On June 10, the QCC Foundation Board of Directors held a launch event for its new advocacy and support group called the “QCC Champions”. Held in the Harrington Learning Center, the event was designed to draw a broad array of individuals who are external to QCC into a new, diverse and far-reaching community of support for the College. The new group is co-chaired by Dr. Deborah Harmon Hines and Paul Kennedy.

Nearly 100 Central Massachusetts residents attended, including those from the state legislature, public higher education, school districts, business, industry, non-profit organizations, communities of faith, regional chambers of commerce, QCC’s advisory committees (including QCC staff and faculty), the 50th Anniversary Committee, the QCC Alumni Advisory Board, regional leadership groups, the College’s Board of Trustees, and the QCC Foundation Board.

QCC Foundation President Larry Morrison opened the celebration, welcoming attendees, speaking further about the new group’s mission, likening it “to a powerful and thought-provoking mosaic, similar to the country itself.”

QCC President Dr. Gail Carberry spoke, saying that for “some students we are a safety net, for others we are a springboard, and we are very proud of that critical mission.”

Co-chair Dr. Deborah Harmon Hines was enthusiastic about strategizing on the creation of “QCC Champions” and reaching out to colleagues who support the college’s initiatives and programs. She said, while surveying attendees, “I see basic community leadership, cultural organizations, faith communities, high growth industries, other levels of education… the point is that this is a very, very broad based wave and if we work at it, this wave will get bigger and bigger and bigger and wash over Worcester all the way to Lake Quinsigamond, helping Worcester to be all that it can be.”

Stacey DeBoise Luster, Chair of the QCC Board of Trustees said, “QCC is not a place, it is a way of providing access to excellence to all.”

Faculty members Betty Lauer and Jean McLean recognized several graduates for their accomplishments, each with inspiring stories. Professor Lauer also called attention to Worcester Vocational Technical High School’s recent first place win at the 2013 VEX Robotics World Championship. Worcester Tech students have long been involved in QCC’s innovative K - 12 STEM programs. Professor McLean introduced Kai Zhao who came to the U.S. from China, alone, and is now studying at the the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst. Rich Linnell, also a QCC alumnum, as well as a QCC adjunct professor, from Milford Regional Medical Center, shared his personal success story, saying,

“It really built my foundation... I wouldn’t be standing here with you today if it wasn’t for Quinsigamond. It truly had the building blocks for me to be successful in every aspect of the word.”

Kai Zhao shares his inspiring story with attendees.
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 July e-newsletter is July 12, 2013.

QCC Celebrates GED Graduates

On June 10, in front of ecstatic family, friends and supports, 52 people walked across the stage at the Hebert Auditorium to be recognized for earning the General Educational Development credential. The GED diploma is recognized as a key to employment opportunities, career advancement, and further education.

For GED candidates, commencement marks that moment in time when months, if not years, and for many, a lifetime of hard work has officially been completed, making the annual QCC GED graduation that much sweeter. A few graduates expressed their joy at the accomplishment by “dancing a little jig,” according to Laura Tino, Director of Testing at QCC and a state recognized GED Chief Examiner.

Ms. Tino said GED graduations can be described as touching and heartwarming, but when she looks at those who walk the stage, what she sees in most is persistence.

“A couple of students that crossed the stage really just kept at it. They had a hard time with the test but they just did not give up. A true testament to their dedication and commitment to earning their GED, regardless of obstacles,” said Ms. Tino.

QCC hosts an annual graduation for everyone who passes the test administered by the department; of the more than 300 who passed the test over the past year, 52 attended the June 10 ceremony.

Although the department does not track students once a GED diploma is acquired, Ms. Tino said, anecdotally, that many of the graduates have plans to continue their education at a community college or university level or needed the credential to maintain or excel in employment.

This year’s commencement speakers, QCC President Dr. Gail Carberry and GED State Chief Examiner Tom Mechem, encouraged the students to pursue their dreams first by continuing their education in college.

