New Scholarships Presented at May Luncheon

Prof. Goldsmith with this year’s Scholarship Recipients Mushfica Masud and Seytervin Seytgaziyev

Retiree Scholarship Winners

Ms. Mushfica Masud, a media technology and management major, came from Bangladesh by way of England, in search of career opportunities that she was denied in her homeland. She has a deep and abiding love for the college that she credits the faculty and staff of the CUNY Start program who made her feel “at home” in Kingsborough. To share her joy at being a student at this college, she has become a CUNY Start Ambassador and now conducts orientation tours for people interested in entering the college through this program. She also feels that the faculty who work with her in broadcasting are preparing her well for transfer to Brooklyn College.

Mr. Seytervin Seytgaziyev, a business major, came to the United States from the Ukraine three years ago and graduated from James Madison High School last year. He works all day Friday, Saturday and Sunday to help his family meet their financial needs. Despite his demanding work schedule, he has managed to maintain an active life at Kingsborough, participating in the Presidential Scholars Honors program, the Honors Club, the Resources for Educational and Employment Opportunities (REEO) program, and the Model National United Nations program. He also recently represented the college at the national Phi Theta Kappa conference held in Tennessee. He plans to transfer to Brooklyn College to complete his undergraduate degree.

Active Retirees

Despoina Ikaris, veteran of the KCC English Department, recently translated from Greek into English a novel entitled ANATOLI, by the Greek writer Sossa Plakidas. ANATOLI is a thrilling coming-of-age war-love-adventure story set in World War II Greece, and after, in Germany and the Belgian Congo and is based on the author’s own life experiences as a refugee from the Nazi Occupation of Greece.

The book is available from Amazon.com and Barnesandnoble.com.
DONOR RECOGNITION EVENT

President Peruggi’s 4th Annual Donor Recognition event was held on May 3, 2012 on campus in the MAC Rotunda. Working collaboratively, the Office for College Advancement and the Department of Tourism and Hospitality’s Culinary Arts Program transformed a section of the Rotunda into an intimate atmosphere of fine wine and fine dining in honor of the college’s donors. The Culinary Arts students’ talents were on full display, as they prepared a mouthwatering array of appetizers and desserts—which were paired with rosé, white and red wines generously donated by Vineyard Brands. President Peruggi warmly greeted guests and thanked them for their generous support. Two scholarship recipients, Ms. Zenia George and Ms. Hadia Rashid, (with President Peruggi in photo) also thanked the donors for their generosity, offering moving testimony on their academic and personal triumphs. Both students spoke about their experiences at Kingsborough Community College, while also conveying that without scholarships funded by donors, they would not have been able to achieve their goals. The support of generous donors allowed Zenia, a Community Health major with a concentration in Gerontology, and Hadia, a Biology major with dreams of becoming a pharmacist, to persevere through their studies and leave Kingsborough with bright futures ahead of them!
Faculty/Staff Spotlight - Prof. Cliff Hesse
Dept. of Communications and Performing Arts

Throughout his career at Kingsborough, Cliff has been closely involved with the operations of WKRB serving for many years as an advisor for the station and always helping to shape the path for WKRB as Chairman and later Director of Media Technology & Management. Dr. Hesse has mentored thousands of students through the years, many of which owe their success to the knowledge and skills that he helped them gain. His vision has most recently contributed to the complete re-design and renovation of the radio station. He loves theatre and performs regularly with the Rockaway Theatre Company, The Narrows Theatre Company, Strivelli Theatre Company and others. When not performing in a show he can be found "dressing" the scenery (painting and designing.) He has performed in small films and recently in a full length film entitled "A Guy Named Rick". He enjoys going to the theatre; likes to sing, read, tries his hand at tennis and golf; and continues to "learn and study" -- he is the book of knowledge for his kids, grandkids and his wife.

Cliff is married to Anne and they have three kids and 5 grandchildren. His son: Matthew is a video editor with HBO. Daughter: Megan is an assistant at Syska Hennessy Group and daughter Shannon works as executive assistant with a health facilities group.

