QCC Students Participate in Annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program

For the fourth consecutive year, Carol Murphy, Professor of Accounting, is leading the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program manned by a cadre of student volunteers. Initiated in 2007, the program is targeted to low-income residents of the community. The Main South Community Development Corporation (CDC) at 875 Main Street, Worcester is housing the program for the third year in a row.

This tax season, the VITA Program began taking appointments on January 24 and will continue until Tuesday, April 12. Appointment days and hours are Mondays from 5 - 9 p.m., Tuesdays from 4 - 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The VITA Program is free and IRS certified. With a scheduled appointment, residents can receive free E-Filing, open bank accounts, and expect fast refunds.

The program is available for individuals/families with earned income up to $49,000. Residents who qualify may be eligible for up to $5,657 Earned Income Tax Credit.

Students participating in preparing tax documents include both current students and graduates who return to volunteer:

Amoah Djan (Graduated)
Bertha Konenyenge
Betty Washington
Elmer Fisher (Graduated)
Jacqueline DeVane
Jennifer O’Connor
Josh Joubert
Luelle Ring
Luis Mendes
Michael Schoonover
Robert Gordon
Robin Anderson
Samantha Blier-Ortiz
Sean Hendricks
Thomas Martin

In previous years, Ms. Murphy and her roster of tax “experts” have averaged 230 returns. This year, they fully expect to exceed that number. She says the program has been booked solid every night since they began in January.

Ms. Murphy calls it “... labor of love and rigorous training for me as well as the students...” and that the program is “... a wonderful opportunity for our students to get some hands on experience while helping our community.”

The CDC provides the space and the support necessary to carry out this successful program. CDC staff man the phones, setting up appointments and ensuring that “customers” have the proper documents as well as provide and maintain the computers that the volunteers use.

Students are recruited by Ms. Murphy who sends a letter to all business students who have a “c” or better in accounting during the current semester, and says she also “pitches” volunteerism in several of her classes. She is also aware that colleagues speak to their classes, as well.

On Saturday, February 19, the VITA Program prepared taxes for members of the Southeast Asian Coalition (SEACO) whose mission is to integrate Southeast Asians into Central Massachusetts. This is the third year that the VITA Program has hosted SEACO, providing Vietnamese and Chinese translators to assist with the process.

Carol Murphy started at QCC as a student in 1982, becoming an Adjunct Professor in 1991 and a full-time Professor in 2000. She also tutored as a student from 1985 through 1987.

Murphy says that the most surprising outcome of the program is the camaraderie that develops between the volunteers and herself during down time between appointments. She says, “I had not anticipated that getting acquainted in a different environment would be so enjoyable!”
Campus News

Send us your news! We want to hear what’s happening in your department and with your students or staff. Submit information at www.QCC.edu/newsletter.html. Events, awards, success stories... We want to share your news with the entire QCC community.

Training Session on Student Learning Outcomes Attended by QCC Faculty

Dr. Richard Paul Devine, QCC adjunct professor in social sciences for the past 13 years, attended a training session at Worcester State University focusing on assessing student learning outcomes. Dr. Devine and seven other adjunct professors attended for the full afternoon at the session at the Center for Teaching and Learning on Tuesday the 11th of January. Dr. Devine found the session very helpful in further clarifying learning outcomes for syllabi preparation as well as for preparing lectures and assessing student progress.

Energy Utility Technology Program Success!

Congratulations to current QCC student, David Tardie, beginning his new career with National Grid, one of the world’s largest providers of electrical services to residential and commercial customers. David was selected from hundreds of applicants and went through several rounds of interviews. February 14, 2011 was David’s first day at the National Grid facility in Northborough.

David, who completed the Energy Utility Technology Program in 2010, is the son of Sheryl Tardie in the Office of Institutional Communications. David will graduate in May with an Associates Degree in General Studies with a concentration in Energy Utility Technology.

