, QCC hosted the **Technology Academy for Girls** (TAG) program. 32 girls were on campus for a two-week technology-intensive camp. When the program was recently in danger of ending due to a lack of state funds, the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation stepped up to give a much needed donation. In total, the Daniels Foundation has awarded QCC \$78,750 to fund TAG during the summers of 2006, 2007, and 2008. "We were fortunate to have the Daniels Foundation come forward. Their gift is the means to many important projects," Lauer said.

The TAG program encourages girls to continue courses in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics and perhaps later pursue a technology-related career. Students built a working computer from a pile of parts, created web sites, used their new digital cameras, and took everything home at the end of the course. "We want the kids to learn as much as possible and by taking their projects home, they'll continue to learn and experiment," Lauer added.

Professor Lauer's **Women in Technology** program is funded by a generous \$22,000 grant from Intel. The program exposes young women to various fields of technology and identifies certain technologies to explore in greater detail. QCC faculty visit area schools, and fifteen girls are chosen to come to campus to delve further into a technology field.

Professor Lauer spoke of one project in which the girls learned how GPS satellite systems work. They walked the Freedom Trail in Boston with their own hand-held GPS systems and also scoured QCC's campus to find various places and items. Bringing the students to QCC is important to Lauer.

"We always try to bring the kids to QCC," she explained. "They are exposed to our college campus, plus visit college offices and meet our staff."

Three years ago, Professor Lauer received a grant from Intel and some additional funding from EMC Corporation. She organized **robotics workshops** for area high schools and formulated teams to compete in robotics leagues. "Intel called us," Lauer explained. "They really liked we had done in the past with high schools and technology."

Last year, the robotics team from Worcester's North High School competed at "Battle Cry," a robotics competition hosted at WPI. Despite competing against 48 other more experienced teams from down the east coast, North won second place and garnered the Rookie Robot Team Award. Lauer called the experience "incredible."

"What makes me excited about working with Worcester public schools is that people have the impression that these kids 'can't cut it.' I believe in these students and feel they can do anything you let them do."

Melissa Murillo has participated in every technology program Lauer has offered to middle schoolers. When asked why she keeps returning, Melissa said simply, "It's fun and you learn a lot of new stuff every time." Parents, too, have been thrilled with their children's work.

Yolanda, mother of student Sonia Montalvo, smiled, and said, "I'm excited for my daughter and so proud of her. Everything this professor has put together has been wonderful." The compliments confirm Lauer's feelings that she "knows we're doing the right thing. I see us making a difference."

In the near future, Professor Lauer hopes to expand the programs she has in place. She realizes, though, that the relationship QCC has with the Daniels Foundation, Intel, EMC and other community foundations and corporations is paramount to making this happen. She certainly won't fall short in her efforts to maintain those connections.

Lauer noted that a North High robotics team is now supporting a middle school team in Worcester, mentoring the younger kids in their tech-projects. Her influence in getting Worcester youths excited about technology, and perhaps more important, wanting to share their knowledge with others, is spreading. Lauer aptly summed it up. "That's how 'community' works," she said.



Meridith Wesby of the Daniels Foundation, with president Gail Carberry, receiving an appreciation plaque for the foundation's support of Quinsigamond Community College.



Professor James Heffernan discusses mechanical issues with student, Manny Gomez.

Intel Scholarships Prepare QCC Students for Careers in Advanced Technology

Thanks to Intel, students in the Engineering and Technology programs at QCC have their own scholarship to strive for, and Professor James Heffernan is seeing to it that his students seize that opportunity.

Jim Heffernan, professor of Electromechanical Technology and Coordinator of the Electronics-Related programs at QCC, is a big advocate for the Intel Scholars program. "The main purpose of the scholarships is to encourage new students to enter one of the programs," Jim explains. "There are many scholarship award recipients who are excellent students; however, they would not have been able to finish their degree without the aid of the Intel scholarships."

The Intel award is typically \$1,000 per semester, for up to five semesters of study. To be eligible, a student must be a permanent resident of Massachusetts, take classes full time, and be enrolled in one of three technology programs – Electromechanical Technology, Electronics

Technology, or Manufacturing Technology. The student must then maintain a 3.0 GPA. Jim is on the committee that makes the final selection of recipients. Current student Emmanuel "Manny" Gomez was a recent scholarship winner.

"I applied for the Intel Scholarship and was really happy to hear I had received it," Manny stated. "I have five classes left and then I'll have my degree in Electromechanical Technologies."