The QCC Family congratulates all 2013 GED Graduates!
Gateway to College Program Celebrates First Graduating Class

On Thursday, May 30, the Gateway to College Program celebrated its first graduating class. Four students were recognized for earning a high school diploma by taking college classes at QCC with a ceremony at the HLC; Jessica Ansley, Taylor Conway, Shawn Johnson and Steven Price all received their high school diplomas in front of family, friends, program staff, and faculty.

Gateway to College supports students who have dropped out of high school or are at risk of dropping out by allowing students to complete high school graduation requirements on the QCC campus.

“We know you will go far in life; you are all dedicated, motivated, persistent and intelligent,” Gateway staff said in praise of the graduates.

The QCC Family Congratulates the First Gateway to College Graduating Class!

Wyvern Pride in Beantown!

“I’ve never been to a Pride event before.”

On June 8, QCC’s Pride Alliance – the campus organization for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender students and their Allies – set out to change that. Pride days – community events that celebrate the history, culture, and contributions of LGBT people and their allies – are important hallmarks of LGBT culture. For the first time ever, QCC’s Pride Alliance made its way to Copley Square for the 43rd annual Boston Pride parade. The Wyvern Pride contingent watched the parade from its stepping off point and were impressed by the seemingly endless array of community organizations, faith communities, businesses, political organizations, and area schools and colleges that were represented. Of the many college and university logos we spotted, none were as fierce as the QCC Wyvern!

For more information about QCC’s Pride Alliance, or to join us at Worcester Pride on September 7, email Gaelan Benway at gbenway@qcc.mass.edu.

QCC.edu has a refreshed homepage!

On QCC.edu’s homepage, you will now see a set of five rotating images that are all clickable to registration information pages.

New look courtesy of Shannon Whitters, Web Specialist/Graphic Designer, Institutional Communications.
MWPHE, Inc. has again recognized and supported students and staff in Massachusetts Women of Public Higher Education at its 2013 Annual Spring Conference. On April 12, the organization convened its annual working retreat at Luciano’s Lake Pearl Restaurant in Wrentham, MA.

MWPHE presented awards for the categories of Student Achievement and Scholarship, Professional Development and Phenomenal Woman in MA Public Higher Education. (Applications and referrals for 2014 awards will begin in the Fall. Please visit mwphe.org or your Financial Aid office for more information.)

The conference also featured a speaker on “Emotional Intelligence in the Workplace” who provided useful tools and coping strategies for a variety of work environments.

QCC Wyvern Really Gets Around!

Wyvern in the Wild Gone Global

The QCC Wyvern’s passport has more stamps; photo evidence below indicates the blue protector has been spotted in the Himalayas and at the Great Wall of China!

After spending time in Professor Mariela Salas’s Integrated Science classes, the QCC Wyvern experienced some real-life “science in action” visiting Nepal’s Ngozumpa glacier this spring with Ulyana Nadia Horodyskyj, a graduate student at University of Colorado, Boulder, and close friend of Ms. Salas who is conducting research on glaciers in the Himalayas. (Professor Salas asked students from her SCI 105 Integrated Science course to sign the Wyvern for the momentous trip.)

...And the Wyvern was spotted at the Great Wall of China with QCC Friends in January.

The Wyvern at the Glacier’s terminus (approximate end of the glacier) at about 15,000 feet!

Left to right: Jean McLean, Faith Symmes (with Wyvern) and Margaret Wong.

The Wyvern at the base of Cho Oyu, 6th highest peak in the world!
PTK News

PTK Donates $7,500 to ALS

On May 31, six members of QCC’s Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society presented Robert H. Brown, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., UMass Medical School (UMMS) a check for $7,500.00. The donation, raised by PTK’s annual Bowl-a-thon held last April, will go to the ALS Champion Fund at UMMS for ALS Research.

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), often referred to as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease,” is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord.

The ALS Champion Fund at UMass was initiated in recognition of the critical need for new treatments for ALS. The Champion Fund drives awareness and funding for the ALS breakthroughs happening at UMMS and in the laboratory of Dr. Brown, one of the world’s leading and most promising ALS researchers.

