Thank You to OUR DONORS

Attendees at the 3rd annual Donor Recognition Event, held on May 3, were treated to an array of delectable delights prepared by talented student-chefs from our own culinary program, directed by Chef Jonathan Deutsch. The menu included such items as cheese cilantro flatbread with avocado salsa and double smoked roast duck breast, expertly paired with a variety of delicious wines generously donated by Vineyard Brands.

Those in attendance, including more than 20 alumni donors, heard directly from President Regina S. Peruggi and several scholarship recipients who expressed their gratitude and shared how the scholarship money was put to good use.

Thank you to all of our donors who help make scholarships possible and those who came out to enjoy this special evening of appreciation.

Paying it Forward: ALUMNI CAREER PANEL

This past April, alumni from different graduating classes, representing a variety of professions, shared their career paths with current students during the bi-annual Alumni Career Panel. The Alumni Career Panel seeks to enlighten students about various job opportunities and careers from stories shared by the college’s successful alumni.

The students heard from professionals in the fields of finance, physical science, counseling and health services, nursing, tourism and hospitality, and journalism who shared their stories about life after Kingsborough. Students had the opportunity to ask questions and meet one-on-one with panelists and found the variety of careers represented on the panel extremely helpful.

Thanks to our wonderful panelists (pictured above, left to right) who took time out of their busy schedules to speak with our students: Tom Abramov ’04; Marsha Allen ’07; Dasha Gorinshhteyn ’98; Grace Simmons ’09; Eusi Skeete ’04; and Richard Torregrossa ’77.

The next Alumni Career Panel will be on Tuesday, October 23, at 2pm. If you’d like to share your career path with current students, see Let Us Know on the back page.

Visit News, Events & Photos at www.kingsborough.edu/alumni to view a video of this year’s panelists and hear their words of encouragement for current students.
Alumni Reconnect at Commencement

More than two dozen alumni got a chance to meet each other, reminisce, and reconnect with their alma mater during the 2012 Commencement Exercises in June.

The day started off with a special alumni breakfast at the college, following which, the alumni donned commencement robes, marched with 2012 graduates, and enjoyed the ceremony. This year’s keynote speaker was Matilda Cuomo, wife of former New York Governor Mario Cuomo, both of whom were awarded the Kingsborough President’s Medal.

Members of the graduating class were excited to see KCC alumni participate in the exercises. “That’s awesome! I can’t wait to come back and do that,” said one 2012 graduate.

Among those who joined us were 2004 alumnus Carl Straker (left inset), whose daughter Patrice was part of the 2012 graduating class, and actress/alumna Christine Dixon (right inset), who you’ll read more about on page 4. Thanks to all of our terrific alumni who joined us for this special event!

Child Development Center’s Milestones

On July 12, KCC’s Child Development Center (CDC) celebrated its new toddler and school age programs with a special ribbon cutting ceremony and reception located in the new children’s playground. Alumni, staff and faculty, student-parents and other donors heard from President Peruggi and CDC Director Heather Brown in celebration of the expanded programs.

Join the celebration! In recognition of the 40th anniversary of the CDC, we will be celebrating this milestone with a special anniversary party on Thursday, November 1 at 6pm. Enjoy dinner and music while you reconnect with fellow alumni and CDC staff and faculty and reminisce about earlier times as we honor prior directors. There will also be chances to win great raffle prizes. Tickets are $50.

To learn more, support the CDC, and register visit www.kbcc.cuny.edu/cdc40.
Tune in to WKRB Radio

WKRB Manager – and Kingsborough alum – Robert Herklotz ’95 has seen many changes during his fifteen years at Kingsborough Community College, but none has been as exciting as the recent remodeling of the WKRB radio station on campus. These days, he is all too eager to show off the dramatic renovations and technological improvements at the official KCC radio station.

Herklotz and Dr. Cliff Hesse, professor and director of Media Technology & Management, worked together to create a concept that would emulate a commercial radio station while integrating classroom space. Their vision was brought to life by architect Marin Stancu of Kingsborough’s Office of Campus Planning and Design.

