QCC Commencement 2012 took place on Thursday, May 17 on campus, under bright sunshine. President Gail Carberry welcomed family and friends and congratulated the Class of 2012. Legislative Greetings were made by Representative Peter J. Durant, Faculty Greetings by Associate Professor Jean McLean, Student Greetings by Student Senator Alex Osei Bonsu and Alumni Greetings by Alumni Association President Sharon Doherty. The Commencement Address was given by Gladys Rodriguez, Senior District Representative for Congressman Jim McGovern.

President Carberry gave each of the 1,331 graduates a pair of sunglasses because (according to the 80’s song) “The future’s so bright I (you) gotta wear shades!” The Wyvern mascot also made an appearance in a graduation cap and sunglasses.
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 June e-newsletter is June 13, 2012.**

Faculty and Staff Enjoy Commencement 2012
Campus News

29 Who Shine Honored at State House

On May 10, 250 people gathered at the State House for the second annual 29 Who Shine awards ceremony honoring 29 outstanding graduates of Massachusetts’ 29 public college and university campuses. “These students’ stories remind us all of the power of education to transform lives,” said Governor Deval Patrick.

Elizabeth Forehand, PTK Honor Society member, Iraq war veteran and recent graduate of the Basic Engineering program is the QCC honoree. Ms. Forehand is also the recipient of Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges, Engineering and Biomedical Engineering Student of Distinction and Wyvern Awards. President Gail Carberry, Steve Sullivan, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services, Liz Woods, Dean of Students and Bonnie Coleman, PTK Advisor attended the ceremony at the State House.

QCC Southbridge Celebrates New Labs

On May 4, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of two new rooms that now enable QCC Southbridge to offer science courses and labs, as well as nurse assistant programming at the 5 Optical Drive location. QCC President Dr. Gail Carberry recognized local education partners--Dexter-Russell, Hyde Company, United Lens, Savers Bank, Southbridge Credit Union, the Southbridge Savings Bank, Harrington Hospital, and the Health Foundation of Central Massachusetts--for their generous contributions in making the new labs possible. Dr. Carberry commented, “this is what partnership is all about, what community is all about. It is through the good graces of our partners that this works.”

The first certified nurse assistant (CNA) classes start on June 4 and additional science classes are scheduled for fall.

Applied Arts Students Published!

Congratulations to QCC Applied Arts students who have recently self-published books as part of a Capstone class project in design production: Chris Whittle for his book, Architectural Drafting Works and the Subject that Makes Other Arts Possible, Jamila Maurer for Pavo in the Stars (both available from www.blurb.com) and Caitlyn Ciasullo for A Very Long Dog, available from Lulu.com. All authors are recent graduates.
QCC Honors Student Athletes

On May 4, QCC’s talented student athletes were recognized at a breakfast ceremony held in their honor at the Harrington Learning Center. President Gail Carberry, Basketball Coaches Hadley Camilus and Lars Farnham, as well as Lisa Gurnick, Athletic Center Director, spoke of the athlete’s dedication, teamwork, talent and their ability to maintain good grades throughout the 2011-2012 Basketball season.

The NJCAA, Region 21 has recognized the following outstanding QCC athletes in Division III Basketball:

First Team, All New England
- Jimmy Louissant
- Trafficia Warburton

Second Team, All New England
- Britney Payne

Honorable Mention, All New England
- Bilal Shakir
- Kate Mulloy

Congratulations, All!

QCC Faculty & Staff Retirement Recognition Reception

On May 17, QCC held its Retirement Recognition reception as part of the Annual Celebration of Excellence. Employees Jim Brown, Mary DeBlois, Cyndy Erickson, Ellis Paakkonen and Jane Pickett were honored for their years of service and dedication to the college with a luncheon reception in Ahlfors Hall. The QCC Family wishes all the retirees well in their next endeavors.

Lynn Cohen Receives 2012 Verizon/Next Step Star Award

Lynn Cohen, Business and Technology staff member has been selected to receive the Verizon/Next Step Star Award. (QCC’s Verizon/Next Step Program is a two-year Telecommunications Technology program offered to 80 Verizon employees each year at QCC.) Ms. Cohen provides comprehensive NSP administrative support that includes scheduling/meeting planning for such events as student orientation, faculty meetings, and the graduate recognition dinner. She also manages purchasing, maintaining the QCC inventory of NSP laptop computers and loaners and maintaining regular contact with the NSP administrative office on programmatic issues. In addition, Ms. Cohen designed several programmatic faculty and student survey tools using Survey Monkey, an electronic survey tool.

