Keeping the Faith
Gen Y and the Search for Spirituality

Also
Professors Reed and Thompson Reflect on History
McCull Students Win with Penguin Case
Knight School Outreach
Explaining William James
Women’s Volleyball Soars
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 725 MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2012!

On May 30, 2012, Queens celebrated the largest graduating class in our 155-year history. We are honored to share this special time with our brand-new alumni, their friends and family.

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- 26.06 trees preserved for the future
- 11,069 gal wastewater flow saved
- 1,225 lbs solid waste not generated
- 2,412 lbs net greenhouse gases prevented
- 18,458,685 BTUs energy not consumed
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## Past Present

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**Retiring History Professors**

Charlie Reed and Bill Thompson share their thoughts on history, both personal and professional.

*Interview by Jenn Q. Goddu*

## Keeping the Faith

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**Gen Y and the Search for Spirituality**

*By Vanessa Willis*

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**On the Cover:**

Danielle Phillips ’13 holds a Bible. The story on Gen Y and faith begins on page 18.
Dear Alumni and Friends,

The feature article in this edition of *Queens Magazine* focuses on how faith impacts our work here on campus and beyond. As you read that article, you will learn that the Presbyterian Church founded Queens in 1857. Way back then, the seeds of faith were planted and they are being nourished still today. You’ll read about our campus chapel service. Although it’s no longer required, students and faculty gather weekly to worship God together. You’ll read about the Guatemala mission trip and other acts of service by our students, faculty and staff—evidence that we are living out our Christian motto, “Not to be served, but to serve.”

You will also read that Queens has always been led by presidents who have been committed to their faith. In fact, prior to 1950, all Queens’ presidents were ministers who served both the church and college. In more recent history, our presidents have been laypersons in the Presbyterian Church. But all of our presidents, throughout our 155-year history, have lived out their commitment to the Christian faith by serving others at the church and beyond.

As I have shared with many over the last 10 years of my service as president, I never felt that I was “hired” to lead Queens, but rather that I was “called” to do so. Being called to a role such as this is both a profound blessing and a sober reminder of the responsibility one has accepted. In Ephesians 4:1, Paul tells us to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.” To walk worthily of your calling is both intimidating, for we fall short, and exhilarating, for we find the grace we need.

I’m grateful that my walk is here, with Queens.

Best wishes,

Pamela Davies, PhD
President

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Your Letters

*In the winter 2011 issue, Queens Magazine carried a profile of Betty Johnson Gray ’51. Gray’s singing career, which began as a child with her parents and brothers in the Johnson Family Singers, continues today. Her latest CD—a collaboration with her two talented daughters—was released last summer.*

*After the magazine came out, Rev. Coit Auten ’48 saw the article and commented on it to his daughter, Kathy Roberts. Auten was Queens’ first male graduate—he enrolled after World War II on the GI Bill following service as a B-25 tail gunnerman for the Army Air Corps.*

*His comments gave his daughter Kathy an idea, so she contacted Gray with a special request. Below is an edited account of their exchanges on December 19.*

Ms. Johnson,

On May 26, 1942, you sang at the wedding of my parents, Coit and Ann Auten, at Thrift Baptist Church in the Paw Creek community outside of Charlotte. Many times in my life they have told people, “Betty Johnson of the Johnson Family sang at our wedding.” You hold a special place in their lives.

Several weeks ago Dad received his alumni mail from Queens and was so excited to see the story regarding your CD with your daughters. As soon as he showed it to me, I ordered it from Amazon to give my parents for Christmas. I cannot wait until Christmas morning to see his face when he opens his gift. He will be 90 years old on January 15.

I would love if you could respond with an email that I could give them along with the CD. It would mean so much to them. Thank you for being a part of their special day.

Merry Christmas,

Kathy Roberts, Heath Springs, South Carolina

Ms. Johnson,

On May 26, 1942, you sang at the wedding of my parents, Coit and Ann Auten, at Thrift Baptist Church in the Paw Creek community outside of Charlotte. Many times in my life they have told people, “Betty Johnson of the Johnson Family sang at our wedding.” You hold a special place in their lives.

I would love if you could respond with an email that I could give them along with the CD. It would mean so much to them. Thank you for being a part of their special day.

Merry Christmas,

Betty Johnson Gray ’51, Haverhill, New Hampshire
Queens student Michal Smolen is not your typical freshman. While other students might be spending their free time playing video games or lounging around the residence halls, Smolen is likely maneuvering a one-man kayak around a series of hanging poles while dodging fiery river rapids.

He is an Olympic hopeful in the sport of the kayak slalom. Originally from Poland, the 19-year-old student comes from a family of accomplished athletes. His mother was a professional handball player on the Polish national team, and his father, now his coach, was a member of the Polish national kayaking team.

Smolen made the USA Canoe/Kayak Team last year during the trials held at the US National Whitewater Center in Charlotte. The youngest member of the team, he won competitions on two of the three days. “It’s quite an honor to train with past Olympians,” he says.

