

QCC *connection*

A Publication for the Alumni and Friends of Quinsigamond Community College ♦ Summer 2008



Celebrating 34 Years of Dental Program Excellence

A Message from President Gail Carberry



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Last winter, as I bit into a piece of home made peanut brittle that had been given to my office as a gift, I realized that the somewhat aging fillings in my teeth had reached their expiration point. I hurriedly called my dentist who works in the Western Massachusetts community where I had resided up until two years ago. When you make a “connection” to people you trust with your health and dental care, it’s sometimes difficult to think about making changes, especially for major work. But traveling 80 miles round trip for more routine dental visits at today’s gas prices seemed very silly indeed. As a result, this spring I made my first appointment at the QCC Dental Clinic. It was the best cleaning I ever had in my life!

For over two decades, Quinsigamond Community College has been a leader in the education of dental support professionals serving Central Massachusetts. Our graduates have been among the most sought after employees of the region’s dental practices. Still, I was not fully prepared for what I experienced in the dental chair at the QCC Dental Clinic. I had never been exposed to sonic cleaning techniques. In addition, the student who assisted me taught me lessons about oral health care that I had not ever learned before.

QCC held its first ever Dental Programs reunion in May, just days after my experiences in the clinic. The event was so well attended that late registrants had to be turned away. It was very gratifying to discover the high regard the Dental Program alumni have for Quinsigamond Community College. Their “connection” to the campus has not been broken, despite years of professional practice, and many were delighted to return to QCC to receive Continuing Education Units of instruction. This year, the Dental Program alumni raised in excess of \$5,000 to establish a scholarship endowment to assist students who will soon enroll at QCC in the Dental Hygiene program. The QCC Foundation matched the contribution from the alumni. It is wonderful to see alumni making generous “connections” to support future students in the field.

QCC’s Dental programs have been well respected by dentists in Central Massachusetts who not only hire the programs’ graduates but also serve on its advisory board. The Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) has contributed \$80,000 to the College in support of the programs this year and \$235,121 in the past five years. This past year, the mobile dental lab of the MDS parked on the College grounds enabling treatment of children.

Beyond the extraordinary educational mission of the QCC Dental Programs on campus is the incredible community service the programs provide to low income individuals, including hundreds of school children each year. QCC’s Dental Hygiene program has also contributed its talent to the Great Brook Valley Health Center.

This issue of Connections features and honors our Dental Programs and its superb students, alumni, and faculty. With my teeth now well cleaned and sparkling, these incredible programs are something that I can surely smile about.

ON THE COVER: Longtime QCC Professor Joyce Cooney (center)
with alumni Susan Araujo '80 (left) and Nadia Egan '80 (right)

Second Industry Forum a Success

A second forum held as part of QCC's study of the region's industries has been completed and the official release of the Healthcare Industry Report is due this summer.

The studies began in the spring of last year when Quinsigamond Community College began an initiative to investigate the needs and workforce expectations of the region's businesses and industries. The forums, sponsored by the QCC Foundation, are planned as a way to directly speak with and learn from area businesses, and to open a dialogue around collaborative efforts to meet employment challenges.



The first forum was held in March of '07, with eleven representatives from the manufacturing industry taking part. It was a great success in both format and the information gathered, and the official report was released at a news conference on campus with Congressman Jim McGovern, businesses, and College administrators in attendance.

Congressman McGovern is interviewed at the manufacturing conference on campus.

"We were thrilled with the quality and overall success of the initial manufacturing forum," stated QCC president Gail Carberry. "The input from area manufacturers was excellent, and we were equally pleased with this year's healthcare forum."

