Pulitzer Prize Winning Author, Junot Diaz Visits QCC for One Book Project

QCC welcomed author Junot Diaz to the Hebert Auditorium on November 14, sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs as part of the college’s “One Book Project” that runs annually.

Junot Díaz is a Dominican-American writer, creative writing professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and fiction editor at Boston Review. Central to Díaz’s work is the immigrant experience. He received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for his novel The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, in 2008. He is a 2012 MacArthur Fellow.

The goal of the project is to select one book for faculty, staff, and students to participate in a common reading experience. The ultimate goal is that it creates a sense of community on campus, and allows students to see how a single text can be read differently across different disciplines. The project culminates in a campus visit by the author. In the past, QCC has had authors Andre Dubus III and Michael Patrick MacDonald speak.

The Hebert Auditorium was full. The event, which was open to the public, garnered out-of-state attendees as well as local and regional groups of high school students.

QCC English Professor, John Stazinski uses several of Diaz’ books in his English 100, 101, 102, and Creative Writing classes. “His language and approach to storytelling allows my students to think, talk, and write about deeply complex subjects--political and economic oppression, post-colonial history, the immigrant experience, personal identity--without feeling like these issues are too abstract or too far removed from their lives. His books have made the political personal for my students, and that allows them to think and write with a depth and a confidence that wouldn’t have otherwise had,” Stazinski said recently.
Craig Boykin Brings Inspirational Message to QCC

On November 19 at the Hebert Auditorium, the Diversity Caucus and Brothers and Keepers (QCC’s new male mentor and leadership student program), invited speaker Craig Boykin to appear.

Mr. Boykin took personal lessons from his book, *Make College Count* for his speech. His book is an account of his inspiring journey from a very challenging upbringing to motivating millions across America.

QCC Faculty and Staff Awarded 2014 Commonwealth Citations for Outstanding Service

On October 23, an award ceremony was held to honor four QCC Faculty who received the 2014 Commonwealth Citation for Outstanding Performance. **Professor Jane Gauthier**, **Professor Mary Newman, Lisa West** and **Professor Vincent DiTaranto** were each recognized at an event held in their honor at Coral Seafood, Worcester. The Citation is given annually to employees of the Commonwealth who have demonstrated exemplary work performance. Jane Gauthier commented on receiving the acknowledgement, “I am thankful for the people I work with - it is always a team effort. I am also thankful for for the nomination.”

Nominations were open to all QCC employees from January 1 to February 28. A peer-committee was assembled to determine the four winners.
Annual Gateway to College Open House

The Gateway to College program hosted its Second Annual open House on October 22. The Gateway to College Open House is an informational event for interested students, school districts, local community agencies, QCC faculty and staff. The event was centered on recruitment, enrollment and awareness of the program.

Gateway to College is a rigorous alternative high school option for students who have dropped out or are behind in credits, and who plan to attend college after receiving their high school diploma. Gateway to College staff works with students between the ages of 16-21 who want to finish their high school diploma on a college campus.

For more information on the program, please call 508.854.7587 or email: gtcinfo@qcc.mass.edu.

Veteran Affairs News

The first “Operation Gravy” event was very successful. The Veteran Affairs Office collected over 300 cans of gravy and cranberry sauce that were donated to the veteran's shelter in Worcester. Many thanks to all who participated - the event would not have been a success without the help of QCC Family.

Reminder: the Veterans Affairs office is now collecting holiday cards for Massachusetts veterans deployed overseas and for those in local Massachusetts VA hospitals. Drop off your holiday card or letter in the Veteran Affairs Office or stop by for a card.

On behalf of our veterans, a big THANK YOU for your support!

Annual Road Bowl Comes to an End

The annual Road Bowl Walking Challenge came to end with a closing ceremony on November 5. QCC’s winning team, The Advisors, is pictured at left: Henry Ritter, Susan Sheridan, and Mary Fegreus-Reynolds. On the far right is Karen Gagliastre, the Fallon coordinator who organizes and administers the Road Bowl Challenge for the Worcester colleges.