STAR Awards are given to individuals who have contributed in extraordinary and/or innovative ways towards the success of the Next Step Program. STAR Award recipients are selected from nominees by the Faculty Institute Planning Committee comprised of representatives from the New York and New England Next Step Programs. Ms. Cohen will receive the award at the 2012 Verizon/NSP Faculty Institute in Saratoga Springs, New York.

Congratulations Ms. Cohen!
Campus News

Pinnings and Celebrations for Health Care Programs

Congratulations to the Class of 2012:

• **Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting programs** who were honored at a Pinning and Awards Ceremony, May 15 at the Hebert Auditorium. 18 graduates were pinned and received various awards including departmental and MA Dental Hygiene Association awards. **President Carberry** spoke to the graduates, family, friends and members of the freshman class in attendance.

![Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting Pinning](image)

• **Respiratory Therapy program** who enjoyed an informal celebration at O’Connors Restaurant on May 15, for 10 graduates and their families. **Linda LeFave**, Acting Dean of Health Care, instructors, Medical Director, Dr. Richard Rosiello, and the Chiefs of the Respiratory Care Departments from clinical affiliates also attended. Students were presented with engraved Respiratory Care pins and floral bouquets.

• **Nurse Education ADN program** who pinned 48 graduates on May 11 at the Hebert Auditorium. Honorary guest speaker was Betty Forest, RN, Ph.D., the founder of QCC’s AD Nursing program; **President Carberry** also greeted attendees.

• **Radiologic Technology program** also pinned 22 graduates on May 14 at the Hebert Auditorium. **President Carberry** greeted attendees and the honorary guest speaker was Ramon Gonzalez, MD – radiologist with Precision Imaging at Reliant Medical Group and Director of the Radiologist Assistant program at Quinnipiac College in CT.

  *Congratulations to all graduates!*

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### Professor Vincent DiTaranto profiled in STEM PBL News

Vincent DiTaranto, Professor of Biomedical Engineering has been selected for a 2012 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award, both for his work in problem-based learning over the last 25 years, and his involvement in the STEM PBL project.

Professor DiTaranto was recently profiled in *STEM PBL News*, a publication of the New England Board of Higher Education - read the full story at the end of this newsletter.

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#### 2012 Honors and Awards Ceremony

May 9 at Mechanics Hall, Worcester was QCC’s annual Honors and Awards Ceremony. 203 students were recognized for awards including: Who’s Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges, Commonwealth Honors Scholars, United States Achievement Academy 2012 Scholastic All-American, Engineering and Biomedical Engineering Student Distinction, Distinguished Service, Special Recognition, Departmental, Memorial and Outstanding Student were all presented. Phi Theta Kappa and Psi Beta Honor Society graduates were also recognized.

*Congratulations to all recipients!*

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### PTK News

PTK’s latest community service endeavor is a Habitat for Humanity project. On June 9, PTK students will be helping to build a new house on Fales Street in Worcester for a family in need of shelter. “Board” QCC Family are invited to stop by the PTK office, sign a stud and make a small donation toward the $30 required payment each student must make to participate. All studs will be used in the construction on Fales Street.

Habitat for Humanity’s mission is to “…bring people together to build homes, communities and hope.”
New Faculty and Staff

On April 2 Enrollment and Student Services welcomed Ellen McLean as Clerk III, Financial Aid. Ms. McLean brings over 17 years experience in higher education, serving in both the Business and Continuing Education offices within Anna Maria College and most recently as Continuing Education Admissions Representative at Assumption College.

On May 7 Administrative Services welcomed Matt Gelinas to the Facilities Department as a Maintainer I (Second Shift). Mr. Gelinas brings over ten years of private sector experience in grounds maintenance, landscaping construction, and equipment maintenance, to QCC and has earned a Green School Certificate from UMASS Extension Program.

On May 14 Human Resources welcomed Sara Simms as a Human Resources Generalist Administrator. Ms. Simms brings over eight years of private sector experience in Human Resources in the areas of employee benefits, worker’s compensation and family medical leave (FMLA) to QCC. Ms. Simms earned an Associate’s Degree from Mount Wachusett Community College and a Bachelor’s Degree from Fitchburg State College.

The QCC Family welcomes Ms. McLean, Mr. Gelinas and Ms. Simms!

QCC Children’s School Celebrates 40th Anniversary

QCC Children’s School and Early Childhood Education Department will celebrate a special anniversary on June 5 and 6. Festivities include a Children’s School Family Reunion, Playground Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Concert with Bev Bos, renowned expert on preschool learners.

Schedule of events:
- June 5 -
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. - Alumini Reunion/Recognition Event, Children’s School
6:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. - Bev Bos Workshop, Hebert Auditorium (tickets required.)

