Student Orientation and One-Stop Registration Signal Fall 2012 Semester!

No two QCC events herald the return of students like the successful Student Orientations and One-Stop Registration.

Student Orientation ran from August 21 - 23 at the main campus and on August 22 in Southbridge. Approximately 800 students attended Orientations in Worcester and 100 in Southbridge.

Students were welcomed, given basic information and presented with a variety of break-out sessions to attend, as well as information from a student panel who took participant questions traditionally and by text message. A sign language interpreter provided ASL communication throughout the Orientations. Each day was capped off with a pizza social to allow students to relax and get to know one another.

New at Orientation this year was a Student Services Fair located conveniently on the walk outside of the Hebert Auditorium. Over 20 different campus services set up tables to provide information and promote their unique student services to incoming students.

One-Stop Registration runs until August 31 at the HLC.

Prospective students have an opportunity to register for classes, take placement tests, gain assistance from Advising, make payments and more, in an effort to have all services under one roof in order to streamline the registration process. Advising will remain at the HLC for an additional week after One-Stop Registration ends to continue servicing students who wish to enroll.

Students at Orientation ask the QCC Student Panel questions via text messaging

Ray Wisniewski provides technical support at One-Stop Registration

Financial Aid professionals provide assistance at One-Stop Registration
PTK NEWS

QCC’s Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society members recently participated in a 2nd round of building for the Habitat for Humanity organization. PTK members met on August 18 at the Fales Street, Worcester location and worked from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on a new house for a former QCC graduate and her daughter; they will be able to move into their new home this fall!

Phi Theta Kappa’s Annual Fall Cookout
September 26, Wednesday
Outside Fuller Student Center
10:00 am – 4:00 p.m.
Rain date: October 3
Caricature artist, food, DJ, raffles and more! Proceeds to benefit Paul Newman’s Hole in the Wall Gang Camp recently featured on the August 26 edition of CBS Sunday Morning.

PTK completed its Bowl-Off Challenge on July 28, raising over $500.00.

New PTK Raffle: Prime parking space available! Take a chance for $1/ticket to win a spot outside of the Administration Building. Parking space is available for use from September 27, 2012 - January 21, 2013. Raffle winner will be drawn at the annual Fall cook-out on September 26. Tickets available at the Phi Theta Kappa Office or from any PTK member.

Liberal Arts Distinguished Lecturer Series Fall Schedule Announced

**Encountering Tropical Islam: Catholicism & Race in the Pacific World, 1590-1700**
Robert L. Green, Ph.D.
Bishop James A. Healy Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Religious Studies
College of the Holy Cross
Thursday, October 25
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
109 HLC

**The 2012 Elections: Interpretations and Meaning**
Paul Y. Watanabe, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for Asian American Studies & Chair, Political Science Department
University of Massachusetts-Boston
Wednesday, November 28
2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
109 HLC
TEC Open House

QCC’s Training and Education Center recently relocated to 751 Grove Street, the former St. Peter-Marian Junior High School and held an Open House on August 29. The event was combined with a farewell to Margie Bruce who retired after 26 years of dedicated service to QCC.

Gateway to College Opens its Doors at QCC this Fall 2012

The Gateway to College program, in partnership with Worcester Public Schools, is welcoming its first cohort of students this fall. Gateway to College assists students between the ages of 16-21 who have dropped out of high school or are not on track to graduate with an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and dual credit in a supportive college environment. The Gateway to College program focuses on the individual needs of each student, and provides wraparound support to ensure that no student is left behind.

Students in the Gateway program complete their high school diploma requirements on the college campus while earning dual credit at the same time. The program is a scholarship program, and students are able to complete their coursework on the college campus. Upon completion, Gateway students will be well on their way to completing an Associate degree or certificate program.

- Marci Skillings

Professor Melissa Walls Wins Award for Online Course of Distinction

Quinsigamond Community College is proud to announce that Professor Melissa Walls was the recent recipient of a Massachusetts Colleges Online (MCO) Course of Distinction award for her online class, Integrated Science: The Living World. The MCO consortium includes the nine state universities and fifteen community colleges; no more than one professor a year from each college is eligible for the Course of Distinction prize.