In the April trials, he placed second overall, which secured his spot on the US national team competing for the World Cup this summer in Cardiff, Wales. However, he’ll miss the Olympic Games in London because he is in the final stages of becoming an American citizen. He’s not deterred; he hopes to represent the United States at the 2016 Olympic Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Assistant Director of Admissions Leah Beth Parsons helped Smolen through the admissions process last year while he was deciding on which college to attend. “Queens was a good fit for him because he needed a school that was built upon relationships,” she says. As Smolen explains, “It’s important for me to have a good relationship with my professors, since I constantly travel. Queens allows me to have that relationship.” Then he adds with a grin, “Having a Starbucks on campus was also pretty appealing.”

Shawn Bowers Buxton ’01, MFA ’04, his CORE 112 professor and academic advisor, says he was a spirited participant in last fall’s classes. “In CORE, we really focus on creating communities, and Michal was often a big contributor. He made it evident that he was a student first, and an athlete second.”

Smolen, a biochemistry major, admits that balancing his sport while completing a college degree is difficult. “Many athletes I personally know have sacrificed years of school in order to spend more time focused on their kayaking careers,” he says. “For me, the goal is to treat my athletic and academic careers as equals, in order to have another career locked in for the future.”

Stacey Kammerdiener
**Briefly Noted**

**FILMMAKER SPEAKS**
*If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front*, by filmmaker Marshall Curry, son of Queens alumna and trustee Beth Rivers Curry ’63, was nominated for a 2012 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Queens hosted a screening of the film and a discussion with Curry in November 2011.

**BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR**
Ann Caulkins, publisher of The Charlotte Observer, was recognized as the 2011 BusinessWoman of the Year at an annual luncheon hosted by Queens on March 7. Caulkins is the 27th recipient of the award, which was established in 1986.

**HIGH MARKS FOR STUDENT EXPERIENCE**
In August 2011, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) ranked Queens well above other NSSE schools in five benchmark areas that measure student experience. Both freshmen and senior students rank their respective schools.

**VIOLINS OF HOPE**
The Violins of Hope were featured in a concert in Dana Auditorium on April 17. The 18 violins were recovered from the Holocaust and restored by Israeli master violin-maker Amnon Weinstein. Queens Artist-in-Residence Paul Nitsch was among the performers. The event was hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences.

**SACS ACCREDITATION**
In January Queens received reaffirmation of its accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Accreditation is a rigorous process that occurs every 10 years.

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**Cornel West**

**THE OFFICE OF DIVERSITY & INCLUSION PRESENTS A LECTURE BY THE PROMINENT TEACHER, AUTHOR AND MEDIA PERSONALITY**

Speaking to a sold-out crowd in Dana Auditorium on March 26, Cornel West spoke about race, the state of education in the United States and the importance of role models for young Americans. The well-known historian and social commentator, who is a Princeton professor, challenged the audience to uphold the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., by embracing truth, love and justice.

West, who has written 19 books and appeared in numerous films and documentaries, including *The Matrix*, has taught at Harvard, Yale and the University of Paris. Speaking on the importance of education, he remarked, “Queens possesses deep, intellectual traditions, forcing us to raise unsettling questions.” Teachers, he noted, should “help students find their voice.”

He devoted much time to answering questions from the audience, going late into the evening. The lecture was sponsored by the Office of Diversity & Inclusion’s Diversity Lecture & Cultural Series.

© tacey Kammerdiener
William James

PHILOSOPHY PROFESSOR NORRIS FREDERICK HAS SPENT YEARS STUDYING THE IDEAS AND INFLUENCE OF WILLIAM JAMES. HERE, HE ANSWERS OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS HISTORIC FIGURE

Norris Frederick, James A. Jones Chair of Philosophy and Religion, has had many irons in the fire at Queens. He is currently director of the Center for Ethics and Religion and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Religion; in the past, he has been a dean and vice president as well as a recipient of the university’s highest teaching honor.

What is less known about Frederick is his academic interest in William James (1842-1910), an original thinker who made major contributions in several fields. James’ ideas in *The Varieties of Religious Experience* (1902) shook the worldview of both academia and the general public of his era. We asked Frederick to introduce us to this extraordinary historical figure.

Q: William James taught at Harvard and published works in psychology, comparative religions, philosophy and education. It sounds like James had a hard time making up his mind! Or was he just interested in and knowledgeable about lots of things?

A: Some of both. He certainly had a hard time making up his mind about a career: he was an artist, and then studied medicine, which led to his teaching biology at Harvard, and then later he taught psychology and philosophy.

Q: As a philosopher, why are you interested in William James?

A: My view is that philosophy isn’t just a dialogue guided by deep and clear thinking; ultimately it is about a way of life, of living a better life informed by philosophic dialogue. No philosopher captures this better than James, who wrote: “The whole function of philosophy ought to be to find out what definite difference it will make to you and me....”

Q: One of your presentations at the annual conference of the American Philosophical Society has the intriguing title, “William James and Serpent-Handlers in Those North Carolina Mountains.” What in the world is the connection between James and this bizarre religious sect?

A: James had a great love of hiking. In 1891, he visited western North Carolina and hiked Mount Mitchell. He wrote a famous essay about his experience with the mountain people, “On a Certain Blindness in Human Beings,” in which he recounted how he had misjudged the Carolina mountaineers. He looked at them from his New England point of view instead of trying to “get inside” their experience. Quoting Robert Lewis Stevenson, he said that “to miss the joy of what people do is to miss everything.”