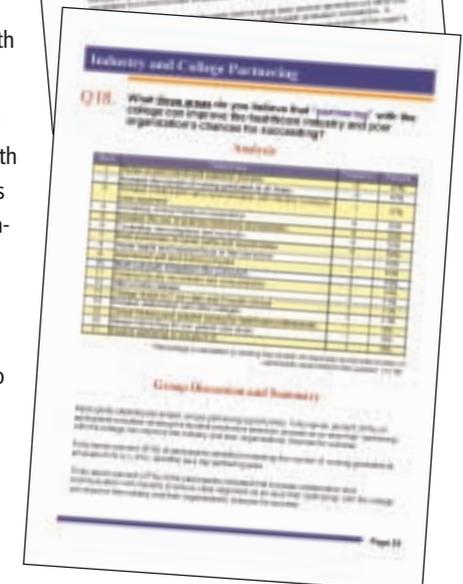
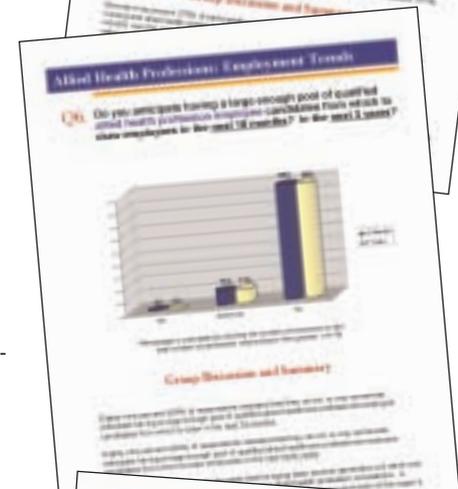
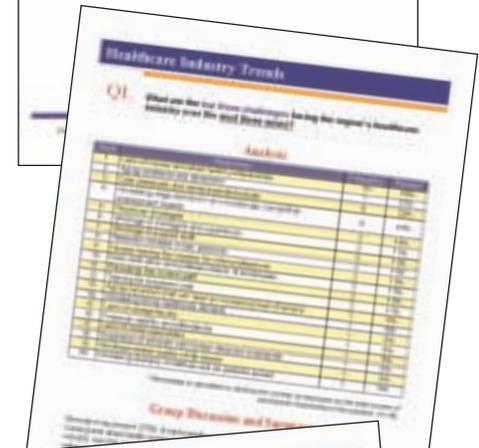
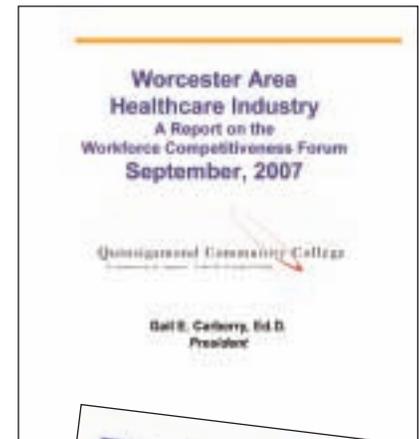
The healthcare group met on campus last September for two hours, answered a series of questions in an interactive format, and engaged in open discussion on various topics. The panel was comprised of high-level management from area hospitals, rehabilitation centers, and nursing centers. There were nineteen area businesses involved.

"The participation was superb," stated Robert Lepage, consultant for The Clements Group, which is assisting with the forums and reports. "We are happy to assist QCC in their efforts to meet regional workforce needs."

An official report is being completed on the healthcare forum and is expected to be released to the College and general community this summer. Highlights of the report, given Quinsigamond's popular nursing and allied health programs, include the fact that 79% of participants stated that the lack of nurses and allied health professionals was the top challenge facing the region's healthcare industry over the next three years. Similarly, 89% of respondents indicated that they do not, or only somewhat, anticipate having a large enough pool of qualified allied healthcare professional employee candidates from which to draw in the next 18 months.

A key part of the forum's discussions concerned nursing preceptorships as a transitional support from college programs to actual work in hospitals. "We are prepared to work collaboratively with the health care industry to solve critical workforce issues," said President Carberry.