Manny currently works at Metso Automation in Shrewsbury. He joined Metso last summer and, according to Jim, "is already a highly valued employee." Jim has other students with similar stories, who have gone on to jobs in their field, and some whom work at Intel in Hudson, Mass. While working at Intel after graduation is not a requirement of the scholarship, the company certainly reaps the benefits of their scholarship donations, luring well-qualified students with solid job offers when they graduate.

Unbeknownst to many, QCC is one of about ten schools from across the United States that is part of a pilot program for education and training in Highly Automated Systems. Two years ago, Jim and his students received a beta version of a manufacturing system designed for the education environment, called the HAS-200. It's one of many unique projects Jim's classes have worked on.

"I had my students perform a complete run through of the HAS-200, exercising every part of it. We compiled a record of problems that we then reported back to the HAS-200 design team," Jim states.

One of the biggest effects of the Intel scholarships has been Jim's and the faculty's ability to attract and retain high quality students. In turn, as Jim notes, "Having better quality students raises the overall quality of the programs."

With the help of Intel, QCC will continue to produce some of the brightest technology-trained graduates in the Worcester area.

Every year a large number of students from Quinsigamond Community College move on to receive four year degrees. Many QCC Engineering and Technology graduates annually move on to Worcester Polytechnic Institute on full academic scholarship, thanks in large part to professor Dadbeh Bigonahy. It seems the only thing more challenging than Professor Bigonahy's courses, is getting him to tell his story.

Professor Bigonahy has been with the Department of Engineering since 1981. He is both professor and Coordinator of the Basic Engineering Program.

"I received a note from the Dean of Physics at Cornell University," Dadbeh began. "He was talking about a student from QCC who transferred there, and the Dean wrote, 'If you have any more students like this one, send them over!'"

In addition to Cornell, Dadbeh has seen his students off to Stanford and UC Berkeley, among numerous other universities. It is WPI, however, that receives the largest share of Dadbeh's students.

Each year, about twenty of Dadbeh's QCC graduates attend WPI, with their entire tuition, room, and board paid for – an expense that exceeds \$40,000. These students achieve such high marks and high GPA at QCC that they qualify for the WPI academic scholarship. The students enter WPI as confident, well-prepared juniors.

"QCC set me up really well for WPI," said alum and current WPI student Holly Whitten. "I was 30 years old and going back to school, looking for a community college with a strong engineering program. The others weren't as good as QCC's, so I relocated from Florence, Mass. It was difficult at times, but Dadbeh constantly encouraged me."

Holly explained that she wasn't even going to apply to WPI, hoping to find a less expensive option, but Dadbeh told her she should; she just might receive one of their scholarships. Now, Holly finds herself a BioMedical Engineering major, looking to enter the research science field. Dadbeh can't hide his pride.

"It's wonderful. Just wonderful," Dadbeh states.