He had a great curiosity about people and their experiences.

Q: You’ve also written, “William James, *Talks to Teachers on Psychology*, and ‘Healthy-Mindedness.’” How would you explain that to Oprah?

A: Whoa! Once I got over my fear, I’d explain the core of his advice to teachers: first, get inside the world of each of your students, and secondly, teach by encouraging students to do something under the notion of the good instead of under the notion of the bad. He was an innovator of what today is called positive psychology.

Q: Was James himself a good teacher?

A: One of the best. A student wrote of James, “He was the most inspiring teacher I ever had... rating his pupils as fellow-students with himself, and giving to our crude opinions a weight that greatly encouraged us.” His teaching continues to inspire me.

Lasure Prince

From psychology to education, William James (above) influenced academia.
own one point in the biggest game of the season, there was only one thing that volleyball Head Coach Lettie Wilkes wanted to tell her team. Taking a time out, she gathered the group of players she was still getting to know in her first year at Queens and stated as fact: “You are not going to lose this match.” Her intensity told each player there was no way that she was wrong. Two points later, the game was over and the Royals were advancing to the conference semifinals with the best season in school history.

It was just one of 32 games in a three-month long season that began in September 2011, but it captured a determination and grit displayed all season. Beginning with grueling daily practices and high-intensity scrimmages during the dog days of late summer and culminating with their 23-win season, this team was built to go further than any previous squad.

Wilkes and Assistant Coach Emily Carrara not only created a cohesive unit on the court, but they also created the feeling of family within the team. This was no small feat, as the 16-player team consisted of young women hailing from across the United States.

In December after finishing second place in Conference Carolinas, the team embarked on an off season full of workouts including 5:30 a.m. weight lifting and individual practice sessions aimed at helping each player take her game to the next level. The team is striving to continue its upward swing to build a winning reputation in both the conference and the region. One thing remains clear: they will not be satisfied until they reach the top.
A great professor and fried pickles—that’s what led three McColl School of Business students to win an international case competition. For the second consecutive year, Queens MBA students placed first in the Baylor Entrepreneurship Student Case Writing Competition. The event was co-hosted by the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, the largest independent, professional, academic organization in the world dedicated to advancing entrepreneurship.

Amanda Cash, Christian Melvin, and Miranda Reynolds wrote a business case about a landmark Charlotte restaurant, The Penguin, famous for its shamefully delicious fried pickles. The winners credit Professor Cathy Anderson for introducing the case in a law and ethics class. “She guided our case team to deliver a final case that would be stimulating and academically relevant for students today,” says Reynolds. Melvin adds, “We were interested in the case because it is real life—just average people starting up a restaurant.”

Koutroumanis gives the McColl students the ultimate compliment. “I actually asked and received permission from the authors to use this case in my Introduction to Entrepreneurship class this semester,” he says. Business school students will be learning about intellectual property and fried pickles for years to come.

Jennifer Johnson

Making a Case for The Penguin

PRESENTING A BUSINESS CASE ABOUT A LOCAL RESTAURANT, THREE MBA STUDENTS WIN FIRST PLACE IN AN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

MBA students Amanda Cash (left), Christian Melvin (second from left) and Miranda Reynolds (right) celebrate their first place victory with Professor Cathy Anderson (second from right).
Kathleen Wile intends to teach English to secondary school students, yet during her senior year at Queens she has already been the secretary of war under Harry Truman, the prime minister of East Germany before reunification and a structural engineer at NASA.

“I have learned that history is much more complicated than people give it credit for, and that the majority of the people who are involved in a situation don’t know what’s going on underneath all of the layers,” she says.

Critical Thought Symposium is a new, yearlong course in which students play roles in a complex situation requiring a crucial decision. The simulations are based on historical events or hypothetical situations that illuminate real-life issues. According to Professor Norris Frederick, the coordinator of the symposium, the interdisciplinary course encourages students to think “critically, ethically and creatively.” Eight professors oversee the course, which meets monthly.

Ten students are selected through an application process. Prior to assuming roles, students meet with faculty to learn background information on the personalities they will portray. They spend a month independently researching their roles prior to the role-play.

“It really makes you think on your feet,” says Kelcey Baker, who is majoring in French and international studies. During the fall semester she portrayed former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. In October, she had the opportunity to meet Rice when she visited campus prior to giving a lecture sponsored by The Learning Society. Her role as Rice taught her that leaders have to make difficult decisions with no clearly defined outcomes. “Sometimes you have to make a tough call,” says Baker.

PROFESSORS:
- Cathy Anderson, Wireman Professor of Business
- Mohammed el-Nawawy, associate professor and Knight–Crane Endowed Chair in the Knight School of Communication
- Norris Frederick, James A. Jones Chair of Philosophy and Religion
- Karen Geiger, McColl School of Business professor
- Mark Kelso, Chair of the Department of Political Science and International Studies
- Randy Kincaid, McColl School of Business professor
- Greg Pillar, Chair of the Department of Environmental Science
- Alexa Royden, assistant professor of political science

ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE:
- Research and write a biography of the assigned character in each case study, summarizing and analyzing the person’s role in an actual dilemma from the past or the present in which there is no clear, correct course of action.
- Assemble a research portfolio compiling historical background of the case scenario event.
- Prepare two pages anticipating the attitudes and actions of other players in the scenario.