In the past, students had to shuttle back and forth from the radio station to the library in order to get a full lesson. Now, the radio classes are centralized, and students can learn both theory and practical applications of broadcasting in the newly-configured SMART classroom. In what was once simply a lobby area, students are now greeted by rows of glowing computer screens and software packages that help them learn principles of successful radio programming.

The remodeled space also features two new, larger state-of-the art studios for production and on-air broadcasting, as well as an editing suite. Where previously students had to cram into a single, smaller on-air studio to learn a variety of different techniques, today they have the luxury of two larger spaces, each with a full range of broadcasting tools and pitch-perfect acoustics, as well as overhead cameras that will display the activity in each studio on a SMART interactive whiteboard in the classroom.

According to Herklotz, the new equipment at the WKRB station rivals that of any major market radio station in the country. The remodeling effort has also led to the creation of a Pro Tools audio production suite, where students can work on a variety of audio productions, including music, public service announcements, and station IDs.

Herklotz is thrilled with the new changes at WKRB Radio and cannot wait to see his students take full advantage of its resources: “Our students have many different career goals; some want to be producers or engineers, others want to be broadcast anchors or disc jockeys. No matter what they’re interested in, this new space will make the workflow much smoother and more productive, and it offers an outstanding learning experience.”
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
Christine Dixon

Earlier this year, Kingsborough students had the privilege of watching a wonderful actor portray one of the great freedom-fighters of American history in *Harriet Tubman, Herself*. In a riveting, one-woman performance, the actor transported the audience back in time, allowing them to see the world through Harriet Tubman’s eyes as she risked her life to free her fellow slaves from the horrors of plantation life. For the actor, though, the Kingsborough campus was more than just another venue to perform her show. It was a *homecoming*.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Staten Island, *Christine Dixon* graduated from Kingsborough Community College as a performing arts major, where she was the recipient of a Charles Jacob Performing Arts scholarship. Since then, Dixon has enjoyed a diverse and prolific career in the arts; her work in film and television includes *Nurse Jackie, Unforgettable, A Gifted Man, Blue Bloods, Bored to Death, Law & Order C.I, Law & Order S.V.U, The Sopranos, School of Rock, Flight 93*, and the independent film, *Descent*, starring Rosaria Dawson.

In addition to playing the great Harriet Tubman, Dixon’s favorite theater roles include Aldonza in *The Man of La Mancha* (which also starred Kingsborough professor Cliff Hesse as Don Quixote) and Titania in Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*. When not performing, the civic-minded KCC alum teaches the arts in underserved neighborhoods and volunteers for such organizations as Meals on Wheels and the Harriet Tubman Purple Hats Society. She has also spent several summers in Honduras, where she teaches voice and English to children through the Peace Corps.

Dixon credits Kingsborough not only for helping her discover her passion for acting, but for empowering her to overcome life’s obstacles and reach for success: “Kingsborough Community College has shaped who I am today. My professors and I have forged genuine and lasting friendships. They are always rooting for me to succeed, and that keeps me focused.”

Nursing Alumni Attend Pinning

With each graduating class comes a special pinning ceremony for our nursing graduates. This past June, eleven nursing alumni joined the nursing graduating class of June 2012 for the pinning ceremony.

Nursing alumni, ranging in experience from staff nurse to chief nurse, enjoyed front row seats as our newest nursing alumni received their nursing pins and recited the Nightingale pledge.

Alumni also witnessed a surprise class gift presented to Nursing Chair Denise Giachetta-Ryan in recognition of her support and service.

A reception followed afterwards where alumni shared nursing stories and met with their former professors and our newest nursing alumni.

Best of luck to our newest nurses and thanks to our alumni for coming out and showing their support!

Pictured (l-r): Irmatrude Grant, Marisela Chan, Lindsay Carriero, Marius Skarbauskas, Omayra Sanchez, Amina Asad, Andrea Mangone, Maria Lobifaro, Ilya Kopach
(Not shown Shateke Bennett and Terry Mancher)
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
Dr. Anthony LoPresti

For Dr. Anthony LoPresti, Kingsborough Community College served as his launching pad for a long and distinguished career in the field of dentistry.

When he first arrived on the KCC campus, he was like many new students: unsure of his future and still exploring different career ideas. What he did know, however, was that he had a tremendous passion for science, and this ultimately led him to major in biology. Through the encouragement and support of professors like Dr. Harvey Carroll, LoPresti graduated with a 4.0 index and received the Bausch and Lomb Science Award.