Looking ahead, the College will also utilize the report as it looks to possible future expansion of its program offerings in the health fields, via new programs, courses, and partnerships with other colleges. In turn, QCC will be helping local health-related companies remain competitive and successful in the Worcester region and ensure quality health care for residents of local communities.



All Smiles at Dental Program Reunion



More than 100 graduates of QCC's dental programs returned to campus for a reunion on May 2nd. It was the first reunion in the history of the programs, and the evening was a huge success.

Emceed by program coordinator, Jane Gauthier, the event brought together alumni, friends, faculty, and honored guests for dinner, camaraderie, and memories. The evening began with a welcome from QCC president Gail Carberry, who not only spoke but sang, to the delight of the attendees, about her positive experiences in QCC's dental hygiene clinic. Dr. Abraham Haddad, who was part of the original board that planned the QCC dental program, then told the story of how QCC's dental program came to fruition in 1972.

"There were 20 students in the first class," Dr. Haddad began. "To this day, I continue to be amazed at what the students accomplish here in two years. To all of you I say congratulations. You are special people."

W. Lizette Yarzebski of the class of 1991 was presented an Alumni Achievement Award for her community contributions in providing care to underserved populations in Massachusetts. To Yarzebski's delight, current dental hygiene students also take part in a unique service-learning, community service program called "Kidseal," which, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Dental Society, provides free dental care to young children in Worcester.



Guest speakers, clockwise from upper left: Alumni Award recipient, W. Lizette Yarzebski; Dr. Bernie Siegel with Jane Gauthier; Dr. Abraham Haddad; Dr. Esther Wilkins



College Celebrates 34 years of Graduates

One of the many highlights of the evening was former Tufts University professor Dr. Esther Wilkins, who is considered an icon in the dental world. The sprightly 91 year old recently completed the tenth edition of her book, *The Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist*, more commonly known as "the dental hygienist's bible" and used at QCC since the program began. The audience was captivated and amused by Dr. Wilkins' stories, while she, in turn, marveled at the growth of the program.

"The exciting thing about this evening is that almost every class is represented here," Dr. Wilkins said. "You are still making history for this school, so continue to do that like a flag you're waving to all."

"Keep moving ahead," she encouraged the alumni. "Keep reaching out and influencing the oral health of all whose lives you touch."

Renowned author Dr. Bernie Siegel, known for his latest publication "Love, Magic, and Mudpies," was the featured speaker of the evening. His enlightening lecture fascinated the audience as he spoke about keeping one's mind healthy and free of stress and thus keeping one's body physically healthy as well. He encouraged the alumni to "live life to the fullest."

The evening concluded with some wonderful memories and photos shared by the faculty and alumni.



From QCC's Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Brent J. Andersen

One semester has ended, another has begun, and once again Quinisgamond Community College has reached a new milestone. On Thursday, May 22, over eight hundred students graduated, boosting the ranks of alumni to over 21,000! Looking forward to our summer sessions and the fall semester, we see continued growth – more and more students want to become part of the QCC family. This should come as no surprise. After all, the benefits of a QCC education are boundless and the future is looking even brighter.

Over the past several months, the College has forged new partnerships and created new initiatives that will make QCC an even stronger institution. In January, we established an "Associate's to Bachelor's" Business Program with Nichols College. The program, set to begin in the fall of 2008, will enable students to take advantage of the benefits of an associate's degree from QCC and earn a bachelor's degree from Nichols College. The program is a significant step forward allowing students who enroll in the "A to B" Business Program at QCC to be jointly admitted to Nichols College. After earning an associate's degree and other required credits, students can pursue a bachelor's of science degree from Nichols. As an alumnus of Nichols College, I am very excited about this new opportunity for our students, and I look forward to its inaugural semester this fall. This new "A to B" program should certainly prove to be as successful as the QCC Health and Dental Hygiene program, which also boasts new opportunities.