To learn more, visit www.queens.edu/Critical-Thought-Symposium.
A Passion for Students

PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR CHERIE CLARK WINS THE HUNTER-HAMILTON LOVE OF TEACHING AWARD

What’s in a name? A lot, if you ask students of Professor Cherie Clark. The Charles A. Dana Professor of Psychology has worked hard to know each of her students by name, and beyond their names, their stories. Since coming to Queens in August of 1992, that adds up to a lot of students. Twenty years’ worth.

In May, she was awarded the Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award, the highest faculty award given by Queens University of Charlotte and accompanied by a $15,000 gift.

Enthusiasm and joy, two hallmarks of Clark’s teaching style, are key qualities the committee looks for in selecting a Hunter Hamilton honoree. Rodney Lee Camren ’03 summed up his anticipation about her classes this way: “Her classes were the ones I would run to, and not because I was late.” Lively discussions of controversial topics and Q&A are some of Clark’s teaching tools, drawing in students from a wide range of majors. “She has a love of learning that is contagious,” wrote Jaclyn Jones ’00. “Students who are not even interested in psychology want to be a part of a ‘Dr. Clark class’ just to experience what the psychology majors are constantly bragging about.”

Clark has accomplished something rare in the teaching world—a personal connection that inspires. “I continue to nominate Cheri each year,” wrote Katey Baruth ’98. After graduating from Queens, she wanted to pursue higher education but lacked the confidence because of learning disabilities. “I sent her many emails detailing the reasons why I would fail, each to be deflated by Cheri’s honesty, perspective and reassurance,” she wrote. She now holds a doctorate in counseling psychology and is engaged in a profession she loves.

Clothing may be a student’s first introduction to Clark’s colorful personality—he’s known for wearing tie-dyed dresses or scarves and for dressing up at holidays. “She’s fun,” says Lynn Morton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. “You can tell just by the way she dresses she’s fun, creative, very original in a good way.” Morton has worked with Clark since her early days at Queens and says that she’s a demanding academician.

Her emphasis on research is extraordinary. Unlike undergraduates at some larger universities, psychology majors at Queens get hands-on experience in research. Lauren Weathers ’11 wrote that research projects under Clark’s tutelage made her a more competitive applicant for doctoral programs. With Clark’s guidance, she began conducting research projects as a sophomore, something she later learned was an anomaly at the bigger schools. During one conference, students from a well-known university confided, “They had to fight tooth and nail to be acknowledged by their professors and had to fight even harder to be allowed to conduct research,” she wrote in her nomination.

Clark’s generous focus is not confined to students. Professor of Art Jayne Johnson, chair of the Fine Arts Division, wrote, “Cherie has been involved in a wide range of service projects working with the police to get junior high students off the streets, working with at-risk high school students at Olympic High, working with the aging at Sharon Towers.” She’s been on numerous missions trips to Guatemala and has facilitated the university’s involvement with Room in the Inn. “She is a unifying force for good at Queens,” wrote Johnson, “like none I have seen in my 21 years of teaching here. She is above all, a passionate teacher, a teacher’s teacher, a reluctant leader, a friend and advocate to all in need.”

Laurie Prince
INVESTING IN QUEENS

Love Aspires

USING MATCHING FUNDS FROM THE BYRUM CHALLENGE, THE WIDOWER AND FRIENDS OF SHIRLEY TISON WARD ’49 ESTABLISH A PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Just before Christmas of 1945, Captain Marion “Moe” Ward returned from three years of service in World War II as an air force navigator on a B17 bomber. A year and a half earlier, he had been shot down over Munich and captured, spending nine months as a German prisoner of war before Germany’s surrender in May 1945. When the war finally ended in August, he knew he would be going home.

Moe was ready to start college at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in January. The last thing he wanted to do on Christmas night was to go on a blind date, but his friend Eddie insisted. Eddie already had a date, and she would only go if Eddie could find a guy for her friend, Shirley Tison. Moe reluctantly agreed, and the foursome went out for burgers and a movie.

Shirley was a freshman at Queens, where she had quickly established herself as a leader. In the coming years she would become editor of the Blues student newspaper and serve as vice president of student government. She would be on the Honor Council and the May Court.

“As soon as we dropped the girls off,” Moe says, “I told Eddie that I’d just met the girl I was going to marry. I never dated another girl after that night. That’s called serendipity—you open a door that you didn’t even know was there, and you find the prize of a lifetime.”

Moe was true to his word and Shirley were married in September 1949, just after she graduated. Queens’ President Hunter Blakely performed the ceremony, and the couple spent 62 joyful years together. Over the next three decades, Moe’s career with the air force took them to 15 new homes from Omaha, Nebraska, at Strategic Air Command, to Washington, DC, at the Pentagon. At each, Shirley’s natural leadership brought her responsibility, from leading the 800-member Officers’ Wives Club to hostess for the families of foreign officers. “Once she had $100 to hold a reception for 80 guests, with all of the dietary restrictions of many cultures, and it was perfect,” Moe remembers with admiration. “She was a versatile and talented lady, wasn’t she?”

