



A Conversation with Whitney Wurzel '05, S.G.A. President

by Brian Ralph,
Vice President for Enrollment Management

What brought you to Queens?

With my first visit to the campus, I had no doubt Queens was the place for me. I was so confident this is where I wanted to spend my college years, I didn't bother applying to any other schools. The full trees and vintage buildings of the campus appealed to my aesthetics, the students and professors were welcoming toward me and my family, and the solid academic programs, from the liberal arts curriculum to the John Belk International Program, fascinated my intellectual curiosity.

What have you enjoyed the most so far?

I have developed a priceless triad, if you will, of companions here at Queens who have grown to be the highlight of my college experience. The first group of this triad includes the supportive circle of friends whom I have laughed, learned and lounged with countless times. The second consists of the remarkable professors – those stunning individuals who know how to teach, inspire and make a bad day good – I have had the privilege to know them both inside and outside the classroom. Finally, the third group incorporates people such as Wordsworth, Thoreau, Krakauer and so many others who have set my spirit afire with their narratives, ideas and experiences.

Tell me about your internship...

During the summer prior to my junior year, my internship was conducted jointly through the Student Conservation Association and the National Park Service, where I worked as an Interpretative Park Ranger at Wind Cave National Park, located in the Southern Black Hills of South Dakota. This was a dream come true! I led tours through the world's sixth-longest cave, guided prairie hikes, and presented various programs at the visitors center and campground, all the while meeting interesting people and teaching park visitors about the environment. The following summer I was offered the same job, except I would get paid and would be able to wear the official Park Ranger flat hat . . . my answer? YES!

It is my understanding that you went to Yap through the John Belk International Program. What were some of the highlights of your trip?

That trip was unreal! We went there to conduct ongoing environmental studies, including the monitoring of an invasive grass species, soil erosion and water quality, and this field work proved to be awesomely rewarding. However, our interactions with the Yapese people shine as the true highlights of the trip, whether we were helping them clean their villages in the aftermath of a typhoon or simply talking with them in town. They were big-hearted people on a small-sized island. On a more personal note, I had a lovely time drinking from coconuts, snorkeling in the Pacific and dancing the night, *ahem*, nights, away to tropically-flavored music.

What have you learned so far as a student liaison to the Board of Trustees, and how is both the Board and the Student Body benefiting from your presence on the Board?

Before the position of student liaison was implemented in January 2003, there was no direct communication between board members and students. It has been valuable for me to update the Trustees on student life issues, so that they might better understand student attitudes and concerns. It has been just as beneficial to the students, because I can now share with them future plans for the University and lay to rest much of the uncertainty that students once felt toward the administration and those who made important decisions behind the scenes.

How does the future look for you?

I hope to hike the Appalachian Trail, in its entirety, all the way from Georgia to Maine, because I am drawn to the outdoors and am at home among trees, hills and mountains. Such an adventure would invoke many stories to write about, which would help fulfill my other passion as a nature and outdoor adventure writer. I am also considering earning an MFA in non-fiction writing and possibly continuing to work with the National Park Service. No matter what I choose to do or when I choose to do it, I anticipate my future to be lively, colorful and dedicated toward serving the natural world . . . I can't wait!





Home Sweet Home Honorable Mention

New students and their families arrived on campus Thursday, Aug. 19, 2004, to begin their journey at Queens University of Charlotte. Students moved into Albright, Belk and Wallace Residence Halls throughout the morning as part of their Orientation program (August 19 - 23). Peer Resources for Orientation (current Queens students affectionately known as PROs) were already on campus ready to help the new students move in and get settled. The PROs worked with the freshmen class throughout Orientation including leading them to several events as well as simply giving directions.

Parents and students alike were most impressed with first day activities, which included faculty and staff members helping move luggage and furniture into the residence halls for students. How many institutions can boast of tenured professors lugging computers and stereo equipment up two flights of stairs for their freshmen?

The new students were made to feel right at home whether they were registering for classes with their academic advisor, participating in Freshman Convocation, traveling uptown to Discovery Place, having ice cream with the President at her home, meeting with their Core class, dancing the night away with Travelin' Max's Caribbean Throw Down or voting for their favorite Queens Idol! The students were effusive with praise for the program and shared they could not have started their semester off any better.

The Honor Code has been in place at Queens for nearly a century. Over the years, while the purpose of the Code has remained the same – to encourage students and the community to lead noble lives – the importance of the Code has never been higher. While recent events in the United States and around the world have highlighted a lack of integrity, irresponsible behavior and dishonesty, Queens students are challenging each other to uphold honor for its own sake.