He is "semi" retired (officially retired but as actively involved with KCC as ever); director of Broadcasting; Cliff is passionate about anything he tackles so he remains active at the college but with the little bits of extra time he has he spends more of it being grandpa, some of it chauffeuring, traveling (mostly in the Northeast), reading and rehearsing, and dabbles in writing.

We wish Cliff the very best of luck and health in his retirement.

Travelogue Luncheon

The retirees Spring travelogue luncheon was held in May, 2012 in the Oceanview Room. At this lunch we traveled to Cuba. Deans Uda Bradford and Marilyn Chernin had both been on humanitarian visits to the island. After a very brief historical talk Uda and Marilyn discussed their experiences. Professors Adele Schneider and John Blunt had both been to Cuba before the revolution. It was interesting to note the differences and changes to this country. There was a lively exchange amongst all the participants. Information about how to travel to Cuba was distributed. The lunch was wonderful. It was prepared and served by our culinary arts students. The great food enhanced a terrific afternoon shared with colleagues and friends. Future travelogue events will include talks about travel to South America and Spain. In the planning is a visit to our urban farm and a farm to table event.

Condolences: Dr. Peter Lanzetta, a former Department of Biological Sciences professor at KCC and a member of the college community for almost 30 years died suddenly in early July. Peter was an exceptional biologist and researcher, a person who cared about the college, and an outstanding colleague. Our deepest sympathies to his wife Marie, his children and grandchildren.
Student/Faculty Pairs

Tommy Owens/Professor Carol Bierman

I remember Tommy Owens, from my second semester Biology course (Biology 14) in 1993, as a very bright young man with an insatiable desire for knowledge. He was always questioning the concepts presented in the course and looked forward to more depth of knowledge. I could tell that biology was a passion with him. Here are some excerpts from an e-mail that I received from him many years later. Students like Tommy are always remembered by their instructors. It is a pleasure to teach them.

Hello Dr. Biermann. I have fond memories of your second semester Biology class back in 1993. My career took a decided turn away from life sciences when I got to Penn State. I majored in Meteorology with a concentration in computer applications and upon graduation went to work at NASA at their Goddard Space Flight Center. Biology is still in my blood though and I have since earned an MS in Environmental Science at Johns Hopkins and maintain a strong interest in estuarine ecology and Chesapeake Bay issues.

I just wanted to say thanks for challenging me and encouraging me when I was your student. The quality of instruction I received at KCC gave me a solid foundation for my studies at Penn State and JHU.

All the best,
Tommy Owens

Who is YOUR Tommy Owens?

(Notable doings on campus is a new feature of the Newsletter, in which we honor the inspirational and motivational activities of faculty and the consequences these can have on students. We invite our retirees to send in similar experiences about themselves or a colleague, in which a student was sufficiently motivated by a faculty member to become successful in any realm.)

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Notable doings on campus

Peter Malone, Director of the KCC Art Gallery has written a book:

Back Words: one painter’s voice in the conversation

Paperback, 156 Pages, Published 2012 ISBN 10-1478182210 (paperback)

Condolences:
Professor Emeritus Zev Zahavy passed away this past May. He served as Professor of English from the early 1960’s and retired in 1989. He loved his relationships with colleagues and students and encouraged his children to become professors which they did. He was the author of books on cosmology and Kabbalah and was also senior Rabbi at the Park East Synagogue.

He is survived by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

First Scholarship Awarded

As reported in the Spring, 2011 Retiree Newsletter, Dr. Ellen S. Fine set up a scholarship for Excellence in the Field of Research in Nazi Holocaust Studies. Through this scholarship she hopes to encourage students to become witnesses of their own by examining testimonies, memoirs, diaries, novels, and historical documents so that awareness of the holocaust is transmitted to future generations.

The first recipient of this scholarship has been announced and she is Ekaterina Liskin. Ms. Liskin is a Liberal Arts student from Russia. She was selected for her compelling presentation on the Massacre of Babi Yar. “I am very excited and grateful to receive this scholarship.” Students were evaluated based on specific criteria and once eligible, they are invited to submit a proposal for a research project in Holocaust Studies. Our congratulations to Ms. Liskin.