KCC Retirees Newsletter

Professor Rachelle Goldsmith with the two award-winners at our annual luncheon.

Ms. Nigina Salimova, a pre-clinical nursing student, came to the United States from Uzbekistan three years ago and entered high school speaking very little English. She appreciates being in America because she says that if she stayed in her home country she would never have had the opportunity to receive a higher education. Therefore, she is very serious about her studies and does her best to excel. She has a 3.95 cumulative grade point average and is a member of the Presidential Scholars Honors program and Phi Theta Kappa, the two-year honor society. She enjoys being at the college because of its helpful staff, wonderful faculty, and numerous extra-curricular activities; she particularly enjoys being a member of the ceramics club and frequently stays at the college until six or seven o’clock in the evening to study. Since her parents do not speak English and have difficulty finding jobs, she works on weekends at a Dunkin Donuts shop to help them make ends meet. She plans to use her scholarship money to stop working temporarily so that she can study to pass the nursing entrance exam this spring.

Ms. Danielle Policastro, a Liberal Arts major who also plans to become a nursing major. She is one of thirteen children and is closest with one of her sisters who had a heart transplant at age twelve and spent sixteen months in the hospital. Being in the hospital with her and seeing how nurses helped her sister gave Danielle the desire to become a pediatric nurse. Given her sister’s severe health problems, complicated more recently by lymphoma, she dropped out of high school to help care for her, her disabled mother, and father who now does not work because he has Parkinson’s disease. Despite these circumstances, Danielle was able to earn a GED and comes to KCC each day with a smile because she is moving closer to entering the nursing program. Although she cannot take advantage of the many extra-curricular activities the college offers she has to go home after classes to help take care of her family, she has managed to earn a 3.45 grade point average and truly enjoys her courses. She particularly loved the encouragement she got from her English professor, Carl Alaimo, who recognized her desire to write and motivated her to extend herself, rewarding her with a grade of A+ in ENG 24 for her effort. Coming from such a large family where she was never able to have many of the things she wanted, she plans to use the Retirees Scholarship money to help her purchase books and computer software that will help her prepare for the nursing entrance exam.

KCC- College by the Sea (50 Years) By Carol A. Biemann, Ed.D. (After the poem “Trees” by Joyce Kilmer)
I thought that I would never see
A campus as strange as KCC
It’s barracks’ flattened to the sky
A good wind could have made them fly
And God forbid there’d be a fire
Water could be taken from the mire
The cannon at the gate
Reminded me of my coming fate
The students gazing at my face
Wondering could they make their case
The Bio Labs were all fixed up
And there wasn’t a way to get mixed up
To teach your class was quite a trial
With the constant pounding of the piles
Our new campus was quite a treat
To get from 3 locations to 1 was quite a feat
“Poems are made by fools like me”
But only NYC could erect a new KCC

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KCC’s
50th
1963-2013

Our Annual luncheon will be on Thursday, May 8th, 2014. We hope to see you there.

Editors:
Marilyn Chernin (mchm150@aol.com)
Shelly Friedland (shellyf@aol.com)
John Manbeck (manbeckj7@yahoo.com)

Digital Layout:
Shelly Friedland
Retiree Luncheon—May 29, 2013
Greetings from the Seattle area, where Linda and I have been living since retiring in 2003.

We live in Lake Forest Park, a town just north of Seattle along Lake Washington. On a clear day, we can see down the lake to Mt. Rainier from our bedroom windows. It is a very nice quiet community and gives us easy access to downtown Seattle and all the cities surrounding the Lake.

In retirement, we have done some interesting travelling, including Hawaii, Cabo san Lucas, Arizona, Galveston (where Ike flooded the whole island and now all new construction is on 14 foot stilts), England (where we visited our son Adam who was working for Microsoft EMEA – Europe, Middle East, Africa) and France. Most memorable in England was driving on the wrong side of the road, especially on the M-highway roundabouts, visiting Greenwich and standing on the Prime Meridian with one foot in the east and one in the west, and seeing the Eagle Pub in Cambridge where Watson and Crick discussed DNA. Most memorable in France was walking down the Avenue des Champs-Élysées and seeing a plaque on the wall of a building that said that Thomas Jefferson had stayed there, and visiting Omaha Beach and Mont Saint-Michel. I also had the pleasure of presenting a plenary lecture in Beijing to the International Symposium on Shock Waves entitled “The Single Pulse Shock Tube: Its Odyssey in Chemical Kinetics”