An increase in focus on the Honor Code has resulted in a more public signing of the Code during Orientation. In fact, Assistant Professor of English Dr. Lynn Morton delivered a speech titled “Choosing Honor” to freshmen during *Sed Ministrare*. Dr. Morton addressed new students, student leaders, faculty (in full academic regalia) and families with her words of wisdom concerning the role honor plays in our lives. (Read an excerpt from her speech, the cover feature of the January 2005 edition of *American Speaker*, in the sidebar to the right.) The University has also for the first time created an honor code booklet and there is a significant student movement towards having the honor code preamble placed in every classroom.

One of the most significant components of the Code is that students are central to the process – they comprise the campus judicial board as well as the honor council and initiate and conduct inquiries into alleged offenses (often brought to light by other students).

Queens University of Charlotte's pursuit of honor through the Honor Code was featured during a news broadcast on Charlotte's FOX 18. Perhaps most impressive is the fact that it was our freshmen who were interviewed and spoke of the importance of the Honor Code to the campus culture.



An Excerpt from “Choosing Honor”

by Dr. Lynn Morton, Assistant Professor of English

The honor code is NOT a rule that you must follow. Often, when we talk about honor codes, we use the language of obligation. In other words, we say, “You MUST NOT cheat on exams,” and you SHOULD NEVER plagiarize...” There's nothing wrong with that language by itself, and duty certainly isn't a bad thing, but tonight I'd like to offer another way of thinking about it... I submit to you that this is wrong thinking, and wrong language. We should use the language of freedom, because you are free to choose.

“But Dr. Morton,” you might say, “we most certainly are NOT free to choose. We are required to be here at this event, and we are required to listen to you, by the way, or at least have the appearance of listening to you. And we are required to sign this pledge.”

And I would respond, “You have already chosen, and you are free to choose again.”

How's that?

First, you chose Queens University of Charlotte. This institution is different from many others out there, in many ways, as you will find for yourself...

You chose a university in which people will take a personal interest in you, in your development both intellectually and personally. The faculty and staff here will care about you, and by the time you leave here, you will care about many of them.

READ MORE ONLINE

www.queens.edu/choosinghonor

Enrollment Growth Continues

by Brian Ralph,
Vice President for Enrollment Management

*Look! It's moving. It's alive. It's alive...
It's alive, it's moving... IT'S ALIVE!*
(Colin Clive, *Frankenstein*, 1931)

Yes, indeed campus is alive and moving. Queens University of Charlotte welcomed its 2nd largest first-year class in 25 years – and our traditional College of Arts and Sciences enrollment increased from 622 students in 2000 to 803 this past fall (a 29 percent increase).

While we did not achieve the goal of 300, this class is fantastic! The student clubs and organizations are vibrant, and we had record attendance at the Boar's Head Banquet in December. Students are making a difference in the classroom, in the community, and through athletics, music and other activities.

One of the highlights of this year's entering class was the large number of students enrolled in the Professional Golf Management Program (PGM). In the Fall 2003, we enrolled just four new PGM students – in Fall 2004, we enrolled 19 new students – and we expect that trend to continue.

Discover Queens, our open house program, had the highest number of attendees for any fall program in the University's history – with 120 students and their families visiting campus to learn about all that Queens has to offer.

In addition, enrollment management successfully addressed the challenge of assisting students and their families through the affordability and payment issues for a high-quality Queens experience. Starting January 2005 all Queens students were assigned a student financial services counselor. This counselor works with each student from the first time the student explores scholarships and applies for aid as a senior in high school – through the payment plan and billing process and finally closing out his or her account and graduating from Queens. This new department, titled Student Financial Services, is the result of combining the former financial aid operation and student accounts.



Campus Dining At Its Best

by Rich "The Food Dude" Yokeley,
General Manager, Campus Dining

Campus Dining Services and Queens firmly believe that today's hard working students should be rewarded with a dining experience that makes eating on campus palate-pleasing, healthy and entertaining.

Based on the feedback from our Food Advisory Committee and Customer Satisfaction Surveys, a lot of exciting changes have taken place over the past year to include:

- Continuous Dining in Young Dining Hall
- Late Night Dining
- Additional Meal Plans
- Additional Munch Money on Meal Plans
- Commuter Block Plans
- New Executive Chef
- Website for Menus, Catering and Special Promotions

We work with Student Life and Residence Life to create unique events that coincide with students' dining experience. Programs include: Welcome Back Cookout, Oktoberfest, Boar's Head Dinner, a Wellness Week and our 2nd Annual Spring Fling blowout!

We hope that you take time to visit the Campus Dining website at www.queens.edu/dining. It contains many features including special coupons for use at our facilities, contests, a comment board and an online dietician to answer questions about nutritional needs.

(Top): Rich "The Food Dude" Yokeley fixing Bananas Foster for students during OctoberFest.

(Bottom): Thanksgiving luncheon is enjoyed by students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community.

The feedback we get prompts us to make these changes, and we hope you enjoy your dining experience when you visit campus. Without your continued support, our program would not be where it is today. Your advice and comments are our foundation to making the students experience memorable with Campus Dining.