For more information on the Champion Fund or ALS, visit www.umassals.com

REMINDER:
Tom Bosse Memorial Book Scholarship award deadline is August 16, 2013.

PTK Mini Bowl-a-thon UPDATE
When: Saturday, July 27, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Where: AMF Auburn Lanes in Auburn, MA
Cost: $10 per person for two hours of bowling and shoe rental

Community Harvest Project Notes
PTK members have committed to four dates this summer to volunteer at the Community Harvest Project Farm in North Grafton, MA.

The dates are:
July 27; Harvesting
August 3; Harvesting
September 14; Clean-up
September 28; Clean-up

The Community Harvest Project donates to hunger relief organizations in the Boston area.

This is an opportunity for PTK members to earn community service hours required for membership. Join us! For more information or to RSVP, email Bonnie Coleman at bonniec@qcc.mass.edu.

PTK will also hold a raffle for a front row parking space for September 13 through January 14! Tickets are only $1, so stop by the PTK Office, Room 154 for your winning ticket!
New Faculty and Staff

QCC is pleased to announce the recent appointment of Campus Police Officer **Joseph Cecchi** as Campus Police Officer II (Sergeant) on June 2, 2013. Sergeant Cecchi has been a Quinsigamond Community College Campus Police Officer for the past five years as well as a three-year member of the Princeton Police Department. In addition to having earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Quinsigamond Community College, Sergeant Cecchi is also a graduate of the Special State Police Academy and numerous training certification programs, and is a recipient of the Police Chief’s Distinguished Service Award.

On June 3, 2013, Enrollment Services welcomed **Kristine Szydlik** as Clerk III – Special Populations. Ms. Szydlik has served as an Office Assistant and Student Mentor in the QCC Disability Services Office for the past 12 years. In this capacity, she has aided in providing services to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing student population, maintained databases and budgets for Disability Services, prepared accommodation packages, proctored exams and assisted with trainings. Most recently, she has served as the Office Assistant for the Department of Special Populations. Ms. Szydlik earned an Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education from QCC.

On June 17, 2013 Enrollment Services welcomed: **Kristie Proctor** into her new role as Director of Disability Services. Ms. Proctor has more than 20 years of disability services experience in post-secondary and K-12 settings, which has included Disability Services Advising and Consulting, Learning Specialist, and managing an intensive Learning Experience Lab. At QCC, she has taught as an Adjunct Instructor, managed the Transitions Center, and most recently has filled the role of Interim Director of Disability Services. Ms. Proctor earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Youth Ministries from Barrington College, and a Master of Arts Degree in Special Education from San Jose State University.

**Karen Grant** into her new role as Director of Financial Aid. Ms. Grant has more than 11 years of Financial Aid experience, which includes ten years at QCC in the roles of Financial Aid Counselor, Senior Financial Aid Counselor and Associate Director of Financial Aid. Ms. Grant earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Eastern Connecticut State University, and a Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration from Framingham State College.

Also on June 17, Academic Affairs welcomed **Vanessa Colon** into her new role as Clerk III – Gateway to College Program. Ms. Colon brings a variety of experience from public higher education to the College that includes academic counseling for AmeriCorp students, supervising a student summer program at Mount Wachusett Community College and serving as a college resident assistant at Framingham State University. Ms. Colon earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from Framingham State University.

On June 24, 2013, Enrollment Services welcomed **Melody Milner** into her new role as Senior Financial Aid Counselor. Ms. Milner brings six years of financial experience from the private sector to the College, as well as five years of financial aid experience in higher education as Assistant Director of Financial Aid at Anna Maria College. Ms. Milner earned both a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business and a Master of Business Administration from Anna Maria College.

The QCC Family welcomes Sgt. Cecchi, Ms. Szydlik, Ms. Proctor, Ms. Grant, Ms. Colon and Ms. Milner to their new roles!

Smoke Free Campus Countdown Continues...

QCC’s “No Smoking Policy” is scheduled to take effect on September 3. The Count DOWN to a healthier campus community is ON!