In 1966, the couple adopted a five-week-old girl, whom they named Tison. Soon after, Moe was called to serve in Vietnam. Shirley and her beloved daughter went to live in Charlotte with her family, a separation Moe says she bore with courage and grace.

When Moe retired from the air force, they returned home to Charlotte in 1973. Moe led the city’s strategic plan and then worked as head of marketing for Odell Associates, an architectural firm, while Shirley invested her leadership skills in local organizations that included Wing Haven Gardens, the Mint Museum of Art, the Charlotte Symphony and Queens. Moe’s job required travel, and he often took Shirley with him so they could see the world together.

In September 2011, Shirley passed away. Moe misses her daily, but says, “My gratitude for our life together is so much greater than my grief.” He began his quest to make sure Shirley’s legacy was remembered. Calling Adelaide Anderson Davis ’61, associate vice president of alumni relations at Queens, he told her he wanted to establish a scholarship in Shirley’s name because she had loved Queens, and the school had helped her to grow into the woman she became.

Serendipity struck once again. Adelaide shared that a new initiative, the Byrum Endowed Scholarship Challenge, could enable Moe to double his investment with a 1:1 match (see sidebar). Colonel Ward accepted the challenge and set his sights on a Presidential Scholarship, which requires a $600,000 endowment. The prestigious scholarship is merit based and covers full tuition. He would contribute most of $300,000, and the Byrum Challenge Fund would match it. He approached Shirley’s closest friends to ask for their support, and they gladly joined the effort.

Moe and Shirley Ward’s connection to Queens continues: their daughter Tison married Chris Carmack MBA ’03, and granddaughter Christina Carmack graduated in the class of 2011.

The new scholarship honors the memory of this extraordinary alumna of Queens, ensuring that her legacy of leadership and talent will endure for generations.

Eleanor Hatcher

Byrum Endowed Scholarship Challenge

In June 2011, Porter B. Byrum gave a historic gift of $20.9 million to Queens to support endowed scholarships. As a part of that gift, he established a $5 million matching fund to create the Byrum Endowed Scholarship Challenge. Through October 2013, or until the fund is expended, new endowed scholarship commitments of $50,000 or more may be matched on a 1:1 basis.

To learn more about this opportunity to double your scholarship legacy, please visit www.queens.edu/byrum-challenge or contact Adelaide Anderson Davis ’61 at 704-337-2329 or davisa@queens.edu.
Moe and Shirley Tison Ward ’49 at a party in 1950.
Keeping up with changes in media can be daunting

Tweet? Like? Post? How do we evaluate content for accuracy and bias? How does a modern citizen interface with the digital age? As part of a $5.75 million grant, the James L. Knight School of Communication at Queens is leading community workshops that teach digital and media literacy. It’s a pioneering step, putting Queens at the forefront of educating the public about technology and citizenship. Here’s a quick look at the impact of the grant so far.

**DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP BY THE NUMBERS**

1. **ACCESS, COMPREHEND AND SHARE INFORMATION ONLINE**
2. **ANALYZE MEDIA MESSAGES IN A VARIETY OF FORMS**
3. **CREATE MEDIA CONTENT USING “NEW-TO-YOU” DIGITAL TOOLS**
4. **CRITICALLY AND ETHICALLY REFLECT ON YOUR OWN PRACTICES**
5. **TAKE ACTION AND PARTICIPATE AS A DIGITAL CITIZEN**

**Social Media Bootcamp** brought together 10 local nonprofit organizations and 10 of Queens’ brightest students

**BASICS, BRANDING, AND ANALYTICS:** A primer for organizations that frequently “make do” with fewer resources and an opportunity for Queens students to do good in their communities

**Community members** attended workshops hosted by the Knight School of Communication in Spring 2012

**Volunteer Hours** logged in the community by students, faculty, and staff facilitating with Knight School workshops

**WORKSHOP TOPICS INCLUDE:** Digital media sessions in Facebook, Prezi, Final Cut Pro, GarageBand and online safety

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PAST PRESENT

RETIRING HISTORY PROFESSORS CHARLIE REED AND BILL THOMPSON SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON HISTORY, BOTH PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL

INTERVIEW BY JENN Q. GODDU
THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT WILL LOSE TWO TREASURES THIS YEAR WHEN PROFESSORS BILL THOMPSON AND CHARLIE REED RETIRE.

Thompson came to Queens in 1975; one of his significant contributions to the university has been to develop the study abroad program into what is now the John Belk International Program, catapulting Queens to one of the top universities in the country for study abroad programs.

Reed joined Queens in 1991, arriving with a national teaching award. In 2000 he was named North Carolina Professor of the Year. He has taught in both the College of Arts and Sciences and in the McColl School of Business.

The colleagues met recently in Burwell Parlor for a convivial interview discussing their personal history, their teaching history and the importance of history in a liberal arts education.

DID YOU ALWAYS INTEND TO STUDY HISTORY?

THOMPSON I have always been interested in history, but I don’t think I saw it as a career option until I realized how much I missed it. After I finished pre-med at Davidson, I ended up thinking I would probably go to law school. [First,] I worked at Wachovia Bank and Trust in a managerial trainee program. That was just awful.