While most people would hardly describe a visit to the dentist as thrilling, I am always thrilled when I see a QCC diploma on the wall in my dentist's office. It is well-known throughout our community that the QCC Dental Hygiene program is the best of its kind, thus making a high



demand for QCC graduates. Recently, the College strengthened the program with the announcement of an articulation agreement with Vermont Technical College. Dental Hygiene graduates who meet minimum requirements can continue their studies and earn a bachelor's degree by utilizing online courses through Vermont Technical College. The power of a degree from QCC, combined with today's technology, has created an opportunity for many students that previously may have been out of reach.

In addition to the advancements made for several academic programs, I am pleased to say that over the next few years many additions and renovations will be completed on various buildings and on the campus grounds as well. In the near future, construction should begin on the new loop-road and student parking areas. These changes should alleviate much of our campus traffic congestion. Upgrades to the athletic center are also underway, complete with new equipment that will help keep us fit. On the larger scale, we look forward to the start of the North Wing project. Moreover, talks are on-going for construction of yet another new building on campus. These additions and renovations to the College have become absolutely necessary as the steady growth that QCC continues to experience, combined with the exciting new programs and initiatives, will only lead to a larger QCC family – we are certainly going to need a larger home to accommodate everyone!

As the faces and smiles of new students, faculty, and staff appear on campus, please join me in offering them a warm welcome to the QCC family. Our College has been growing and will continue to do so. But our growth does not mean we will lose sight of the characteristics that make our QCC family unique – the friendly smiles, the words of encouragement, the support when things get tough, and, of course, the proud feelings of success.



CAMPUS NEWS

Science Lab Sees Overhaul

In the summer of 2007, QCC was awarded a \$375,000 pledge from the Alden Foundation to update science labs in the Surprenant classroom building on campus. A lab is now up and running and reactions have been overwhelmingly positive.

Currently, the Science Department serves over two thousand students per year. Prior to 2007, the science classrooms and labs had not been renovated for more than 50 years. Thanks to the Alden Foundation, the new lab will serve students who wish to study in the biotechnology or other technology-based industries, and allow them to utilize modern, state of the art equipment.



Renovations Underway

The pool area in the College athletic center is now fully refurbished. Modern, new equipment for the fitness center has been set up to provide space for expanded student and community life.

QCC also secured funding for improvements in other campus areas, including the outside space for use by children at the Children's School, sidewalk improvements, and a new parking area.

Lastly, the College hopes to begin work on the North Wing in the coming year. The area could provide a new "one-stop center" for students and much needed classroom space.

Neighborhood Forum

At Quinsigamond's annual neighborhood forum in April, area residents were invited to campus for an update and discussion on the latest happenings at QCC. Safety issues were the top focus. Residents were told of the "loop road" plans, and their concerns about such issues as water flow and campus entrance/exit matters were addressed.

Neighbors were also invited to be part of the College's new emergency text messaging system. As part of a statewide initiative to improve colleges' communication in emergency situations, QCC implemented a text messaging system that will allow those who sign up to automatically be sent a text message alert in the event of tragic circumstances on campus.



Loop Road Plans

In the coming months, QCC will be moving forward with plans to implement a new "loop road" traffic design to improve campus safety and the flow of traffic on campus. The road will help to enclose the campus by routing traffic around its perimeter, thus ensuring greater safety for pedestrians, with as little reduction in parking availability as possible. The road plan, once finalized, will also allow for the possible future construction of a new campus building.

It appears construction on the road will begin in the fall, although final architectural plans for the road are not yet finished.

Focus on Faculty

Professor Gillies works with a student during his rocket launch physics lesson.



Physics for Life

In 42 years of teaching physics and sciences, professor Bob Gillies has taught abroad, been published, won awards, been elected to local and national boards, and met with Congress on education issues. Still, his favorite place remains the classroom.

"I love to teach," Gillies stated simply. "I've retired, or at least tried to retire, a bunch of times, but the students draw me back."

It seems Gillies has only gotten busier in recent years, having been named to the National Education

Association board of directors for 2008-11.