Professor Walls was recognized by the MCO for her detailed course planning, stating that each aspect of the online course has a clear “pedagogical purpose” and that “all activities align with the objectives” of the course. The MCO also praises Professor Walls for her quick adaptation to online teaching, noting that she’s winning the Course of Distinction honors in only the second semester in which she has taught an online course. Integrated Science represents a major accomplishment: Professor Walls has turned a semester’s worth of classroom and lab experience into an Internet-based course without losing educational content or instructional rigor.

Professor Walls’ online courses take full advantage of modern Internet technology. Her course apparatus includes several “traditional” elements of an online course, including discussion boards, lecture notes, and downloadable PowerPoint shows. But her course also requires students to perform lab work, digitally record it, and upload it to YouTube.

Science 106, like many online classes, had a very diverse student population. As a rule, students in The Living World aren’t science majors; the course is not designed for students who want to be chemists, physicists, or biologists. But aside from this, it’s almost impossible to generalize about Professor Walls’ pupils. One might be a precocious high school student, another might be in their forties or fifties. Some members of Science 106 took almost all of their QCC classes online; for others, Professor Walls’ class was their introduction to online education. Professor Walls has worked hard to ensure that her course is just as accessible to new online learners as to old hands; she posts detailed instructions on how to use course technology and is quick to respond to email questions.

Not only are the instructions for course experiments thorough, detailed, and clear, Professor Walls also guides her students in computer technology use.
All of her pupils leave the course with a better grasp of science, but many also gain valuable new computer skills, including video creation.

One of the major challenges Professor Walls faced in developing her curriculum was the creation of lab work appropriate for an online-only course. All her experiments use items that can be found in an average kitchen; instead of measuring fluids in beakers and pipettes, Professor Walls’ students might use teaspoons. Another experiment finds students measuring carbon dioxide production with balloons, while a third requires baking pancakes!

Professor Walls does not want to rest on her recent laurels, saying, “My hope is that this course, and all the courses I teach at QCC, will continue to evolve and benefit from the new skills that I have learned.” Though she plans to continue improving, it’s clear that Professor Walls has already more than earned her Course of Distinction recognition.

- Matthew Keeley

Updates from the Dean of Special Populations

The area under special populations includes Disability Services, the Transition Center, Veteran Support and selected items from the Title III grant proposal.

A Title III initiative is to increase persistence and retention rates. This Fall the different areas under Special Populations will roll out 10-minute take-aways and one formal workshop in the HLC. These services will occur monthly. Please keep a look out for the flyers and recommend your students.

The Transition Center welcomed Kristie Proctor as the manager last semester. Kristie comes to QCC by way of Clark University and SUNY-New Paltz, where she held positions in Academic Advising and Disability Services. Ms. Proctor earned a Masters degree in Special Education at San Jose State University, and looks forward to using her specializations in assistive technology, executive function skills, and meta-cognitive strategies, here on campus. “Skills for College, Skills for Life” is the new motto for the Transition Center. Our mission is to support students’ success in classes now, and to prepare them for the future, whether it be continuing on in their education or obtaining a job in the workforce. During every tutoring session, tutors teach students learning strategies, time management techniques, and/or study skills, using their current college coursework. The “Student Success Plan” is used during every tutoring session, and records students’ progress through the semester.

Last semester, Veteran Support started with an Advisory Board which included representatives across the campus. The board meets on a monthly basis and is looking for faculty members interested in joining the team. Two student veterans were recently hired to provide academic and social support to veterans on campus. Veteran Support is located in room in 127A and their email address is veteransupport@qcc.mass.edu

- Dr. Lori Corcoran, Dean of Special Populations
- Debbie Ryder, Clerk – Special Populations
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. The deadline for the September e-newsletter is September 14, 2012.

Mechatronics

Since opening its doors in 1963, part of Quinsigamond Community College’s mission has been to educate its students for manufacturing and industrial careers. In recent years, these industries have become increasingly computerized and automated. Consequently, employers demand workers who can understand “electromechanical” or “mechatronic” systems that include both mechanical and electronic components. QCC’s Electromechanical Technology Associate in Science degree program prepares students for this changed employment landscape.