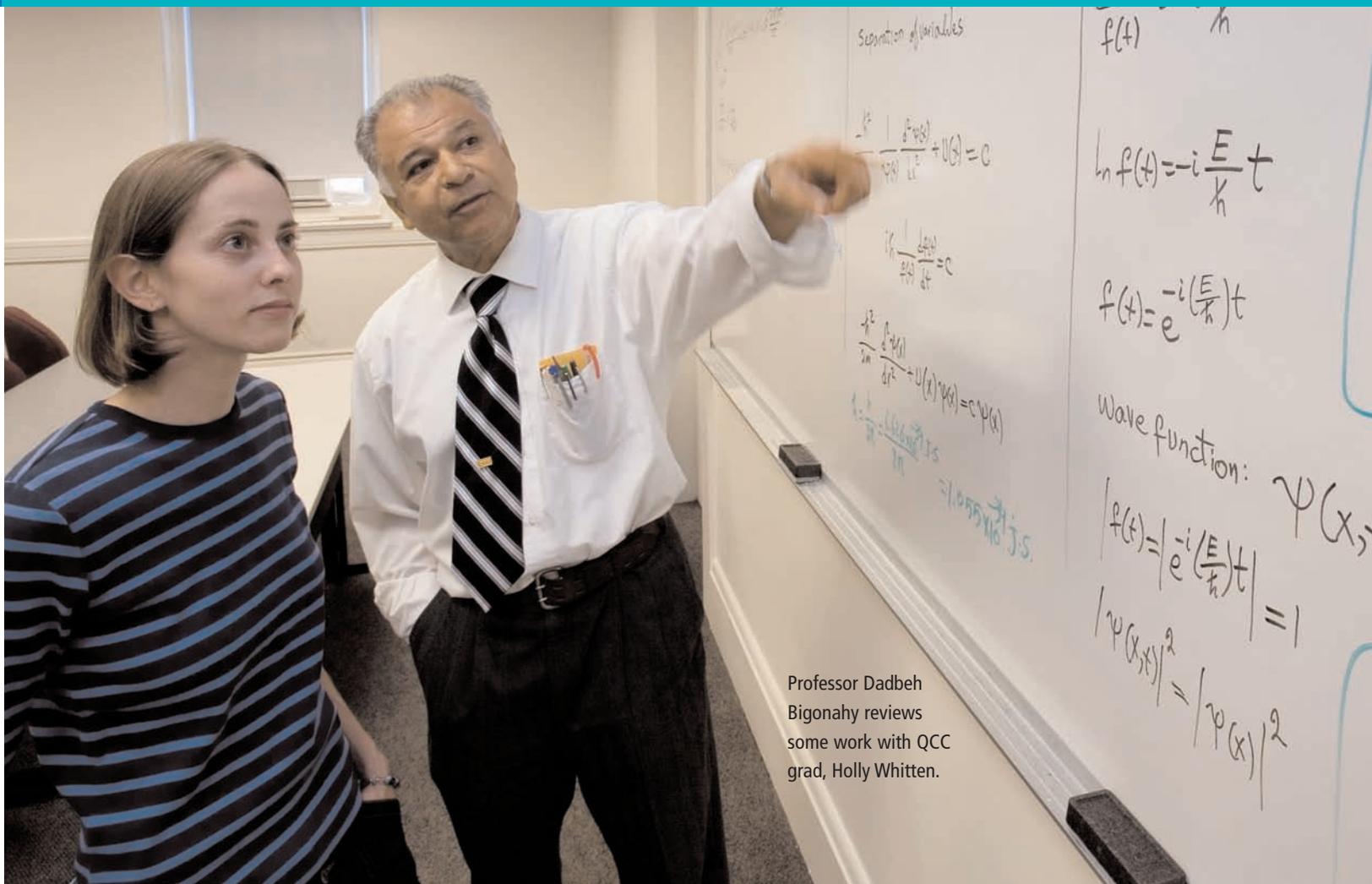
"They come to QCC, we challenge them, push them to keep moving on in their degree. And they achieve success. WPI professors love our students."

According to Dadbeh, an alumnus of WPI, a number of QCC students become math tutors at WPI. Another QCC alumna, Natalie Velazquez, is a Civil Engineering major at WPI. She, too, credits Dadbeh for encouraging her to reach her potential.

"I never thought I'd get a full scholarship to WPI," Natalie adds. "Professor Bigonahy is a big advocate. He definitely inspired me."

The Quinsigamond and WPI connection is important to Dadbeh, as WPI is considered the premier four year engineering college in central Massachusetts. So, despite Dadbeh's quiet and humble demeanor, the professor's ready encouragement and awareness of national opportunities for stellar students is making an important contribution to the futures of both QCC students and the College.

National Colleges Compete for QCC Engineering and Technology Grads



Professor Dadbeh Bigonahy reviews some work with QCC grad, Holly Whitten.

Developing QCC Faculty's Intellectual Capital

On All College Day on September 5th a ribbon cutting ceremony highlighted the opening of the new Center for Academic Excellence in the Ahlfors Building.



Nancy Donohue-Berthiaume outside Ahlfors Hall, site of the Center for Academic Excellence.

Funding for the renovated Ahlfors building came from a federal Title III Grant, which provided funds for faculty and staff professional development. Through the efforts of Pat Toney and Nancy Donohue-Berthiaume, Professor of Psychology, Coordinator of Staff Development and now Director of the Center, immediate training is being provided faculty to meet identified urgent demands.

"We wanted to establish an intellectual sanctuary for faculty and staff. They needed a place to collaborate, share ideas, or explore new ways of teaching," Toney says.

The Center has a separate faculty and staff computer training facility for instructional technology workshops or individual online work. It is separated by a partial glass wall, and located directly next to the large, reflective practice room. This relaxed environment easily facilitates collegial discussion, and there is a support person on hand for additional needs.

"This facility will help faculty to become 'citizens of the college,' develop an even deeper connection with their colleagues, their disciplines, their students and the school," Toney adds. "We are

really excited to offer them not only space but programming to develop and progress their career with Quinsigamond.