Also on The Advisors Team, but not able to attend the ceremony: Marie Scichilone and Martin Muysenberg.
Children’s Hat & Mitten Drive: Feel Warm All Over

The third annual Hat & Mitten Drive will be held from Monday, December 1 to Thursday, December 11. Please consider donating a new hat and/or mittens or gloves (and size, color, any gender). All donations will be distributed to needy children and adolescents in the Worcester area by the “army of elves” from the Planting and Seed Foundation, Inc.

Please bring your donation to the QCC Annual Holiday Luncheon on December 11 or drop it off in one of the boxes located below:

- HLC Library Front Desk
- Ahlfors, Faculty Development Room
- Surprenant Building, Hebet Auditorium
- Administration Building, Outside Room 119A, at the North Wing Entrance, and in the Bookstore/Cafeteria
- Fuller Student Center
- Gymnasium

SAVE THE DATE:

QCC’s Third Annual Technology in the Classroom Conference

Tuesday, January 6, 2015
8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(Snow date: Wednesday, January 7, 2015)
Registration information will be available soon.
Annual You’re A Star Event Celebrates Student Success

On November 6, QCC honored 35 outstanding male students at the annual “You’re A Star” ceremony.

Students are nominated by faculty and professional staff on the basis of their academic standing, accomplishments, character and skills, in particular their ability to overcome great odds, make a difference in their home or school community and any achievement that has distinguished them from fellow students. While not attending class, many are on-campus tutors, outstanding athletes, dedicated parents and loyal employees and volunteers - often challenging combinations to manage successfully while attending college.

The yearly program is co-sponsored by Counseling Services and the Vice President of Academic Affairs. The STAR designation stands for Someone To Admire and Respect. The equivalent female award ceremony, Women of Distinction, is celebrated in May.

The 2014 “You’re A Star” recipients are:

- Kofi Acheampong
- Hillary Angila
- Paul Bedard
- Philippe Berry
- Vongvichith Chan
- Dylan Coakley
- Sumo Collins
- Gilbert Colon
- Aaron Dean
- Matthew Allen
- Deleppo
- Daniel DeWitt
- William Dugan
- Mike Fernandez
- Anthony Gardner
- Augustine Kanjia
- Geoffrey Killebrew
- Micah Klayman
- Ansar A. Mandawi
- Kevin Matos
- William McClendon
- Patrick McDonald
- Monisithya Nann
- Oneka Okwiri
- Bernard Owusu-Ansah
- Alay Patel
- Barjam Pelo
- Christopher Raczka
- James Rainwater
- Rodrigo Rivas
- Jafar Sajjadi
- Jerry Sandiman
- James Schofield
- Michael Scott
- Yamir Torres
- Jose Yau
Downtown Blood Drive

Cheryl Finn, Assistant Professor/EMS Paramedic/Intermediate Program/Coordinator of the Emergency Medical Services Program facilitated a successful Blood Drive on November 13. Professor Finn conceived the idea when planning a lecture for EMT 119, Topics in Advanced Life Support, on Hematology. They reached their goal of collecting 30 units of blood — plus one extra!

Professor Finn has been incorporating more service learning into the program, and the Blood Drive was the perfect event to give students both concrete experiences in hematology, and to celebrate the beautiful new rooms at the Healthcare and Workforce Development Center, while also benefitting the community. According to the host from ARC, Suzanne Singer, the Drive resulted in the potential to save 93 lives with the donations. The student site coordinator, Amanda Mehr, worked with the students who did a great job of marketing, hosting, set up, hospitality and registration, and clean up when finished. Most were working for the entire 8 hours that the event took. Job well done to the QCC 2nd semester Paramedic Students! More than 1/3 of the blood collected came from students in the 1st and 2nd Paramedic Program and from the EMT-Basic students.

Program Updates: Manufacturing

- After a successful webinar in September, Kathy Rentsch, Dean of Business, Engineering and Technology and Leslie Parady (MMEP) were invited to conduct a conference call with the National Council for Advanced Manufacturing (NACFAM) Workforce Advisory Council. Based upon the collaborative efforts of AACC/Siemens/MA Manufacturing Extension Ptsp (MMEP) and QCC, NACFAM is very interested in the MACWIC manufacturing training and education pyramid that includes QCC as a key educational partner. QCC will present at the NACFAM national conference in April 2015.