Already a member of the Massachusetts' Teachers Association board, Gillies will be one of five NEA directors from Massachusetts representing over 107,000 educators in the state.

"We are very proud to have another national figure on our campus," QCC President Gail Carberry said of Gillies, referring as well to professor Jim Rice, who serves as president of the National Council for Higher Education in Washington. "Bob has an incredible dedication to higher education."

In fact, Gillies has spent years serving the higher education community in Worcester and beyond. He has taught courses and lectured at Worcester State, as well as Manchester Polytechnic Institute in Manchester, England on a Fulbright Scholarship. He recently spent three days with the NEA board in Washington DC, meeting with members from the House of Representatives and Senate on various education issues.

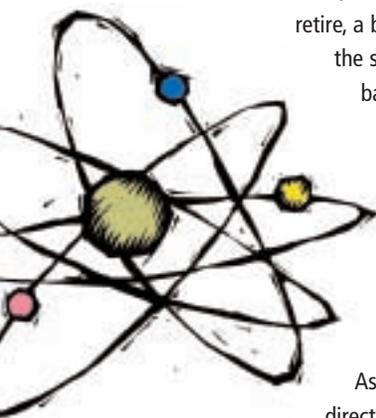
Gillies explained, "What impressed me most was an email I received afterwards from one of the reps. He told me how our discussions had impacted his vote on an education bill. It was wonderful to see first hand the difference that the NEA is making in education."

Gillies was recently nominated for a professionals of the year award by Princeton Premier, the publisher of an exclusive registry comprised of business leaders and professionals from around the

nation who are making an impact in their industry. Gillies is a published author himself and even holds a patent on a piece of lab equipment. He is equally proud of the success of QCC's Energy Utility Technology program, for which his wife, professor Sharron Gillies, is the program coordinator.

To keep his teaching fresh, Gillies thinks up creative ways to expand his physics courses at QCC. In a unique twist on his usual lesson, he brought QCC alum Scott Dezrah Blinn, a local successful magician and entertainer, to campus for a "physics of magic" show. During the past two spring seasons, he has turned the baseball field into a launching pad for two dozen model rockets, as part of a physics experiment. He also has plans to bring local "Energy Freedom Fighter" and environmentalist Gilles Labelle to campus, who will bring his new Toyota Camry Hybrid for students to test drive, explore, investigate, and discuss the advantages of the hybrid vehicle.

"I've been fortunate to be a part of this institution for many years," Gillies added. "The relationships I've established with both students and staff have been wonderful."



Student Spotlight



Anita Depatie, Nursing, '08

Anita Depatie admits to feeling a bit shy about being in the spotlight. Yet the new nursing student alumna, former honor society secretary and student trustee, volunteer activist, multiple scholarship award winner, medical secretary, and mother of three continues to shine.

Anita began at QCC eager to earn her associates degree in nursing, but somewhat unsure of what being an "adult student" returning to college would be like. Over the last five years, she has made the most of her opportunities. In July 2006 Anita won a Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship from the Coca-Cola Foundation, awarded to only 350 students nationwide. She also won a scholarship from the Leaders of Promise Program of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college. In both awards, Anita demonstrated outstanding leadership, community service, and academic success.

Last March, Anita was among a group of students who took part in a study abroad program to Greece. She was also elected the student representative to the College's Board of Trustees. Now, Anita finds herself again the winner of a

prestigious national scholarship, a Promise of Nursing Massachusetts scholarship which will allow her to pursue her bachelor's degree at UMass Boston.

"Right from the beginning, my wonderful professors, staff and my fellow students at QCC have been kind, supportive and encouraging," Anita said. "Many have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help me reach my academic and personal goals."

"I have grown to appreciate a love for learning. I can't imagine my life without the enriching experience I have gained as a student at QCC. The value is priceless."

