President Peruggi Announces Retirement

President Regina Peruggi has announced her intention to step down as president of Kingsborough Community College at the end of the summer.

The President has served in her office for nine years, being appointed in May of 2004. Under Peruggi's leadership, Kingsborough Community College was named one of the top four community colleges in the country when it was chosen as a Finalist with Distinction for the 2013 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.

She serves on the boards of many education and public service institutions, such as The Brooklyn Economic Development Corporation and the American Council on Education, among many others.

President Peruggi has been at the forefront of raising scholarship money for Kingsborough and many students have benefitted from her efforts.

President Peruggi was instrumental in initiating and supporting the retiree organization.

We wish her a most rewarding and successful retirement.

In Memorium

Mrs. Ellen Singer, 74, retired 2/27/97 as a CUNY Administrative Assistant. She worked in the Office of Finance and Institutional Development and was also Administrative Assistant to Vice Presidents Irv Glasser and Elizabeth Miller.

She recently passed away in Carraboro, North Carolina. She was married to former Professor Lester Singer.

The President at a recent Graduation

President Peruggi at a recent Seaside Splash with husband Mr. Gerard McCallion
Central Park Outing
Prof. Rachelle Goldsmith

On Saturday, April 13, four retirees and family members (Marilyn Chernin, Rachelle and Barry Goldsmith, John Blount) joined 20 Honors students when they visited Central Park in conjunction with a Public Spaces/City-as-Text assignment given by Professor Tina Orsini in her English 24 Honors class.

The group met at 10:15 a.m. at Columbus Circle and 59th Street and then spent four hours meandering the park. We stopped at 22 monuments and memorials and learned about them from students who had been assigned to research them. Supplemental information was provided by Professor Regina Alvarez who had been the former director of Horticulture and Woodland management for the Central Park Conservancy before coming to work as a biologist at Kingsborough.

Every one loved the Balto sculpture of a sled dog which commemorated the brave contributions of the lead dog who helped bring needed medical supplies to residents of Nome, Alaska during a diphtheria outbreak in 1925. Alice in Wonderland also proved to be a favorite, with students scrambling on top of the figures to pose for a group photos, and the John Lennon Imagine memorial transfixed the group as there was no plaque to explain the mosaic work which was embedded in the ground near a park entrance on West 72nd Street, yet it drew groups of people who left flowers and took many photos.

By the end of the walk, everyone agreed that they saw the park and its monuments and memorials in a new light. It was a wonderful way to spend an early spring afternoon. The group plans to visit the park again in the fall to walk the northern, less familiar portions of Central Park.

Kingsborough Recognized

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Kingsborough as one of the top four community colleges in the country. Selected from approximately 1,200 community colleges nationwide, we were a “finalist-with-distinction” in the Aspen competition. Our college will receive a prize of $100,000, which will be used to support student scholarships.

The Aspen Prize recognizes institutions for outstanding achievement in student learning outcomes, degree completion, labor market success in securing good jobs after college, and facilitation of minority and low-income student success.

All of us should take pride in knowing that our college has been judged one of the very best in our country.

In his congratulatory letter of April 15, to President Peruggi, Governor Andrew Cuomo wrote: “To be designated one of the top four community colleges in the country is an extraordinary achievement, and the rigor of the selection process only enhances Kingsborough’s accomplishment in distinguishing itself among more than 1,000 public community colleges nationwide.”

Matthew Goldstein to step down as CUNY chancellor

City University of New York Chancellor Matthew Goldstein will step down from his post by early summer. Goldstein made the announcement Friday, April 12th in a letter to the CUNY community.

In the letter, Goldstein called his time as chancellor "the greatest privilege of my professional life."

Goldstein has been the head of the CUNY system since being appointed in 1999. He himself graduated from City College in 1963.

Goldstein oversaw the creation of the CUNY Graduate School of Journalism, the CUNY School of Public Health and other schools and colleges during his tenure. Goldstein said he is working with the board of trustees to appoint an interim chancellor sometime this spring.

