

# Four QCC Students named to Phi Theta Kappa All-Massachusetts Academic Team

WORCESTER — Four Quinsigamond Community College Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) students, Edmilse Diaz, Alexander Riopel, Vincent Carl Strzelecki and Bradley Sylvestre, have been recognized for their outstanding achievements as members of the 2021 Phi Theta Kappa All-Massachusetts Academic Team.

Each year, the highest academic achievers in the state's 15-member community college system are selected for the team. Students are chosen for their high academic achievement, as well as their exceptional student service and are honored by the Massachusetts Association of Community Colleges (MACC). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony is being held virtually, as opposed to its traditional venue of the Massachusetts State House. Each student is current-

ly being spotlighted through MACC's social media, through a virtual "PTK Community College Excellence Week," during the last week of April.

"This is an honor not only for these outstanding students, but also for QCC. These students have worked hard to get to where they are. Their dedication and perseverance are an inspiration to everyone who dreams of a better life through higher education," said QCC President Luis G. Pedraja, Ph.D.

Edmilse Diaz is a member of the Class of 2022 Dental Hygiene program. Originally from the Dominican Republic, he moved to the U.S. as a child.

"I received a Bachelor's in Psychology from Saint Michael's College in 2015. Throughout my life, I have continued to pursue learning and challenged myself. I

came to QCC when I decided to pursue a career in dental hygiene, because I wanted to help raise awareness on the importance of oral health and its affect on a person's overall health," Mr. Diaz said.

Alexander Riopel chose QCC because of its MassTransfer program with UMass Amherst.

"I am currently a business transfer major and plan on pursuing a finance degree at a four-year university in the fall. QCC has done a great job preparing me for a four-year university," Mr. Riopel said. "As the former president of QCC's PTK Honor Society, I was fortunate to be part of a group that affected real change within the community."

Vincent Carl Strzelecki came to QCC to pursue a degree in Computer Science.

"My life's goal is to help as many people as I can, and I am working hard to build a career in video game development, so I can create games that are inexpensive, highly accessible, and very enjoyable," he said.

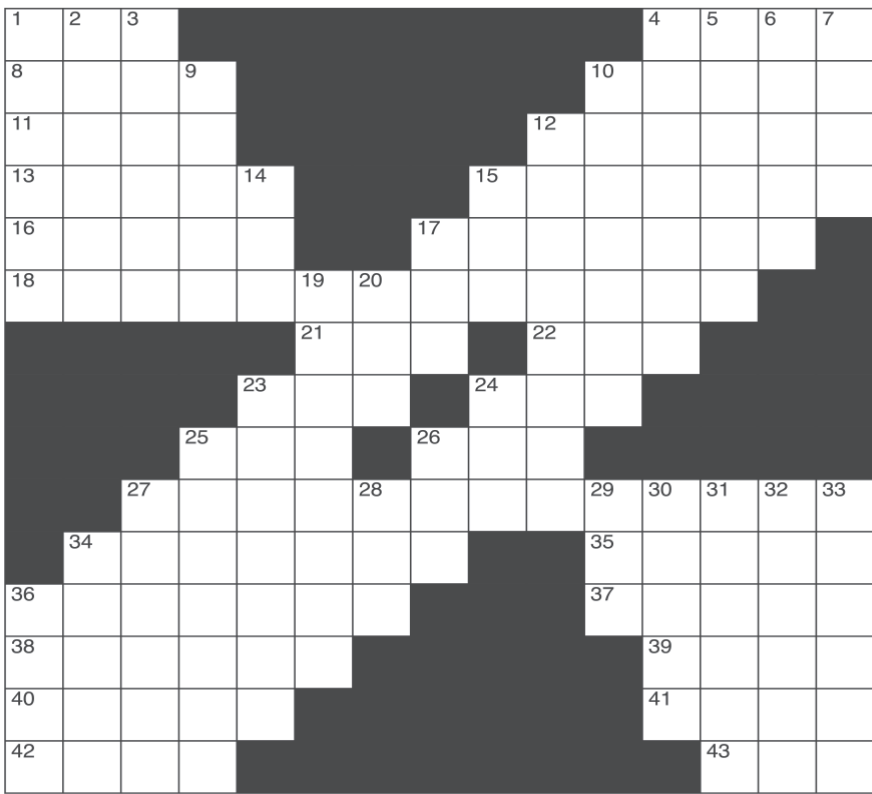
Bradley Sylvestre is in QCC's Nurse Education program and is a member of the Class of 2022.

"Despite classes being online with limited time in a physical classroom, I have been able to learn from the best and apply that knowledge in my clinical settings. I was able to go to a local nursing home in Westborough and make a difference with the elderly; see a birth at UMass Hospital in Leominster, and have been able to bond with patients in need of companionship. I was able to do all of this thanks to the hardworking educators at QCC, who were constantly advocating for me and my fellow nursing students, despite the grueling process of running a nursing school during a pandemic," Mr. Sylvestre said. "QCC is a community college, and for me, a new nursing student from Rhode Island, QCC has become my community."

According to Bonnie Coleman, QCC's manager for Student Resources and PTK advisor, the Spring 2021 class of new inductees is the largest group in the College's history, with 240 new students becoming PTK members. There are 555 total active PTK members at this time.