Nancy Donohue-Berthiaume continues to work on the programs and workshops to be offered to the faculty and staff through the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE). She plans to provide a comprehensive wide range of personal and professional development opportunities to strengthen faculty members' individual talents in their academic disciplines, in current learner-centered pedagogy, and in instructional technology. Faculty will also have the opportunity to come together to strengthen their professional connections with colleagues.

"The results of research show that one of the greatest assets that QCC has is its dedicated faculty and staff, and the college is wise to support their continued professional growth," Donohue-Berthiaume states.

According to Pat and Nancy, reactions have been wonderful, with the faculty and staff thrilled and regularly visiting the newly opened Center. Students have also proclaimed their support for this endeavor. Pat, Nancy, and the college faculty and staff know that it is QCC's students who will ultimately benefit from this initiative.

"It's the students who are at the 'center' of it all," Toney states. "Their success is of utmost importance."

Quinsigamond Community College BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brent J. Andersen, Chair
Tracy LaMantia, Vice Chair
Michael Jones, Appointed Alum
Jody R. Stark Cornetta, Elected Alum
Sharon Doherty, Student Trustee
Natalie H. O'Flaherty
Roland A. Gauthier
James P. McKenna
Kristina M. Spillane
James B. Stanton
Michael R. Theerman



Brent J. Andersen and Tracy LaMantia

New Leadership Announced for QCC Trustees

In May of this year, Quinsigamond Community College announced that two Board members were elected into new positions. Brent J. Andersen was elected Chairperson of the Board and Tracy LaMantia was elected Vice Chairperson.

Mr. Andersen joined the Board in 2002, having served on the Planning and Budget Committee since his appointment. A resident of Auburn, Mr. Andersen holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Finance from Nichols College. He is currently the Vice President of Energy Insulation Conservation, Inc. of Worcester.

"I am grateful to the trustees for the opportunity that they have given me," Mr. Andersen stated. "And I look forward to working with the Board, the administration, and the College to continue to guide Quinsigamond toward further success."

Tracy LaMantia has also been on the Board since 2002 and has been a member of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee since her appointment. She currently works as a Strategic Business Systems Manager for employment leader Monster Worldwide in Maynard, Mass. A resident of Worcester, Ms. LaMantia received her MBA from Boston University and her BS in Health Education from Penn State University.

Ms. LaMantia expressed her appreciation at her election, saying, "I am very excited about serving as Vice Chair and look forward to helping the team take QCC to new levels as we prepare for the next generation of the College."

The Board of Trustees shares authority with the State Board of Higher Education in several important areas, including curriculum. With the exception of the student and alumni representative as elected positions, appointments to the Board are made by the Governor of Massachusetts and are five year terms.

The Legacy Continues

QCC's Capital Campaign 2005-2007

There is nothing like a celebration to recognize accomplishments and build anticipation for what's to come. QCC's Capital Campaign Celebration in June did just that for the entire College community.

QCC Foundation Directors, College Trustees, major donors, faculty, and staff shared in the gratifying news that the College is nearing its fundraising goal of \$4 million.

"It was a wonderful event," noted Michael Seppala, Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation. "A nice way to celebrate our efforts thus far and create some excitement as we head toward the campaign's completion."

Pledges and gifts received have totaled 3.4 million, not far from the 4-million dollar goal. The "quiet phase" of the campaign, which included major gift donations by foundations, corporations, and select donors, is now ended. In recognition of their significant financial donations to the campaign, several foundations and businesses were presented plaques during the celebration. Representatives from the Francis A. and Jacquelyn H. Harrington Foundation, the Fairlawn Foundation, and the Fred Harris Daniels Foundation were all presented with limited edition prints of the North Wing, painted by local artist and former QCC student Mark Waitkus. Several Foundations were not in attendance but also received limited edition prints: George I. Alden Trust, Fletcher Foundation,

Stoddard Charitable Trust, and the George F. & Sybil H. Fuller Foundation.

With one year left to raise the final funds, the Campaign now enters its "public phase." "We are delighted to have received significant major gifts from local foundations and businesses. We now look forward to the public phase for alumni, faculty, staff, and local businesses to support the initiatives of Quinsigamond Community College," stated Seppala.

WITH
ONE YEAR TO
GO, THE COLLEGE
APPROACHES GOAL
OF \$4 MILLION

Jim Harrington echoed Michael's sentiments, saying, "QCC is truly blessed to have such generous friendships with local foundations and businesses. These thoughtful gifts will help revitalize the entire campus and prepare Quinsigamond for the future."