So, I went to graduate school in history, finally. When I finished [at Vanderbilt], the job market was horrific. I went to work [writing editorials] for The Charlotte Observer. I was actually offered the job but only if I was willing to give up all ideas of teaching. I tried very hard to do that, but I just couldn’t. I did finally get a [teaching] job at Stetson, and then here.

REED Alec McGeachy at Davidson really turned me on to history. At the time, I was raising hell and carrying on, and I didn’t realize how affected by his integrity as a scholar I was until later. When I got to Oxford, several people knew of him through his doctoral thesis, even though he had never published. His determination to keep up with developments in ancient history impressed me no end.

YOUR UNDERGRADUATE YEARS AT DAVIDSON OVERLAPTED. DID YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?

THOMPSON I knew of Charlie, but he didn’t know me. Charlie was a very colorful figure, and to large numbers of students, Charlie was a hero. He was everything that they wished they could be.

REED That’s very kindly put. My parents did not agree with that.
WHY DID HISTORY APPEAL TO YOU?

THOMPSON I am fascinated by the connections from one generation to the next and by all of the complexity in the human experience. History is without any question the very best of all possible ways to try to understand that experience. If one is a historian, one develops a historical perspective that influences everything you do.

REED That’s extremely well put. [Historians] see things in a very different perspective than people who don’t know much about history. Nowadays, an awful lot of people don’t know much about history. There is a large-scale cultural amnesia that we find in our students and in our colleagues and that persists to an even greater degree in the general public.

THOMPSON This is one of the great problems of our time, this lack of historical knowledge and perspective.

WHAT CHANGES HAVE YOU NOTED IN YOUR STUDENTS?

REED I can’t identify clearly and distinctly changes in the students or their perspective; that’s probably because of myopia.

THOMPSON When you’re talking about the best ones 35 years ago and the best ones in the last few years, I’m not sure there are a lot of differences. [They] share the same curiosity and eagerness. Taken more generally, I think students now are less willing to undertake the types of reading assignments that I would have given 30 or 35 years ago. Students are why we both love doing what we do, by the way. We don’t like teaching to an empty classroom.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS ON CAMPUS?

REED Since I taught in the CORE program and in other parts of Queens, I guess I just took the department for granted. In a larger school, the department is one’s university. The people one knows are there, and often one knows very few people from outside there. That is far from the case at Queens.

THOMPSON We really have close colleagues across the campus. One of the things that I was fortunate to do with Dick Goode, I think starting in the early eighties, was to create an interdisciplinary humanities course that eventually became the CORE program. We launched it with an art historian named Ben Pfingstag and a religion professor named Beth Johnson, “team teaching” in the genuine sense of the word. The
four of us were in there together all of the time. That was the most marvelous thing. Have you been able to do that Charlie, genuine team teaching?

REED For nine years at Virginia Tech. It was just wonderful. A lot of what I do, I stole from someone in another field.

THOMPSON Let me add that Charlie did very important work in improving the CORE Program when he came to Queens. That is one of the ways in which we overlap outside of the history department starting and then later in improving this significant program. Historians are particularly adept in this sort of thing because of their breadth of perspective and their emphasis upon context.

HOW HAS YOUR PERSPECTIVE OF HISTORY CHANGED FROM TEACHING IT?

REED Not much, I guess. You’re in the unenviable position, as a historian, of knowing a hell of a lot more than your students.

THOMPSON If I have to prepare something to teach, that is a very different kettle of fish than just reading over material or enjoying reading it. I have to engage in an analysis that is much more demanding. It is so vast and so complex that you can’t know it all, but you don’t want to appear to be the village doofus.

One of the healthiest things you can do is be able to [tell] a student, “You know, I don’t know.” Once you can say that, you have [the] security or confidence that is really important to enjoying life teaching history. When I first started teaching, there were lots of times I would be asked something, and my first reaction would be terror. Being a good historian is really a matter of seasoning.

REED Most historians don’t ripen young.

THOMPSON It’s almost a shame isn’t it, Charlie? You’re just getting really good when it’s time to go.

WHAT COURSE HAS BEEN YOUR FAVORITE ONE TO TEACH AT QUEENS?

THOMPSON I really have liked most of the things that I have taught. If I came back in another life, I probably would not come back in another profession. I have taught for about 20 years a course called “Ideas and Values in Conflict” which I have loved teaching. It was originally titled “Voices from Hell,” but the curriculum committee made me take that title off. I have had a sense of accomplishment from that because [students] seem to have enjoyed seeing very momentous intellectual and cultural challenges. I [also worked for 17 years] on the international experience program; that was an all-absorbing endeavor. We developed it very much by the seat of our pants.
Reed
Bill developed that, he’s too modest to say this, into a program unlike any other in the country. It sends virtually every junior abroad for much of May.

Thompson
That was Billy Wireman’s vision. Before we had the program, you just did study tours on your own and students paid for it themselves. Bob Whalen and I had taken a group of students into central Europe and the students came back and were talking to Billy a lot about it. He said, “You know, we ought to do this for all of our students. Can you set something up?”