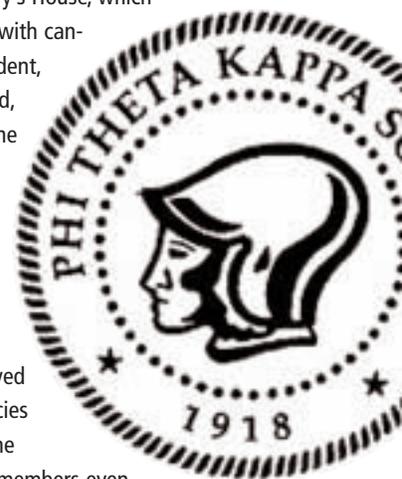


Over 100 Inducted into Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Over 100 students were recently inducted into Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society of the two-year college. It is the largest honor society in American higher education. Students qualify by earning more than twenty-four credits at QCC and carry a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

"Quinsigamond is proud to have such a large number of our students be invited into this prestigious honor society. It is wonderful to see such success and dedication to academics and the community," stated QCC president Gail Carberry.

There are now an incredible 192 members of PTK at the College. They have been involved in a number of community service projects over the last year, including work with Jeremiah's Inn and Abby's House, of Worcester. In July 2007, student Mike Cohen directed members in raising over \$3,000 for Sherry's House, which assists children with cancer. Another student, Rebekah Bernard, helped launch the PTK initiative "Project Social Change," which is designed to educate students on becoming involved with local agencies and engaging the services of PTK members even further. Coming up on September 17, PTK will hold its annual cookout to benefit the Worcester charity, Birthday Wish, which provides birthday gifts for area homeless children.



Giving Back to QCC and the Community



Kathleen Zarycki, '87, Nurse Education

Kathie Zarycki began at Quinsigamond Community College as an adult student returning to college, with children and a family. She wasn't sure where her nursing studies would lead her, but she knew she could achieve a degree with hard work and dedication. Today, Kathie is a nurse practitioner in Shrewsbury with bachelor's and master's degrees from UMass-Amherst. She is also an adjunct faculty member at QCC, where she is able to help other students in the nursing program succeed as she did.

"It's hard to find faculty in the nursing profession," said Kathie. "Because I got my start at QCC, I feel it's important to give back to the College that helped get me where I am today."

Juan Gomez, '88, Business

Juan Gomez settled in Worcester with his family after coming to the United States from Puerto Rico when he was ten years old. After graduating high school, he wasn't sure he could access or afford any higher education. His feelings changed, however, upon enrolling at QCC.

"Quinsigamond helped me understand that yes, I could go to college," Gomez proudly stated. "It gave me the tools I needed to be successful and go on to my four-year degree. I am proud to now be helping others in my community."

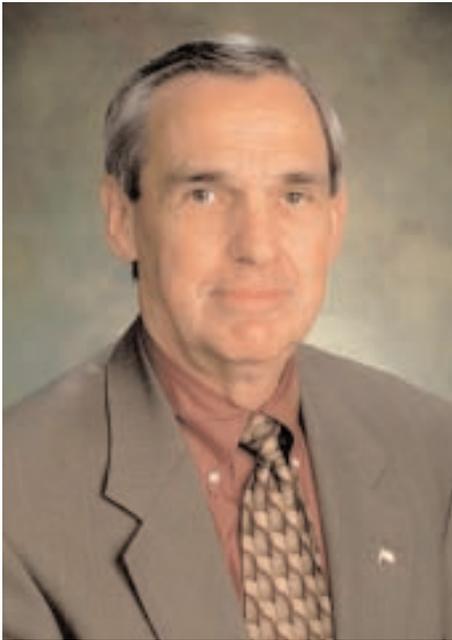
After graduating QCC, Gomez received his bachelor of science from Assumption College. He has served on the board of and helped establish numerous civic, business, and charitable organizations in Massachusetts. Now, Gomez is the CEO of Centro Las Americas, Worcester County's largest Latino non-profit agency providing a multitude of services, cultural shows, and civic events to the community. His efforts have earned him numerous awards in central Massachusetts.