Plans for the capital campaign funds remain focused around the North Wing of the Administration building, where a One-Stop enrollment center will be created. This will allow students to register for classes, apply for financial aid, take assessment tests, and meet with counselors all in one central location. A separate section of the North Wing will be furnished as a multi-purpose great room for community and college events. In addition, contributions will also go toward renovating three science labs and supporting student scholarships and faculty initiatives.

For more information on the campaign, contact
Michael Seppala, at (508) 854-4337.

Warner Fletcher Honored by College at Commencement

Warner S. Fletcher, local lawyer, philanthropist, and friend of QCC, was presented with the Board of Trustees' Citizen's Award at the 2006 Commencement ceremony.

Mr. Fletcher is founder of the premier law firm, Fletcher, Tilton & Whipple, and he is trustee of several local philanthropic organizations. Born and raised in Worcester, Mr. Fletcher has been a key facilitator in influencing philanthropic giving to Quinsigamond. He played an important role in helping to find funds for QCC's applied arts lab renovation, the Alden Library's collection development, and scholarships for local Hispanic youth.

Upon accepting his award at Commencement, Mr. Fletcher told the graduates to stay connected and volunteer for local nonprofit agencies. He urged they move forward "with passion, perseverance and commitment. Support the mosaic of nonprofit social agencies and you will enrich your own lives."

Most recently, Mr. Fletcher was instrumental in helping the QCC Foundation secure funding for its Capital Campaign. He continues to support Quinsigamond in his role as Chairman of both the Stoddard Charitable Trust and Fletcher Foundation, and was a unanimous choice to receive the Trustees' Citizen's Award for 2006.



QCC Celebrates 40 Years of Nursing Excellence

2006 was a special year for the Nursing Department at Quinsigamond Community College, as it marked the 40th anniversary of the Nurse Education program. Over 2,700 nurses have graduated from QCC and 90% still live and work in the surrounding community. In recognition of 40 years of nursing excellence, QCC hosted a Nursing Alumni Reunion for all graduates of the program. 250 alumni, friends, and faculty (current and former) attended the all-day event on April 28th.

The day had many highlights, including a performance by national nurse humorist Carol O'Flaherty, R.N., whose "Cork the Whine" speech was a definite crowd-pleaser. Alumni also viewed a slide show portraying the past, present, and future of the nursing program, created by Pat Creelman, current Director of Nurse Education. Future plans for expanding the Nursing program and discussion about the possibility of creating a QCC Nursing Building were discussed. Betty Forest, who founded QCC's program in 1966, shared some of her fondest memories as well.

Alumni enjoyed a luncheon accompanied by live jazz piano music and saw the presentation of the first Nursing Alumni Achievement Award, given to Donna Lazorik. Donna is a QCC graduate who, after receiving her Bachelor's Degree, went on to receive an M.S. in Community Health Nursing from Boston University. She now coordinates the Adult Immunization Program for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and is on the board of the Massachusetts Public Health Association. Donna has worked as far away as Vietnam and Thailand, but has remained a constant supporter of the Nurse Education program at QCC.

The day was a perfect way to celebrate the nursing profession and to allow alumni to network and reconnect with former classmates.

To commemorate this 40th Anniversary of Nursing at QCC, alumni and friends are asked to consider supporting scholarships and mentoring opportunities for nursing students.

If you are interested in giving a gift, please contact Mary Opanasets, Director of Alumni Relations at 508-854-7478.



Donna Lazorik receives her Nursing Alumni Achievement Award from Pat Creelman, Director of Nurse Education.

Below: Nursing alumni, faculty, and staff enjoy dinner at the QCC Nursing Reunion.



PTK Alumni Reunite and Network in the New Harrington Learning Center

Nearly 200 alumni and friends of the international Alpha Zeta Theta Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society of Quinsigamond Community College came together for a celebratory reunion on Friday, June 23, at the Harrington Learning Center.

The reunion honored the accomplishments of both past and present Phi Theta Kappa Society members, as well as recognized the years of service by three dedicated staff members, Marion Kaletski, Nancy Chosta, and Jack Szeredy who started and coordinated the society on campus.

The 2006 Phi Theta Kappa Alumni Achievement Award was also presented to Colleen Norton and Gregory Casale, local graduates of the College. The PTK Alumni Achievement Award honors a member who has achieved success in his/her career, is active in the community, and has given back to the College as a volunteer and/or financial donor.