African American Heritage Event

In honor of Black History Month, The Office of Student Life and Leadership hosted an event February 11, 2011 at the Fuller Center featuring a traditional Soul Food Luncheon and an African American history trivia contest. Attendees enjoyed a variety of traditional soul food including fried chicken, okra, corn bread, macaroni and cheese and delicious desserts such as buttermilk and sweet potato pies. Multiple winners of the history trivia contest won candy, movie tickets, and tickets to the Boston Aquarium and Whale Watch in Gloucester.

One College Many Worlds Event

On February 9, 2011 QCC Student Clubs (Student Senate, Psychology, Freshman Dental Hygiene, Occupational Therapy and Black Student Union Clubs) sponsored a cultural food tasting event at the HLC to benefit fundraising efforts by the individual clubs. Kelly Lamond, VP of Student Senate, reported that almost $300 was raised and would be split evenly between the participating clubs.

For only $5 a plate, attendees were able to sample a wide array of delicious dishes from around the world!

QCC Road Scholars Travel China

“...Beijing is a modern, cosmopolitan city that still has pockets of a more traditional lifestyle...”

For more on Beijing and beyond, Wayne Brink, Director of Information Services and Frances Lu, Clerk III/Admissions, will begin a two-part presentation on China. The first installment, “China: Beijing - History and Culture in a Modern City,” is February 22, from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. in Room 107, Ahlfors Hall. The second part, “China: Diversity, Minorities, and Culture in Yunnan” will be presented on Tuesday, March 1, also from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. in Room 107, Ahlfors Hall. Light refreshments will be served.
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Mass Women In Public Higher Education

Sheryl Tardie from the Office of Institutional Communications attended the Executive Board Meeting of Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education, Inc. (MWPHE) on February 4, 2011.

MWPHE is a non-profit organization open to women administrators, as well as to those women who aspire to administrative positions in public higher education in Massachusetts. Sheryl has been a member of MWPHE since 2008 and currently holds the position of publications designer.

The February 4 meeting focused on an upcoming conference on Social Media in Public Higher Education, to be held on April 8, 2011 at Tucker’s Restaurant in Southwick, MA.

For details on registering for the conference or becoming a MWPHE member, contact Sheryl Tardie at stardie@qcc.mass.edu, visit www.mwphe.org or look for the Spring Newsletter due out in March to the QCC Family.

Black Student Union Holds Silent Auction to Raise Funds for New Orleans Trip

In addition to funds raised by participating in the One College Many Worlds Event, the Black Student Union (BSU) also held a Silent Auction from February 10 – 18, 2011. Items up for bid were: 1) Dinner for two at O’Connors and 2) dinner for two at O’Connors and two Red Sox tickets. Bids were accepted by email until 10 p.m. on February 18. Winners are Rebecca Brownstein (dinner for two at O’Connor’s) and Matthew Bejune (Dinner and Red Sox tickets). BSU plans to use the funds to offset trip expenses for an upcoming post-Katrina relief effort trip. Students will travel to New Orleans to work with Habitat for Humanity, Hands On New Orleans and local community leaders and organizers from March 9 - 13.

QCC ESL at The Boys & Girls Club of Worcester

Deborah L. Gonzalez, PhD., will lead ESL Level I and II Classes for both native Spanish and Portuguese speakers at the Boys and Girls Club of Worcester with Assessments/Orientation sessions on: February 16 (6-8 p.m.), February 28 (9 - 11 a.m.), and March 2 (6-8 p.m.). Classes start March 14 for Level I (Mondays and Wednesdays, 9-11 a.m.) and Level II (Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m.)

For more information, contact Deborah Gonzalez at 508.579.4464 or dgonzalez@qcc.mass.edu.

QCC Alumni Association to Hold Fund Raisers

Annual Spelling Bee and Italian Pasta Night Scheduled

Two upcoming events are scheduled to raise funds to benefit the QCC Alumni Scholarship Fund:

On Thursday, April 7, 2011 (snow date Thursday, April 14) the QCC Alumni Association will hold the Thirteenth Annual QCC Spelling Bee at 7:00 p.m. in Hebert Auditorium. To enter a team or for more information and a description of how the Bee works, please contact Nancy Chosta at 508.854.4385 or by email to: nancyc@qcc.mass.edu.