So, I taught two courses for awhile and then I cut back to one course. Charlie, do you remember taking me down to a doctor’s office one day when I thought I was having a heart attack or a stroke? I came back and said, “I need to cut back some.” So, for a period of 10 years I taught one course each term [while directing the International Exchange Program] and I loved it.

The last two courses I developed were the Nuremberg Trial course and a Watergate course. I love those two courses because the material and the personalities involved were absolutely fascinating.

Reed
I’ve enjoyed “Social and Political Theory” more than anything else. The chance to read the great social political theorists like Hobbes or Mill or Weber or Aristotle or Plato yields never-ending riches that you can talk about with students. So, the discussion is ready made. The class is just a process of trying to come to terms with what the author is saying, and that process never ends. Most students don’t have a penchant for the abstract. But a few do, and I am impressed in many cases by their conclusions. I’ve learned a lot from students, particularly when reading the older books.

What Does the Study of History Add to a Modern Education?

Reed
Now, we’ve come full circle. It depends. The study of history at a big university and the study of history at a small liberal arts college are different. In a liberal arts college, we’re more inclined to use history to illumine the present, very often by contrast. I hope that in studying Athenian democracy, [students] come to have a better idea of American democracy.

If you were having this conversation with big university faculty, it would be totally different. They’d be quite happy to stick to history. It’s obvious that, very gently, we’ve told you we’re not. Our notion of history is much broader than that. We value our historical training enormously, but we think that there’s a lot more to intellectual inquiry than the discipline of history as it is conventionally defined.

Editor’s Note: This interview was edited for space and clarity.
Some may wonder how an institution that centers around young people continues to grow from those roots in a time when society does not always consider religious life to be important or "cool." It may be surprising, but not much has changed in regard to what drives many students to lead a life of faith.

A Time for Exploration

Diane Mowrey, chaplain at Queens for 21 years, is an ordained Presbyterian minister. She has a gentle, loving presence and is generous with her wisdom.

"College students are often at a fun, explorative phase regarding their faith when they arrive," Mowrey says. "For a lot of students, when they get to college they're starting to think about what they believe versus what they have been taught to believe. Some may wonder how an institution that centers around young people continue to grow from those roots in a time when society does not always consider religious life to be important or "cool." It may be surprising, but not much has changed in regard to what drives many students to lead a life of faith.

Mowrey observes that in the last two decades, the main change she has seen is that more students come in declaring themselves as "not affiliated" to a religion. The ones who identify as a Christian faith tradition lean more toward a non-denominational approach. The ones who identify as a Christian faith tradition lean more toward a non-denominational approach. The ones who identify as a Christian faith tradition lean more toward a non-denominational approach.

First-year student Ronnie Compton, 19, from Durham, North Carolina, is one of those students.

"I grew up in the church and always considered God and my faith to be the foremost thing in my life," he says. "I didn't expect that I would start leading my life any differently when I got to college."

Queens has always been a birthplace of ideas, a hub for service and a cradle for religious life. Early generations of Queens women were encouraged to lead noble lives and serve others.

In an age of skepticism, strong communities of students sustain Queens' Presbyterian roots.
Some people think this is a time to discover who they are. But I know who I am in terms of my foundation, so I haven’t been that challenged socially, like getting lost in partying and being distracted from the real reasons I’m here.”

Compton has a 1,000-watt smile and a love for the Lord that is evident, whether he’s leading the award-winning Gospel Choir at Queens or attending Bible study through Cru, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ.

Although the Presbyterian heritage is embraced at Queens, religious beliefs span the spectrum. Queens has religious life groups for Christians, Jews and Muslims. Compton says that in this eclectic environment, he expresses his faith through everyday behavior rather than by pushing his views on others.

Mowrey and Alice O’Toole ’07, the director of outreach and fellowship, collaborate on giving students the opportunities they need to explore their faith. Their work focuses on worship, education, outreach and fellowship.

Together with a student group called The Well, they lead worship services on campus on Thursday mornings and shepherd a student-led service on Sunday evenings. The Chapel is also a hub for student religious life groups who have study meetings and gather on weekends to travel to churches, temples and mosques.

Mowrey and O’Toole also lead retreat weekends for students and have recently taught a leadership class for religious life groups on campus. O’Toole says the faith journey unfolds for students much in the same way it did for her.

“When I came to Queens as an undergraduate, I never imagined that I’d be doing this as a career,” O’Toole says. “My goal was to be a journalist and my dream was to work for TIME magazine. Going to Guatemala with Queens, learning from Dr. Mowrey and seeing how service transforms lives all inspired me in ways I can hardly describe,” she explains.

O’Toole has been to Guatemala four times with Mowrey, who launched the annual spring break mission trip more than a decade ago. Before going, participants must take a three-credit-hour class taught by Mowrey that covers the history, culture and language of the third-world country.

Kaitlyn Blakey, a senior from Keller, Texas, went on the Guatemala trip this spring. She had previously been on Queens’ service trips to New Orleans, helping with Hurricane Katrina relief there.

“In just a week in Guatemala I wrote more than 30 pages in my journal,” she says, adjusting a colorful woven headband she brought back. “It will probably take me awhile to process everything that I experi-
enanced there, but I can say that it raised a lot of questions in me, specifically about what kind of life I want to live after college.”