Colleen Norton earned two degrees from QCC, graduating in 1997 with honors in Radiologic Technology and again with honors in Dental Hygiene in 2003. In her first two years at QCC, she was the Student Senate President, named "Outstanding Student Leader," and a member of "Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities," all while raising her own child as a single mother. In 2002-03, Norton took the position of Student Trustee and went on to be awarded the first ever Student Trustee Award for outstanding service to the students of the college. She added PTK Achievement Award winner to her accomplishments this night. She currently works in the office of Dr. David Lubin as a Dental Hygienist.

"It is always an honor to be recognized by your alma mater," Colleen said humbly. "It says that hard work and accomplishments do not go unnoticed and that you remain a part of the QCC and PTK families long after graduation. The other individuals nominated for the award had some pretty impressive backgrounds and endeavors, as well."

Gregory Casale graduated from QCC in 1991 with a degree in Liberal Arts and has since gone on to become a successful, respected criminal defense attorney. Upon graduating from the College, Gregory went on to earn his B.A. from Clark University and his J.D. from Boston College Law School. He is currently serving his second year as Bar Advocate in Barnstable County and volunteered in the same capacity in Worcester County for seven years. He is also a member of the Massachusetts Bar Association and the Worcester Bar Association. "I was proud to be recognized by the College with this award," he said. "I am very grateful to QCC for a wonderful foundation and beginning."

Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society of the 2-year college; it recognizes and encourages scholarship, leadership, and service among students who also attain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or above throughout enrollment.

In further celebration of PTK at QCC, alumni and friends are asked to consider supporting PTK Textbook Awards for students. Stipends of \$500 are given to students to purchase books during the year.

If you are interested in supporting this award, please contact Mary Opansets, Director of Alumni Relations at 508-854-7478.

"It is always an honor to be recognized by your alma mater. It says that hard work and accomplishments do not go unnoticed and that you remain a part of the QCC and PTK families long after graduation."

— Colleen Norton, 1997

"I was proud to be recognized by the College with this award," he said. "I am very grateful to QCC for a wonderful foundation and beginning."

—Gregory Casale, 1991



Marion Kaletski, on right, is recognized for her years of service to Phi Theta Kappa.

From QCC to Japan: Dawn O'Day '82 Fulfills Her Dreams

Dawn O'Day always aspired to travel and submerge herself in the uniqueness of a foreign culture. Little did she know as a freshman at Quinsigamond Community College that a foundation was being set that now has her photographing geisha and teaching in Japan. The QCC Alumni Department caught up with Dawn recently and asked her to share her story.

QCC: Could you tell us what initially brought you to Japan?

Dawn: Well, I came to Japan to fulfill a lifelong desire to travel, to live and to work in a foreign culture rich in tradition. Japan, as it turns out is a great place for someone like me. Kyoto, in particular, is picturesque and perfect for a photographer.

QCC: Expound on the photography project you're working on now with the geisha in Japan.

Dawn: In the Japanese language, the word geiko (a.k.a geisha) is made up of two words gei, which means "art" and ko, which refers to "girl". In Kyoto, geiko are women who study Japanese traditional arts such as dance, calligraphy, and flower arranging. I have been photographing geiko dances (known as odori) for the past 7 or 8 years and I am in the process of writing a book about their dance performances so others will learn more about this aspect of their lives and gain an appreciation for Japanese traditional culture.

QCC: Was photography your chosen career path after graduating Quinsigamond?

Dawn: No, it wasn't. My interests in photography began when I was a child, but as a teenager I had envisioned myself working in the field of psychology. At the time, the two things seemed to me to be vastly different areas of interests.

Before graduating with a B.S. in psychology from Worcester State College, I landed a teaching position at the New England Center of Autism. I met with behavioral psychologist B.F. Skinner about the success of some of the behavioral programs we were using, and he allowed me to photograph him as well, for use in a book he had just written. This was the first time I saw my interests in photography and psychology converge.

QCC: How did QCC prepare you for your career?

Dawn: A Liberal Arts program allowed me to learn more about my varied interests and I was able to establish a solid academic foundation upon which to further my education. As a result of my education, I worked with autistic children, spent 6 years working as a Research Associate in the area of forensic psychiatry, three years as an Emergency Services Clinician, and three years at



Kyoto's Aoibashi Family Clinic as the Director of English Services before the international division closed. I now work as an adjunct University Instructor here in the Kansai region of Japan.

QCC: What do you remember most about your QCC experience?

Dawn: There were professors and staff members, such as Marilyn Howe, Paul Connell, Daniel King, Bob Prior, Mel Shemluck, Sarah Hovsepian, Margaret Watson, Gene Butler, and many more who were excellent role models, set high standards and nurtured my academic interests.