Kelly Daszuta '05, Occupational Therapy Assistant

Kelly Daszuta, with her dog Abby, works at Worcester State Hospital as a certified occupational therapy assistant. Together, they assist individuals through rehabilitation processes, identifying treatment, and providing rehab as needed to help them fully transition back into the community.

QCC offered Kelly the education and support that she needed to achieve her degree. Now, she is enrolled in a master's program at Salem State College. "Thanks to QCC, I have a career that fits my skills, and I am thrilled to be helping others as well."



Special Thanks

The College would like to thank Roland Gauthier for his dedicated years as a member of the College's Board of Trustees. Gauthier was appointed to the Board in 1998, serving as chairman from 2003 to 2006. His ten years on the Board were marked by his leadership and guidance of important efforts that advanced the College.

In '05 Gauthier was nominated for Association of Fundraising Professionals Philanthropist of Distinction award, and at QCC's 44th commencement ceremony in May he was presented with the 2008

QCC Trustees' Citizen's Award. He remains the treasurer of the QCC Foundation and an active supporter of the College. QCC greatly values his contributions.

Gauthier is principal of Roland P. Gauthier, Certified Public Accountant of Spencer, which he founded in 1975.



New Member of the Board of Trustees

Stacey DeBoise Luster, Esq.

QCC is pleased to announce the Governor's recent appointment to the Board of Trustees, Stacey DeBoise Luster.

Luster is currently the Human Resource Manager for the Worcester Public Schools, where she coordinates the recruitment, selection, and retention of over 4,000 employees. She is also a Director of the Worcester Business Development Corporation and the YWCA of Greater Worcester, and Corporator of the Greater Worcester Community Foundation. She has received numerous awards for her community involvement. Prior to her current position with the WPS, Luster worked at Quinsigamond for three years as the assistant to the president for affirmative action and minority affairs.

Luster is a graduate of local South High, received a BA from Saint John's University and her JD from Boston University School of Law.



Cat's Meow

The Alumni Association is excited to announce a new initiative to support QCC scholarships and our alumni. The association will be selling a Cat's Meow Village wooden keepsake of the College's administration building. Each keepsake costs \$20, and all funds raised will go to support student scholarships. They can be purchased by calling Nancy Chosta at 508-854-4385, or coming to the Administration building, room 119, between the hours of 9am and 5pm.

QCC Board of Trustees

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UPCOMING QCC Alumni & Friends Events

Date of Golf Event is MONDAY,
September 22.

Wednesday, September 17

Phi Theta Kappa Cookout

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fuller Lawn, on campus

Fundraiser for Birthday Wish Charity!

Thursday, September 22

Alumni Association Golf Tournament

Wachusett Country Club

Cost: \$150 (Various
sponsorship levels available!)

Saturday, October 4

Wine Tasting Evening

8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Worcester Senior Center

Time and cost to be announced soon!

For more information on these and
other alumni events, please call
508-854-4385.



Left to right, Terrell Randal, Charles Horton, Ashley Anderson, Alison Polansky, & Colin London with their All-Region certificates. Coaches Hadley Camilus, Lars Farnham, & Najee Muhammad stand behind.

Peak Performances

Basketball Teams Compete in Post-season

Both the men's and women's basketball teams enjoyed successful seasons again, with both teams advancing to post-season tournaments. For the men, second year guard Terrell Randal was named First Team All-Region, and teammates Charles Horton and Colin London were named to the Second Team. On the women's side, guard Alison Polansky was named First Team All-Region, while teammate Ashley Anderson was named to the Second Team.



Tropical Escape '08

QCC's annual spree day for students was a sunny "Tropical Escape" this year and a huge success. Hundreds of students, staff, and families gathered on the Fuller lawn for rock climbing, laser tag, sand sculpting, and other crafts.

QCC Connection

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