- June 6 -
5:00 p.m. - 6 p.m. - Family Reunion and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Children’s School
6:15 p.m. - 7:15 pm - Bev Bos and Michael Leeman Family Concert, Hebert Auditorium

Light refreshments will be served.

QCC’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program Recognized

QCC student volunteers along with Carol Murphy, Professor of Accounting, were selected as Worcester Community Action Council’s (WCAC) Donor of the Month for their valuable work preparing tax returns at the Main South Development Corporation for low income residents. This is the fifth year QCC has participated in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) which has succeeded in netting residents over $1.6 million total in refunds over the past five years.

MA Women in Public Higher Education Retreat Planned

Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education, Inc. (MWPHE) have planned their annual retreat on June 7 and 8 in West Dennis, MA to plan the organization’s 2012-2013 scholarship and professional development events and induct a new president.

For more information or to become a campus coordinator, contact Sheryl Tardie at stardie@qcc.mass.edu.

It really IS all about ME.
Promoting Career Pathways for STEM Students: A STEM PBL Instructor on Training Your Mind to Think

Participating STEM PBL instructor, Vincent DiTaranto, Ph.D., of Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Mass., has been a proponent of problem-based learning in STEM education for more than 20 years.

DiTaranto was first exposed to PBL when he graduated from Northeastern University with an MS in civil-environmental engineering. With a focus on public health (DiTaranto obtained a BS in biology and minored in chemistry at Northeastern), he was hired by an international corporation dealing with hazardous waste where he was asked to design a new heavy metals pretreatment system and to upgrade a plastics pretreatment system for a chemical production facility. Like many of his students today, who DiTaranto explained often come from the workforce in search of degrees that will offer them career advancement, he quickly realized there was no textbook, lecture, or professor to fall back on in the face of the task his company had asked him to undertake.

In this case, DiTaranto flourished. He designed a system that landed him a presentation at a conference in Las Vegas as a young professional and, most importantly of all, the system worked. What was far more valuable, however, was the life lesson that DiTaranto gained from the experience: that students need to train their minds to think. DiTaranto realized that what was lacking in his own education was the training to create and solve real-world problems, a realization that led him to want to develop programs in engineering in which students do just that.

With a 14-year background in industry, DiTaranto is now a professor of engineering, chemistry and mathematics, and having worked at Quinsigamond for 25 years, it is clear that DiTaranto loves what he does. His students are all challenged by DiTaranto's teaching methods, which task them with applying the STEM theories that they learn in class to the real world.

"I don't have my students memorize -- I have them use their minds to think, create and solve a problem," he explained. "This prepares and trains them to be successful in the workforce."

DiTaranto's thermodynamics students, for example, are required to write a thesis according to the regulations of the University of Massachusetts, the same regulations applied to Masters and Doctoral theses. Students have to deliver a PowerPoint presentation and discuss their work. The project comprises about one-third of the students' overall grade.

"They have to do real research about what is going on in the world and other institutions, and they have to document their research formally," he explained. "This is preparing students for a university so they can go on to a school of higher education and receive a masters degree, and beyond, if they so choose."

This year, DiTaranto was selected for a 2012 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) Excellence Award, both for his work in problem-based learning over the last 25 years, and his involvement in the STEM PBL project. Kathy Rentsch, dean of business and technology at Quinsigamond Community College, handpicked DiTaranto for the award.

"Professor DiTaranto was nominated and selected for this award due to his demonstrated teaching excellence, his exemplary leadership and his significant innovations and improvements in teaching," Rentsch wrote in her nomination.

Established in 1978, NISOD is a consortium of more than 700 community colleges around the globe. The annual Excellence Awards, which will be held in Austin, Texas, in May 2012, will coincide with NISOD's annual International Conference on Teaching and Leadership Excellence.

This spring, DiTaranto will field-test the PHOTON PBL Challenge Watt's My Light!, which asks students to verify whether a 26-watt fluorescent light bulb has the same light output as a 100-watt incandescent bulb, with 10 students in his second year thermodynamics class. Most of these students will graduate in May 2012, and DiTaranto expects that their participation in the Challenge will provide them with additional preparation to enter the workforce or an institution of higher education.

"PBL is a real common-sense way of trying to prepare our students to be successful in industry," he explained. "I like to show my students what engineering is. I show them the amount of work it takes and the success that comes with being able to solve problems. This method is a training program for them, and it works. It absolutely does work."

OSA Awards STEM PBL Co-PI in Science Education

The STEM PBL team is pleased to announce that the Optical Society of America (OSA) has selected Co-PI Judy Donnelly, professor of physics/laser and fiber optics at Three Rivers Community College in Connecticut, as the winner of the 2012 Esther Hoffman Beller Award. Donnelly is the first community college instructor to receive the award, presented for outstanding contributions to optical science and engineering education.