Without my experiences at QCC, I might not be leading such a full, exciting and interesting life. So, I have to say "okagesamade" - a Japanese expression meaning, "In the shadows of others, I do well." Thanks to supportive and loving family members and friends, and the QCC community, I am fulfilling my dreams and I am well.

Inaugural Study Abroad Program Honors Alex Drapos

"This is a great initiative, and it's wonderful that the Foundation wanted to name our inaugural study abroad program after Alex. He touched many lives at QCC, and this is a proper 'thank you' in his memory,"



—Michael Seppala, Vice President of Institutional Advancement.

Quinsigamond Community College will honor a long-time Foundation Board member and civic leader next spring 2007, when it launches its first ever Alex Drapos Study Abroad Program. Last May, QCC Professor of English Karl Anderson and other Honors faculty approached the College with the idea to set up at study abroad program to Greece. The project was well received and the QCC Foundation Board made an initial gift of \$1,500. Shortly thereafter, the Foundation mourned the passing of one of its members, Alexander Drapos, and thus began a plan to honor his memory.

During his life, Alex had a special affinity for Greece and his Greek heritage. In fact, he was a former chairman of the American Farm School in Thessalonika, Greece. QCC's Board

agreed that it would be appropriate to name this year's Study Abroad Program for Alex.

Plans currently are to provide nine Quinsigamond students a week-long study opportunity in Athens, Greece. The week would be largely paid for by the program, with the students helping to raise money. The trip will augment students' course material, with highlights based on class studies of Ancient Greece. "Part of a liberal education is gaining an understanding of the world," Professor Anderson stated in his proposal to QCC. "An overseas trip would give students a world view."

The Board is now trying to raise \$15,000 to fully establish the Study Abroad program at QCC and secure its place in the Liberal Arts Program. The first study abroad trip to Greece is scheduled for this coming March, 2007.

News and Notes

WEDDINGS

'05 **Stephanie M. Laske** and John F. Brynes were married in March. Stephanie is attending Worcester State College and is also a pre-school teacher in Marlborough.

'01 **Stefani Kyriazis** and Ioannis Engonidis were married in March. The couple is living in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

OTHER NEWS & NOTES

'03 **LuAnn Mattson** has recently been appointed Office Manager at The Alternative Energy Store, headquartered in Hudson, Mass. The Alternative Energy Store is one of the largest providers of renewable energy products, catering to customers around the world.

'98 **Brenda Safford**, director of multicultural affairs at Assumption College and former QCC coordinator of admissions and financial aid, was chosen to receive a Katharine F. Erskine Award, given by the YWCA Central Massachusetts, and named in honor of the late Katharine Erksine. Katharine was an advocate for women for 80 years and president of the YWCA in 1930 and 1960.

'93 **Patricia Padilla** was recently named principal of the elementary grades of the Accelerated Learning Laboratory (ALL) School in Worcester.

'75 **Daniel P. Moen** was featured in the Worcester Telegram and Gazette for his being named the new chairman of the Massachusetts Hospital Association. He is currently the President and CEO of Heywood Hospital in Gardner, Mass.

DEATHS

'87 **Jacqueline Theodores** passed away on January 12, 2004. Her husband, Louis Theodore's, has since helped establish QCC nursing scholarships in Jacqueline's name and dedicated the library's Nurses Viewing Room in her memory as well.

'84 **Kim T. Lambert** passed away on March 15, 2006.

'69 **Thomas H. Hill** passed away on August 11, 2006.

Over 200 QCC alumni came together to cheer on the Worcester Tornados baseball team. All donned their official alumni t-shirts that read, "Twist the Night Away," which were printed by The Logo Shop in Southbridge.



The Drive for Scholars 9th Annual QCC Golf Classic a Terrific Success!

THREE QCC STUDENTS RECEIVE 'GUARDIAN ANGEL' SCHOLARSHIPS

144 players and 50 guests gathered at Wachusett Country Club on September 25 for a day of fun for a great cause. Golfers raised a total of \$32,000 for QCC student scholarships. During the tournament dinner, the QCC Foundation proudly announced the awarding of 'Guardian Angel' scholarships to three deserving QCC students. Kristen Parker, Marcos Avalos, and Matthew Fries will each receive a scholarship for the 2006-'07 academic year. The QCC Foundation introduced the Guardian Angel scholarship as part of its The Legacy Continues: Capital Campaign. The goal of the scholarship program is to invite donors to support the full one-year tuition for a student who has a grade point average of 3.5 or above and demonstrates high financial need.