Professor James Heffernan, coordinator of the program, employs a course of study that offers students “real-world environment on real-world equipment” experience. A trip to the Advanced Technologies Laboratory should convince any visitor that Electromechanical Technology is living up to its mission. At the lab’s computer workstations, students collaborate on writing programs to generate a movement routine for a robotic arm rendered in three dimensions on the screen. When satisfied with the simulated robot’s movements, students transfer the program to a flash drive, take the drive across the long laboratory room, and test the program on an actual robot. On other days, students will work with desk-sized training equipment, complete with 18-inch-long conveyor belts, infrared sensors, precise “stepper” motors, and various input/output devices. Not only must Professor Heffernan’s students understand the mechanical processes, they must also be able to write and understand computer code for the Programmable Logic Controllers, or PLCs, that form the “brains” of the systems.

The centerpiece of the Advanced Technologies Laboratory is the SMC HAS-200, a twenty-foot-by-ten-foot modular mechatronics system. The HAS (Highly Automated System) is in effect a complete assembly line that has been shrunk to fit into a lab space. Students use laptops to order the machine to create one of several “products” – plastic containers filled with hundreds of single- or multi-colored plastic pellets. The machines will select a box, fill it with pellets, weigh it, cap it, label it, and either move it to “storage” or else send it to a “loading dock” area. As it makes its way by conveyor belt around the HAS-200, the box will be picked up by pneumatic vacuums, scanned by infrared sensors, and sealed by a robotic stamper arm.

When running smoothly, the HAS-200 is an impressive sight, but Professor Heffernan frequently sabotages the system to give his mechatronics students some real-world troubleshooting experience. The techniques and processes that the students learn with the HAS and other learning devices prove highly transferable to their future employment.

Graduates of the Electromechanical Technology program have done well; many of them have started careers in local industry. Valerie Spangenberg, a recent graduate now employed at Metso Automation in Shrewsbury, calls the program a good choice “for anyone who’s sincerely interested in learning about technology.” In her experience, students who finish the course are exactly the sort of “well-rounded technical graduate that employers look for these days”.

- Matthew Keeley

Professor Heffernan in the Advanced Technologies Lab

Photos: Institutional Communications
New Faculty and Staff

On August 26, QCC welcomed:

Carol Bosworth, Professor of Nurse Education, PN Program (Days) – Ms. Bosworth has been a Professor of Nursing at Quinsigamond Community College for the past nine years, and has a collective 38 years of teaching and professional experience as a nurse and nurse educator in community college and hospital settings, which has included Psychiatric Nursing, Advanced Medical Surgical Nursing, Neurological and Renal Nursing. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Fitchburg State College, and a Master of Business Administration from Lesley College.

Ablan Kocou, Assistant Professor of Nurse Education, PN Program (Evenings) – Ms. Kocou, who has most recently taught as an Adjunct Faculty member at Quinsigamond Community College, brings an additional 8 years of professional Nursing experience to the college, which has included care to Oncology and Cardiac patients in clinical settings, as well as providing in-home patient care. Ms. Kocou earned an Associate Degree in Nursing from Atlantic Union College, a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Framingham State College, and a Master of Science in Nursing from Fitchburg State College, and a Master of Business Administration from Lesley College.

Linda Lovejoy-Smith, Assistant Professor of Nurse Education, ADN Program – Ms. Lovejoy-Smith, who has most recently taught as an Adjunct Faculty member at Quinsigamond Community College, brings an additional 7 years of clinical and lab teaching experience within higher education as well as 5 years of professional Nursing experience, within Oncology, Geriatrics, and Medical Surgical Nursing. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northeastern University and a Master of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix.

Katherine Soal, Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene – Ms. Soal has been a clinical instructor and adjunct faculty member at Quinsigamond Community College for the past 9 years, and brings an additional 25 years experience in the Dental Hygiene profession. Ms. Soal earned an Associate of Science degree in Dental Hygiene from Quinsigamond Community College, and a Bachelor of Natural Science degree from Worcester State University.