A family-style Pasta Night will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2011, 5:30 p.m. at the Worcester Senior Center, 128 Providence St., Worcester, MA. Tickets are $15 each and can be purchased in Room 119A, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:30 – 11:30 a.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. by credit card or check made payable to QCC Foundation. Tickets can also be purchased at the Bobby M’s Diner office at the Worcester Senior Center, Monday - Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., or by contacting Rebecca King at 508.799.8068 or e-mail to rking@qcc.mass.edu.

Reminders:

Thursday, April 3, 2011: Mark your calendar for the Annual PTK Bowl-a-thon, Rally Against Cancer. The Annual Fundraiser for the Jimmy Fund runs from 2 – 7 p.m. at the AMF Auburn Lanes, Auburn, MA 01501. A $25.00 donation per person includes three hours of bowling, shoes, pizza and soda!

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY! Let’s fill up those lanes and knock down cancer!
New Faculty and Staff

In January, Academic Affairs welcomed the following new full-time faculty:

Mathematics/Developmental Mathematics welcomed Joseph Babu, Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Joseph brings 17 years teaching experience as an adjunct faculty member and tutor at Quinsigamond Community College, Holyoke Community College and Anna Maria College. He earned a BS in Mathematics from Coppin State College in Maryland and an MS in Applied Mathematics from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. His office location on the main campus is room 270A. (Not pictured.)

Mathematics/Developmental Mathematics welcomed Sheiba Mas-Oud, Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Sheiba brings over 10 years of teaching experience as an adjunct faculty member, tutor, and research assistant in various public and private institutions, as well as 5 years experience in the private sector. He earned a BS in Mathematics from the University of Science and Technology in Ghana, a BS in Actuarial Science from St. John’s University in New York, and an MS in Biostatistics from New York Medical College in New York. His office location on the main campus is room 403A.

Human Services welcomed Jeffrey Clements, Assistant Professor of Human Services. Jeffrey has been an adjunct faculty member in Human Services at QCC for the past 2 years, and has guest lectured on a variety of topics here and at Assumption College over the past 5 years. In addition to his teaching experience, he brings 5 years experience serving the public and private sector as a vocational specialist, career development specialist and case manager. He earned an AS in Human Services from Quinsigamond Community College, a BA in Social and Rehabilitation Services from Assumption College, and an MA in Rehabilitation Counseling from Assumption College. His office location on the main campus is room 326A. (Not pictured.)

Academic Affairs welcomed Thomas Patria into his new position as Career Placement Representative/Career Development Counselor within the Career Placement Services Office. Thomas earned a BA in Mass Communications at Quinnipiac University in Hamden, CT. He brings to the college 4 years experience in Career Services & Employment Relations at UMass Boston, as well as 5 years experience in employment counseling through the Department of Workforce Development. His office location on the main campus is room 272A.

Academic Affairs welcomes Diane Levinson into her new role within Career and Academic Advisement as the Coordinator of Specialized Advising. Diane has worked in various capacities at QCC for the past 3 years, serving as a Career and Academic Advisor, an Adjunct Faculty member, a tutor, and a GED Examiner. In addition, she has tutored at Becker College and the Worcester Public Schools, has been a Counselor at the Worcester and Franklin Public Schools, and has been a Staff Therapist for several counseling organizations. Diane earned an MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from Lesley University, an MA in Psychology from Boston University, and a BA in Medieval History and Literature from Harvard University. Diane’s office location is on the main campus in room 271A.

Please join us in welcoming Joseph, Sheiba, Jeffrey, Thomas and Diane into their new positions at QCC!

PTK Hearts for Haiti - Sweet Deal!

Phi Theta Kappa students recently sold homemade chocolate heart pops on campus to raise funds for an upcoming humanitarian trip to Haiti! At $1.00 each, PTK raised approximately $500 to donate to the Diversity Caucus to help offset some of the costs of the trip! As Bonnie Coleman said, “that’s a lot of pops!”