Kristen works full time while also attending QCC as a Human Services major. She hopes to work with at-risk AIDS groups locally after graduation. Marcos is in the General Studies program at QCC, has a full class schedule, and also takes care of his two younger brothers while his parents work multiple jobs. Lastly, Matthew Fries, while helping his family through some financial hardships, is a Basic Engineering major with plans to move on to WPI or MIT after graduation.

The support of all our generous golf sponsors and friends affects so many of our students on campus. Thanks for all you do for QCC students.

"This school year, all QCC alumni association fund raising events will raise dollars for scholarships. Hope you can attend!"
— Bill Stark '95, President of the Alumni Association

UPCOMING QCC ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENTS

Nov 3, 5:30 pm Celebration for QCC Alumni who work at UMass Memorial Hospital and Med School, Harrington Learning Center

Feb 9, 2007, 6:30 pm Bet on Scholars: Texas Holdem Poker Fund Raiser, Harrington Learning Center

Feb 22, 2007, 10 am – 6 pm Alumni/Student American Red Cross Blood Drive, Athletic Center

Jun 6, 2007, 6:00 pm Early Childhood Education Reunion, Harrington Learning Center

For more information, call the QCC Alumni Relations Office at 508-854-4385 or visit the website at www.qcc.edu



Looking for Alumna/us Who is a Local Hero!

We are looking for an alumna/us who is a local hero in the Massachusetts area to interview for an upcoming issue of the *QCC Connection*. If you know of a alumna/us who fits that description, please email us at alumni@qcc.mass.edu Thanks.

2006 QCC Alumni Advisory Board

William Stark '95, President
Lori Blair '03, Vice President
Shirley Dempsey-Anderson '04, Secretary
Ronald Norton '93, Faculty Advisor

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nina Anderson '77 | Jennifer Knight '01 |
| Peter Anderson '80 | Brenda Marshall '87 |
| Julienne Bakerlis '83 | Mary Newman '95 |
| Carole J. Boilard '93 | Uchenna Onuzulik '03 |
| Philip Bourget '68 | Janet Paskauskas '88 |
| Cheryl Hickey Burgess '94 | Brenda Safford '98 |
| Dora Capite-Tkal '78 | Marie Scichilone '87 |
| Theresa M. Chad '93 | Richard Small '05 |
| Jody Stark Cornetta '85, Trustee | Lisa Smith '02 |
| Katrina DeJoseph '02 | Craig J. Tremblay '00 |
| Sharron Gillies '99 | Charulata Trivedi, Faculty |
| Patricia Grogan '85 | Laura Weinmann '02 |
| Hazel Wood Hopkins '78 | Michael West '06 |
| Sarah Hovsepian '04 | Greg Whiting '04 |

Dear Alumni and Friends,

We are honored and pleased to present our new president in this issue. Gail E. Carberry, Ed.D., QCC's 6th president, began her service to the college on July 31 (see p. 2). Her energy level, commitment to excellence, and willingness to listen and learn are inspiring, and we join with every one of you in looking forward to taking QCC to the next level under her leadership.

We also want to take a moment to introduce three professors of the Technology and Engineering Department whose commitment to QCC students, to students in the Worcester Public Schools, and to the Worcester Community, serves as an inspiration. Betty (a.k.a. B.J.) Lauer, Jim Heffernan, and Dadbeh Bigonahy have truly changed the direction of many of their students' lives. Please read about their wonderful contributions on pages 3, 4, and 5.

One more important connection you will see discussed in this issue is the support QCC is receiving for student scholarship and programs from local businesses, foundations, alumni, and friends (see pages. 3, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11). So many ambitious and deserving students struggle to attend QCC and these gifts make their education possible. Thanks to all who support QCC.

Please email us at alumni@qcc.mass.edu or call the Alumni Office at 508-854-4385 with news and stories. As always, happy reading, and enjoy the fall!

Mary E. Opanasets
Director of Alumni Relations

Nancy Chosta
Assistant to the Director of Alumni Relations

Find the Word iPod Contest

The QCC Alumni Relations Office is giving away a music iPod in a drawing. Alumni and Friends of QCC who find the word **geiko** in this edition, note a page and line, and 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, 2006 and the winner 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 01606-2092.

Send your entry today! (one entry per person please)

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| geiko appears (note page and line) | Name | Address | City | St. | Zip | Phone | Email |
| | | | | | | | |

QCC Connection

Quinsigamond Community College
670 West Boylston Street
Worcester, MA 01606

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 304
Worcester, MA

Change Service Requested