"The four students honored are a part of a large and impactful student organization. It is an honor to work with such amazing students," she said.

For more information about QCC, contact Josh Martin, Director of Institutional Communications at 508-854-7513 or jmartin@qcc.mass.edu



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Engine additive
- 4. A hearty laugh
- 8. Restrain
- 10. Dried coconut kernels
- 11. Nefarious
- 12. Elderly
- 13. Central part of a church building
- 15. Throw into confusion
- 16. Intestinal
- 17. Qualities of being religious
- 18. Live up to a standard
- 21. Seize
- 22. Go quickly
- 23. Automated teller machine
- 24. Bowling necessity
- 25. One point east of due south
- 26. Japanese honorific
- 27. A way to induce sleep
- 34. Makes cash register rolls
- 35. A city in S Louisiana
- 36. Make more cheerful
- 37. Manicurist
- 38. Consents
- 39. Network of nerves
- 40. Mocking smile
- 41. It covers the body
- 42. Partner to pans
- 43. Perform in a play

### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Beautiful
- 2. Polynesian island country
- 3. Shrub of the olive family
- 4. Self-governing Netherlands territory
- 5. Shared one's view
- 6. Tailless amphibians
- 7. Charge passengers must pay
- 9. Sound sheep make
- 10. Known for sure
- 12. Filled with unexpressed anger
- 14. Student (abbr.)
- 15. Criticize
- 17. Gathering place
- 19. Informal alliances
- 20. One's mother (British)
- 23. Landholder
- 24. Peter's last name
- 25. Parties
- 26. Title of respect
- 27. Red wine
- 28. Pearl Jam's debut
- 29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
- 30. Frosts
- 31. Cry of joy
- 32. Induces vomiting
- 33. Mother or father
- 34. Dal \_\_: Musical navigation marker
- 36. Door fastener part

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- \$290,000, 8 North Dr, Harvey, Bryan M, and Harvey, Abby, to Wisinesy, Matt, and Gardner, Olivia.
- \$206,000, 28 P

## Coast Guard boating safety course offered May 20

REGION — Our local United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Tri-State Flotilla, Massachusetts will be instructing a special boating safety class through the Zoom video conference platform on Thursday, May 20 from 7-9:30 p.m. for a \$5 fee.

Imagine you are out on the water when the boat's captain somehow is incapacitated or falls overboard and can't swim back to the boat. Are you prepared to take basic actions to get help, stop or start the engine and take the helm? A little knowledge could save lives and make you feel more comfortable boating when you're not generally at the helm.

Misfortunes can and do happen while on that fishing, diving, adventure, or party charter. Being out on your own boat with that significant other at the helm, or going out on a friends' pontoon boat can also turn to horror if the skipper is suddenly out of commission. This is a boating safety primer for those not generally at the helm but would like to know what to do, to be better prepared.

Registration is managed through the Milford Community School Use Program, Spring-Adult-Boating, at <http://mcs.milford.ma.us> or (508) 478-1119, register by May 17; keeping in mind that availability is limited and you will receive course materials prior, covered by the registration fee. Participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied online by a registered parent/guardian. For additional USCGAux. information: [phil.uscgaux@verizon.net](mailto:phil.uscgaux@verizon.net) or (508) 478-3778.

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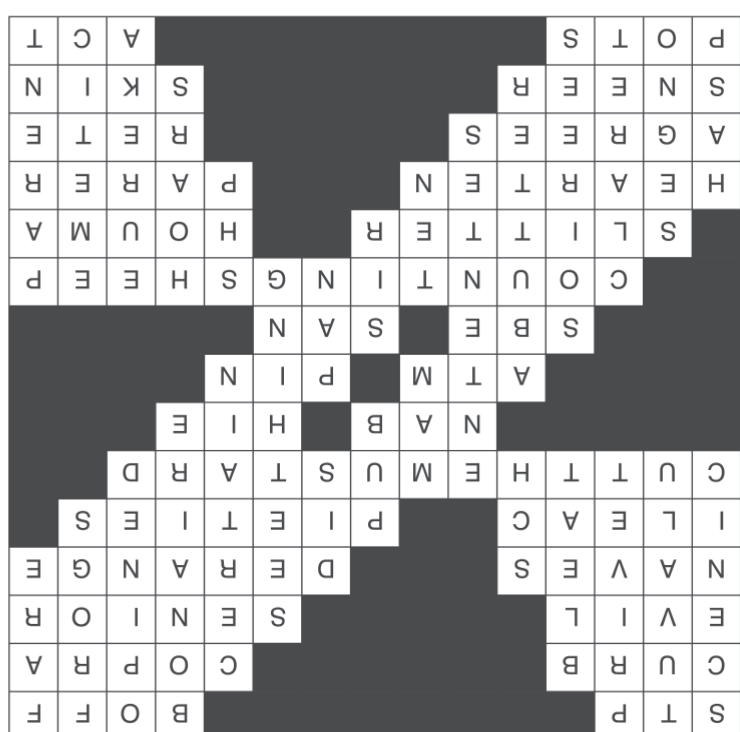
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