- QCC has also been invited to participate in a national meeting on manufacturing sponsored by Jobs for the Future. The national interest and momentum is building for the work being done in Massachusetts. On many levels and for many years, QCC had been a lead force, thanks to incredible faculty and staff members who make such great things happen every day.

Training and Education Center

- On November 5, Kathy Manning, Dean of Training and Education Center announced that the Training and Education Center is now The Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education; located at 25 Federal Street at the new Healthcare and Workforce Development building. With over 600 offerings, QCC’s Center for Workforce Development and Continuing Education offers high value, low cost training programs that enable individuals to learn new skills which can be applied immediately on the job or utilized for future professional development. The focus is to provide the practical skills that can help participants improve competencies, secure employment, and experience personal enrichment. For more information, call: 508.751.7900, email cce@qcc.mass.edu or visit: www.qcc.edu/center-workforce-development-and-continuing-education.
Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society News

• On October 9, Worcester Public Library hosted a “Celebration of Authors” Event with live auction to benefit the library’s programs and services. QCC was represented by Phi Theta Kappa members. Pictured at the event are QCC PTK students Micah Klayman and Jake Ethier.

• PTK is once again selling the popular Ernie’s Touch-Free Auto Wash Tickets. Two types of washes are available: The Super Wash ($13) or Ernie’s Special (8.50) Auto Wash Tickets make a great gift!

• PTK and the QCC Bookstore are working together to give students an opportunity to win books for a semester. To participate, students can either: spend $5 in the books store or purchase a $5 gift card from the bookstore, then purchase a $5 raffle ticket from PTK where students will be entered twice in a drawing to win books for an entire semester.

• For more information on PTK activities and programs, visit the PTK Office in the Administrative building, room 154 or call: 508.854.4411

QCC Jazz Orchestra Auditions:
Play Jazz with a Big Band!

Auditions are being held for all students, faculty, staff, alumni, and especially community musicians that have a passion to play and perform jazz ensemble.

Take advantage of a QCC pathway to the joy of music through jazz. This non-credit course is free to join, with just an honest commitment to weekly rehearsals and scheduled performances.

Where: Hebert Auditorium
When: Sunday January 25, 2015
Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Please bring your instrument and favorite piece of music to the Hebert Auditorium. Minimum qualifications: Ability to read music and understand simple rhythm concepts. It is not necessary to know how to improvise.

All standard Big Band instruments are welcomed: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, guitar, piano, percussion, drums, voice.

Other instruments will be accepted on a case-by-case basis.

While of course we value great improvisers, we are also looking for a strong section of players with sight-reading abilities. We may accept two of each rhythm section instruments.

Please contact TomHerbertJazz@gmail.com
The Institutional Research and Planning (IRaP) Office proudly presents:

SNAP STATS!

A new monthly glimpse of selected QCC facts. Our first feature focuses on what we value most...our STUDENTS!

Top 5 Degree Seeking Programs Fall 2014

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Program</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>General Studies</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>General Studies Health Care</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Business Admin Transfer</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
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Male

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<td>Criminal Justice</td>
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<td>General Studies Health Care</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Engineering</td>
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Female

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<td>3</td>
<td>Liberal Arts</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Nurse Education</td>
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22 years or younger

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23-29 years

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30 - 49 years

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<td>Business Admin Career</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Human Services Certificate</td>
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50 years +

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QCC Welcomes New Staff

On October 27, 2014, Academic Affairs welcomed **Sue Miller** into her new role as Director of Adult Basic Education Professional Development Center. Sue brings to this position over 20 years of experience working with Central Massachusetts SABES (System for Adult Basic Education) at Quinsigamond Community College as Associate Coordinator, Assistant Director, and Director of Central Massachusetts SABES, as well as 4 years as a Program Director for a local non-profit organization in Worcester. Sue earned a Bachelors in Science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Masters of Education from The George Washington University.