Outside the classroom, LoPresti was a star player on the track and field squad. He was team MVP two years in a row and earned first place honors in shot-put, discus and javelin in the city community college championships.

After graduating from Kingsborough, LoPresti continued to excel academically at Wagner College and then later at the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine, where he received his Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) degree.

He has since gone on to enjoy a successful and wide-ranging career as a dentist, currently practicing at both New York Presbyterian Hospital and his alma mater, Columbia CDM. He has also been a trailblazer for his native Staten Island, founding the borough’s first-ever Orofacial Pain Program at Staten Island University in 1992. A renowned expert on orofacial pain disorders, Lopresti has lectured locally, nationally and internationally on the subject.

Looking back on his prolific career, Dr. Anthony LoPresti certainly has a lot to be proud of, and he credits his experience at Kingsborough Community College as a crucial starting point: “I had always been interested in science, and had always enjoyed working with my hands. As a dentist, I satisfy both of those passions, and it was at Kingsborough that I was inspired to shoot for the stars and make my mark in the health field.”

Special thanks to Dr. LoPresti for sharing his time and inspirational story as the alumni speaker at this year’s Dean’s List Ceremony, as pictured above.
Seaside Splash A Success!

Called “the best Seaside Splash yet,” the 7th annual fundraiser, Surf’s Up!, which took place on June 20, gave a playful nod to the 1950’s “Beach Blanket Bingo” days.

Many of the 300 guests in attendance, including faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of the college, came dressed in crinoline skirts, jackets emblazoned with “Pink Ladies,” muscle shirts, and leather jackets à la the Fonz and Elvis.

The festivities started outside along the ocean where guests sipped on cocktails at the Tiki Bar, dined on scrumptious appetizers, and posed for photos in front of classic cars from the 50’s. Once inside, guests dined in style, danced the night away to a live band and took their chances on winning donated raffle prizes such as concert tickets, a BBQ grill, and gift certificates to top spas, salons and restaurants. In addition, they learned of the value of their donations directly from several scholarship winners.

A resounding success, the 7th Annual Seaside Splash raised 11% more in student scholarship money than the previous year. Special thanks to all who supported the event, whether by attending or donating funds and raffles prizes.

For more pictures from Seaside Splash, visit News, Events & Photos at www.kingsborough.edu/alumni.
AWARD-WINNING ALUM: Howard Sandau

Kingsborough nursing alum Howard Sandau ’06 was named NYSUT Healthcare Professional of the Year 2012 by the New York State United Teachers (NYSUT).

A former president of the KCC Nursing Club, Sandau is an active member of NYSUT’s largest local, the United Federation of Teachers. He currently serves as the Vice Chapter Leader of the Federation of Nurses/UFT.

Sandau has stayed connected to Kingsborough by mentoring Kingsborough nursing students and helping them prepare for the nursing exams. He also includes them on Lobby Day in Albany to advocate for the nursing profession because he believes participation in the professional organization is a vital aspect of the nursing profession. “Nursing is not just about providing excellent health care at the bedside,” Sandau told UFT’s Vital Signs newsletter. “It’s also about understanding and acting on the critical connections between administering patient care and the politics of health care. Federation nurses have a seat at the table where we can talk to key elected officials about issues that affect our profession.” “Who better to advocate for our profession than nurses themselves?” he posed.

First inspired to become a nurse after working fifteen years as a caregiver to a patient with ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease), Sandau came to Kingsborough in 2004. After graduation in 2006, he joined the Emergency Department at Lutheran Medical Center, where today he works in the Surgical Trauma Intensive Care Unit. “I am so thankful for the incredible education I received from Kingsborough,” he told us. “I felt completely prepared to begin my nursing career.”

STAY CONNECTED

If you haven’t already, join us via our Alumni social networks! Join us to keep abreast of campus news, upcoming events, job opportunities, and of course, to connect with your fellow alumni.