CUNY comprises 24 colleges and professional schools throughout New York City.
Faculty/Staff Spotlight - Dr. Arthur Zeitlin
Dept. of Biological Sciences

Arthur has been at KCC for 45 years! Twelve of those have been as Department Chair. Arthur was a consummate teacher, Chairman and friend to those in his own department and many others throughout Kingsborough.

He was also deeply involved in writing grants for his department which led to better programs and the acquisition of needed equipment.

He also was Principal Investigator on collaborative grants with other colleges, principally Medgar Evers and Brooklyn Colleges.

Artie maintains an active interest in photography and computers and keeps up to date on advances in both areas. He was an early devotee of the original Macintosh computer.

Art is a devoted family man with two children and the blessing of six grandchildren.

Arthur was honored with a retirement party on March 19th in the MAC center. Among the many who came, were his grandchildren. See pic to right.

We wish Artie the very best in his retirement and know he will still be playing with his computers and cameras and his grandkids. Enjoy!!

Marc Wiscoff - Instructional Computing

Marc was head of Instructional Computing and retired to Florida to enjoy the good life. We asked him to tell us in his own words what he’s up to and here’s his take:

I have created a website (what else is new?) which shows what I have been up to for the last few years. Basically, I have been partnering with the Wellington Chamber of Commerce and the South Florida Science Museum to conduct a series of Dark Sky Parties taking advantage of the pristine skies here in the Western Communities of Palm Beach County. The site is www.underthesunmoonandstars.org

Currently, I have been asked by the South Florida Science Museum to work with them to introduce seniors and school-age kids to science via a device called "Science on a Sphere". It was developed by NOAA who has partnered with NASA to provide presentations which address the various happenings on our planet and the Universe. It is an exciting opportunity; it provides me with time to do what I enjoy best: teach and participate in a unique approach to science education.

NOAA and NASA have provided the system with over 300 datasets covering a myriad of topics from global warming to space exploration.

My approach is to provide an opportunity for the students in Palm Beach County to participate, by authoring their own datasets to complement the existing catalogue. I have been in contact with NOAA to fine-tune the presentations and the system itself. You can direct anyone interested in the project to go to www.sos.noaa.gov for more information on the exhibit.

Mark also has a 15 year old son who is something of a piano virtuoso, in addition to being a great student at an excellent local High school. You can catch his recital at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_TXjr5-JLM

Marc, best of luck to you!!
Florida Luncheon Gets Great Turnout

The annual Florida luncheon was a huge success with about thirty people in attendance. Also attending were President Regina Peruggi and her husband, and Assistant Vice President of the Office of College Advancement, Elizabeth Basile.

Take a look at those happy faces below; you just know they had a great time!!
Hope to see all of you again next year.

Gail Levine gets Lifetime Achievement Award

Retiree Professor Gail Levine, Director of the PERRT Program (Program in Sports, Fitness and Therapeutic Recreation) for many years has been named the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by METRO, the Metropolitan Parks and Recreation Organization. The award will be presented at their annual dinner. This is a big honor for this dedicated and very talented Recreation Professional.

She hopes her colleagues, still working and retired, will make an effort to go. The event takes place on Wednesday, May 22nd at a restaurant in Manhattan. Those interested can contact Gail for all the details at her email address: grlevine76@aol.com

Gail still teaches part-time and with husband, Bob, travels and engages in creative, cultural and recreational pursuits. We wish her sincere congratulations on her award.

In Memorium

Dr. Sharad Karkhanis, left this world for the Heavenly Adobe on early morning of March 28th, 2013 at West Boca Medical Center in Boca Raton, FL from respiratory and heart complications.

Dr. Karkhanis was born in a village in India near Mumbai and came to the United States in 1960 with just a few dollars in his pocket. He studied hard, worked hard and earned his PhD in the land of opportunity and became very successful in a short time. He worked at Kingsborough for over 35 years and he was Professor of Political Science and libraries since 1974. He was energetic, upbeat, a voracious reader; enjoyed good company and had a flair for gourmet food. He spoke out on issues forcefully and was not afraid of criticism. He is survived by several nieces and nephews.