Dr. Benjamin Benton, Assistant Professor of Biology – Dr. Benton who has most recently taught as an Adjunct Faculty member at Quinsigamond Community College, brings an additional 12 years of biotechnology experience from the private sector. Benjamin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry at Michigan State University, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Tumor Cell Biology at Northwestern University.

Dr. Jessica Crowley, Assistant Professor of Biology – Dr. Crowley has been an adjunct faculty member for Quinsigamond Community College, Assumption College, WPI, and Bay Path College. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry at the University of New Hampshire and a Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Science at the University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Byron Thomas, Assistant Professor of Sociology – Mr. Thomas brings over 6 years of teaching experience as an Instructor at Indiana University and Ivy Tech Community College, Indiana, where he has most recently served as a Faculty Fellow in Sociology. Mr. Thomas earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in African and African American Studies and Sociology at Wright State University, Ohio, and a Master of Arts degree in African American and African Diaspora Studies at Indiana University.

Dr. Teresa Varriale Gonzalez, Assistant Professor of Sociology – Dr. Gonzalez brings 6 years experience as an Adjunct Faculty member at the Inter-American University and University of Puerto Rico, in addition to another 4 years of sociological research experience in multiple projects for the City of Naples, Italy and for the University Frederico II in Naples, Italy. Dr. Gonzalez earned her Doctorate in Sociology from the University of Naples Federico II, Italy.

Jane Joyce Polewarczyk, Assistant Professor of Accounting – Ms. Polewarczyk brings over 20 years of service to Quinsigamond Community College as an Accountant in the Business Office, combined with 15 years as an Adjunct Faculty member for the College. Additionally, she has over 10 years experience in the private sector. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Worcester State College and a Master of Business Administration at Assumption College.

Maryann Kania, Assistant Professor of Business Administration – Ms. Kania, who has most recently taught as an Adjunct Faculty member at Quinsigamond Community College, brings an additional 20 years of Business Office Management experience in the private sector. (Continued)
Ms. Kania earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and a Master of Business Administration from Nichols College.

**James Krapf**, Instructor of Automotive Technology – Mr. Krapf brings over 16 years of automotive technician experience from the private sector, and is a Senior Master Technician. He earned an Associate degree in Applied Sciences from Quinsigamond Community College.

**The QCC Family welcomes Ms. Bosworth, Ms. Kocou, Ms. Lovejoy-Smith, Ms. Soal, Dr. Benton, Dr. Crowley, Mr. Thomas, Dr. Gonzalez, Ms. Polewarzyk, Ms. Kania and Mr. Krapf into their new roles at QCC!**

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**WYVERN IN THE WILD!**

**Andria Schwortz**, Associate Professor of Integrated Science and Physics, packed up and embarked on a road trip to Wyoming to complete a doctorate degree at the University of Wyoming. She caught the Wyvern ready to roll (top) and (bottom) relaxing at Lake Kanakadea, NY, a stop along the route.

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**Get your flu shot before the flu GETS YOU!**

**On-Site Flu Shot Clinics**

**September 25, Tuesday**

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Worcester Campus: HLC Room 109, A&B

**September 26, Wednesday**

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

TEC: 751 Grove Street, Worcester

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**Health and Wellness Web Page Available!**

Did you know that the QCC web site has a Health and Wellness page? You can find information about current health issues and advisories, area resources as well as important health topics at: [www.qcc.edu/services/health-and-wellness](http://www.qcc.edu/services/health-and-wellness). (Go www.QCC.edu, select “Services” and navigate to the Health and Wellness link.) There are also links that will direct you to sites that offer “Facts About the Flu” to find out what you can do to prepare and protect yourself and your family. You will also find links that provide health promotion ideas and even an online Q&A internet resource for both students and the college community with questions or curiosity about health topics. Please be sure to visit this site often as it is constantly being updated with new information.

QCC will hold two walk-in flu clinics in September (details above). Please note: One vaccine will be available to protect against the seasonal flu and major circulating viruses including protection against H1N1.

**Be prepared for the cold and flu season by following these two important recommendations:**

1. Get Vaccinated
2. Wash Your Hands

- Susan Johnson, MSN, RN, Professor of Nursing