Like us: KBCCAlumni

Follow us: @KCCAlumni

Network with us: Kingsborough Community College Alumni

KCC ALUMNI RELATIONS

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President

Dr. Elizabeth Basile
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Join the Alumni Association

Show your commitment to Kingsborough through membership in the Alumni Association! The annual membership fee is only $25 and helps support student scholarships and programming for alumni events. Your membership also provides you with certain benefits, which include limited access to the college and its facilities, invitations to career-oriented and special events, and various discounts. For details, visit www.kingsborough.edu/alumni.

For a limited time only, join now and receive a free gift!

You can join the Alumni Association in two convenient ways:

- Visit www.kingsborough.edu/alumni and click Join the KCC Alumni Association
- Call the Office of Alumni Relations at 718-368-4539
Remembering KELVIN GIFT

Determined student. Proud alumnus. Dedicated staff member.

All of these titles describe Kelvin Gift, who passed away earlier this year, and his relationship to Kingsborough Community College. But they do not tell the full story.

For Vice President David Gomez, who knew him from his days as a student through his tenure as KCC’s director of testing, Kelvin Gift was the kind of person that we all aspire to be, but often fall short of. A devout Christian, Gift did not just preach his principles to others—he lived them. He was genuinely kind and open-hearted, always thinking of others and always willing to lend a helping hand.

Though hesitant of hiring someone so young for such a demanding position, Gomez saw tremendous promise in Gift and decided to take a chance on his former student. It turned out to be a great decision. “As testing director,” Gomez says, “Kelvin was an extraordinary professional, very conscientious. The testing operation here at KCC is often very stressful and chaotic, but Kelvin managed all of it extraordinarily well, not just with running tests efficiently, but in dealing with students. He could diffuse difficult situations and get a lot done with a very gentle and kind touch.”

Gift’s role at Kingsborough went far beyond the demands of running the testing center. As a KCC alum, he seemed particularly attuned to the needs and aspirations of the students he came across. “He was always volunteering his time to tutor and mentor students. He was that rare higher-education professional who truly knew how to best help and connect with them.” And Vice President Gomez cannot think of Kelvin Gift without remembering his legendary sense of humor, either: “Kelvin never took himself too seriously, and had a wonderful sense of humor. It could be the most stressful time at the office, and he could brighten everyone’s day with a smile and a joke.”

While speaking to several of the dozens of Kingsborough students and alumni in attendance at Gift’s service, Gomez heard many stories of how Gift had helped them do better in their courses and navigate the college experience. “That was just the kind of person he was—always looking to help someone in need. It made no difference whether the rest of the world knew about it or not,” said Gomez. “I am proud to have called him a friend.”

4TH ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

Be part of this year’s A-Team (Alumni Team, that is!) in an effort to raise money for student scholarships at KCC’s 4th Annual Walk-a-Thon on Tuesday, November 13 at 3pm. Participation only costs $10 and entails a two-lap walk around our beautiful campus. It’ll be a great chance to mingle with other alumni, KCC staff and faculty and win raffle prizes, not to mention get some exercise, all in support of a great cause – our students! If you’re interested, see Let Us Know below.

SPECIAL THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

Each year, hundreds of KCC alumni, staff/faculty, and students volunteer their time to assist with the various functions and activities of the Alumni Relations office. Just to name a few, special thanks to alumni Pauline Antonio, Judith Cohen, Joel Hilsenrath, Leah and Robert Kalipetes, Jeffrey Nelson, Assunta Redding, and Fern Rossi for their support earlier this year. If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer, please see Let Us Know.

YOUR SUPPORT

Funds raised by the Kingsborough Community College Foundation help to provide scholarships, enrich our students’ learning experiences, and build the College’s endowment for future generations. We truly appreciate your support. All donations are recognized in Kingsborough’s Annual Report as well as on the KCC Annual Donor Wall, which is updated each year. To make a donation, join the Alumni Association, and/or for general information, visit www.kingsborough.edu/alumni or call (718) 368-4539.

LET US KNOW!

We’d love to hear what you’re up to—and if you’re interested in volunteering or attending any of the events that you’ve read about here. Send us your comments and requests by updating your profile on the KCC website at www.kingsborough.edu/alumni. If you prefer, send us an e-mail at kccalumni@kbcc.cuny.edu or call Alumni Relations at (718) 368-4539. We look forward to hearing from you!