On October 27, 2014, Academic Affairs welcomed **Eunice Snay** into her new role as Manager of Distance Learning & Technology ABE Professional Development Center. Eunice brings to this position over 15 years of experience as Computer Field Technologist and Distance Learning Coordinator working within Central Massachusetts SABES (System for Adult Basic Education) at Quinsigamond Community College, and over 7 years additional technology experience working with adult students in the private sector. Eunice earned a Bachelors in Science in Information Management from Nichols College and an Associates in Science in Data Processing from Quinsigamond Community College.
On October 27, 2014, Academic Affairs welcomed **Merilee Freeman** into her new role as Manager of English Language Arts ABE Professional Development Center. Ms Freeman brings over 13 years of experience to this position as an Associate Coordinator/Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator working with Central Massachusetts SABES (System for Adult Basic Education) at Quinsigamond Community College, in addition to more than 25 years teaching and working with ABE programs. Merilee earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Masters of Education Degree from Worcester State College.

On November 3, 2014, Community Engagement welcomed **Shirley Dempsey** into her new role as Development Operations Supervisor. Ms. Dempsey brings over 18 years of experience at QCC to this position, ten years as the Operations Administrator within the Development Office and the Division of Community Engagement, and 8 years as a Clerk III/Clerk IV for the Experienced Based Education Office. Shirley earned an Associate of Science in Business Administration Career from Quinsigamond Community College.

On November 10, 2014, Administrative Services welcomed **Jamie Grace** as Campus Police Officer I. Officer Grace brings over 12 years experience to the College in security, as both an Armed Nuclear Security Officer and as a Security Supervisor, as well as experience working in community outreach programs. Officer Grace earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth.

On November 10, 2014, Administrative Services welcomed **Akim Dorn** as Campus Police Officer I. Officer Dorn brings over five years experience to the College as a Military Police Officer in the Army National Guard, including a one year assignment to the nation of Qatar in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, as well as four years experience as a Security Patrol Officer in the private sector. Officer Dorn is a graduate of the MPTC Reserve Police Academy.

Also on November 10, Administrative Services welcomed **Catherine Dixon** as Campus Police Officer I. Officer Dixon brings over seven years of public safety and law enforcement experience at private universities, to the College, most recently as a campus Police Officer at College of the Holy Cross, as well as providing two years of direct professional support and case management at the Seven Hills Foundation. Ms. Dixon has been an instructor for the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Program and Basic Life Support, as well as a Program Coordinator and instructor for Community Safety Initiatives, and has helped educate students on Sexual Violence and Bystander training. Officer Dixon earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Health from Worcester State University, and is a graduate of the Special State Police Officer Academy and the Rhode Island Public Safety Training Academy.

On November 10, 2014, Administrative Services welcomed **Matthew Seymour** as Campus Police Officer I. Officer Seymour brings over four years experience to the College as a 911 Emergency Dispatcher for the Town of Princeton and the Rutland Regional Communication Center which supports four surrounding towns, in addition to serving as a part-time Patrolman for the Town of Princeton. Officer Seymour earned an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice from Quinsigamond Community College and a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from Worcester State University, and has been trained in both domestic violence intervention and suicide intervention.

On November 10, 2014, Administrative Services welcomed **Jason Graves** into his new role as Network Support Engineer. Mr. Graves brings to this position 4 years of experience working within Information Technology at Quinsigamond Community College, first as a Help Desk Technician, and then in his most recent role as a Network Technician. Jason earned an Associate Degree in Computer Systems Engineering Technology from Quinsigamond Community College and will complete a Bachelor’s Degree in Information Technology from University of Massachusetts-Lowell next month.

On November 10, 2014, Administrative Services welcomed **Catherine Dixon** as Campus Police Officer I. Officer Dixon brings over seven years of public safety and law enforcement experience at private universities, to the College, most recently as a campus Police Officer at College of the Holy Cross, as well as providing two years of direct professional support and case management at the Seven Hills Foundation. Ms. Dixon has been an instructor for the Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Program and Basic Life Support, as well as a Program Coordinator and instructor for Community Safety Initiatives, and has helped educate students on Sexual Violence and Bystander training. Officer Dixon earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Health from Worcester State University, and is a graduate of the Special State Police Officer Academy and the Rhode Island Public Safety Training Academy.

Please join us in welcoming these new employees to new roles at QCC!

Have an interesting story to tell?  
[www.QCC.edu/submit-news](http://www.QCC.edu/submit-news)  
Deadline for the December 2014 Guardian is Friday, December 12.