Yes, Linda and I are “Heroes of the Great Wall.” I have taught courses in nutrition and alternative energy sources at a local community college to retirees. The students are really interesting, from laypeople to retired Boeing engineers and PhD chemists. They really kept me on my toes. I’ve also taken some courses, most notably in systems biology, genetics, and weather systems. I also try to keep up with what I’m interested in, and my current worry is about the entropy of the universe and how its expansion allows the 2nd law of thermodynamics to exist. But it doesn’t keep me up at night, since I’ve given up trying to understand how dark energy and dark matter affect this.

I sometimes write letters to various publications, and have had them published in the New York Times (the Israel/Palestinian problem), Chemical and Engineering News (climate change, Rachel Carson, synthetic biology and evolution), and the American Scientist (atomic weights and isotopes).

One of our favorite things to do is explore the fantastic places in the northwest, and eat in many interesting restaurants. The only things we can’t get here are real New York Bagels and good pastrami.

We have a large house, and have had many visitors from New York and around the world. If any of our friends from Kingsborough are in the Seattle area, let us know.

The attached photo is me standing on the Prime Meridian in Greenwich, one foot in the east and one foot in the west.

Hope you are all doing well and enjoying your retirement.

BENEFITS WORKSHOP
On Tuesday, November 5th, at 3 P.M., there will be a benefits workshop in the Tapestry room, A212. Mr. Patrick Smith, of the PSC, will discuss the current changes in health and drug coverage for retirees. He will also discuss other related material about our benefits. A question and answer period will follow. Those interested must call Prof. Tuosto at 718-368-5801 to register.
Despoina Ikaris completed the English translation of “The Reckoning,” a new novel originally written in Greek. The novel, set in the southern Greek region of Mani, depicts an actual murder that was committed there in 1926, the events that led up to it, the trial that followed, and its long term consequences. It will soon be published.

Dean Vera Mattingly passed away this past August. She was Assistant Dean of Instructional Services and Affirmative Action Officer. She also had a debut at Carnegie Hall as an Opera singer. We extend our condolences to her family.

Deborah I. Katz Retires
Dean Billy Katz capped a 52 year career in education at his retirement party held on Tuesday, July 30th. It was indeed a gala, with Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz reading a proclamation to Billy. There were many speakers and many in attendance on this memorable night. We were all there to pay tribute to a terrific guy and colleague, who did so much to make our Continuing Education Program the best in the country. We wish he and Yvette the very best in their retirement.

Barbara Shovlin, long time assistant to Dean Billy Katz in Continuing Education, passed away on October 9th. She worked at KCC for 30 years. We express our condolences.

Roslyn Weiner passed away this past May 26th. She was an Administrative Assistant for many years in the Business Department. She received an AA degree here at KCC. Condolences to her family.

As we prepare to celebrate our 50th Anniversary, thoughts go back to earlier days at KCC. To the right is a picture of the College entrance in the mid-60’s. We will present a series of pictures and other memorabilia representing those early days at our annual luncheon in May.

Estate Planning Seminar
Our retiree group has been invited to partake of an Elder Law Workshop sponsored by the My Turn Club of Kingsborough. The workshop will include updates on Estate Taxes, Asset Protection, Inter-Generational Planning, Real Estate Transactions, Long Term Care, Medicaid, etc. The date is Thursday, November 14th, in room A212. There are two one-hour sessions: 10:20 – 11:20 and 11:40 – 12:40. If interested, please call 718-369-5079.

Our condolences to the family of Norma Glassman, secretary for many years, in the Office of Career Counselling and Placement office. Norma had recently moved to Florida in her retirement.

Prof. John Manbeck recently was a guest expert on the TV show “America’s Facts vs. Fiction” - on Military Channel, Wednesday, August 21 at 10 pm. TOPICS: "Brooklyn Bridge & Route 66”

Celebrating KCC’s 50th
1963-2013