Blakey, 22, was raised in a church-going, Methodist family and says she started feeling a need to question her faith when she was about 16 years old. When she came to Queens she attended chapel services, but after she moved off campus and her tennis training amped up, she stopped making time for it.

“But my journey has also been in my own head, questioning what I believe about things and how I’ve come to those conclusions,” she explains. “The CORE Program inspired me to ask myself what a good person is and how I can live out those ideals.”

Now she attends a Presbyterian church near campus a few Sundays each month.

“I was angst-y and questioned a lot as a teenager, and thankfully, since I’ve been in college, my faith has really flourished,” she says. “Once it became my choice to worship and fellowship in my own way and to have a personal, individual walk with God, it became a living faith, not just part of a routine. I’m grateful for the foundation my parents provided, but I’m also enjoying exploring in my own way.”

In Guatemala she learned she is happiest and feels closest to God when she’s serving others. So now, in addition to applying to several law schools, she’s applying to service organizations, including Americorps. She’s considering an invitation to return to Guatemala to teach English.

“I read something in our Guatemala class that has really stuck with me! Somewhere along the way Christians have stopped living their faith and started studying it instead,’” she says. “My faith has become a living faith, not just a belief system.”

Danielle Phillips also went on the trip with Blakey and says seeing abject poverty and suffering in Guatemala changed the way she thinks about God’s work in the world. The Knoxville, Tennessee, native is an elementary education major. “I had big questions swimming in my head throughout the trip, like, ‘How did God let it get to this bad?’ and ‘When will there finally be peace and resolution?’ Yet she also experienced a new level of faith in God’s love for the world. “I have a newfound passion to love others more deeply and to walk alongside those who are suffering,” she says. “God broke my heart in Guatemala...it has propelled me to live my faith out in action.”

While some students go abroad for international service, others express their faith through service projects on campus. Three or four times each semester, volunteers from across campus gather in Belk Chapel to make more than 2,000 sandwiches for Urban Ministries. The Chapel also hosts Room in the Inn for 10 nights each academic year, providing a safe place to spend the night for about 60 homeless people. “More than 200 people from across campus help in any given year, and it’s just one way that Queens tries to be a good neighbor to the community,” says Mowrey.

**Fellowship is Key**

A lot of the work of The Chapel, O’Toole says, is about “planting seeds.”

During freshman orientation last year, there were several religious life events scheduled, including a Saturday night worship service attended by more than 60 peo-
Kaitlyn Blakey ’12 (left) and Danielle Phillips ’13 (right; also on cover) shared faith and fellowship during the spring missions trip to Guatemala. Both women say the trip was life changing.
ple. “We ask students to speak about what happens to faith during college years, and it’s one of the most moving services of the year,” Mowrey says. The next morning, students carpool to area houses of worship and rejoin for a group breakfast. From their first days at Queens, they are introduced to churches in the Charlotte area.

During the fall, freshmen are invited to a weekend retreat in Montreat, North Carolina. “It’s about creating a sacred space for sacred time, and getting together for fellowship away from campus,” Mowrey says.

The semester concludes with the Moravian Love Feast in Belk Chapel, a beautiful Christmas service that has been shared at Queens since 1973. Students sing hymns while holding beeswax candles and leave the nighttime service still singing as they walk across Burwell Lawn. It’s standing-room-only every year.

But religious life at Queens goes beyond special events and holidays.

“Ours is a ministry of presence,” Mowrey says. “Sometimes our best work is just being there for someone who is going through something that feels too big for them to handle on their own.” Mowrey and O’Toole have counseled homesick students, others whose parents are divorcing and supported faculty and staff who have experienced a crisis or another deep heartache. But Mowrey is quick to point out that chaplains are not campus ministers.

“It’s not my duty to convert anyone,” she says. “We nurture all faiths and respect them all. Religious life at Queens isn’t about evangelism; it’s about helping our community to consider what gives their lives meaning and how they can grow and nurture one another,” she says.

Finding the Life of Faith

Sophomore William Yates, 20, grew up as a preacher’s kid in the Methodist church in Murphy, North Carolina. He is thoughtful and speaks with a gentle but clear conviction. A “What Would Jesus Do?” logo stands out among the bracelets he wears.

“Growing up, our church was our second home, really,” he remembers. “We were there every Wednesday night and every Sunday, and during the days in between whenever there was an event at the church. I am so grateful to my parents for helping me get rooted at such an early age.” Yates, a Teaching Fellows Scholar, says finding a college that offered a robust religious community was vitally important.

“When I was in high school I read that four out of five college students walk away from their faith, and I was determined to be the one who didn’t,” he says, adding that he’s been blessed with a tight group of friends at Queens from a number of religious traditions.

“I am privileged to have friends at Queens who set the bar high in terms of the standards they set for themselves,” he says. “It’s inspiring and humbling.” He and Compton became friends at the beginning of last school year through their involvement in Cru. Yates explains the campus ministry offers weekly group Bible study, prayer and outreach to the campus community. “We have a three R’s approach: reaching the lost, reviving passion and responding to the call of Christ.” It has grown to become one of the largest religious groups on campus.

“We create a sacred space and time for our peers to come and explore,” Yates says. “You can’t just dip your toes in the water and expect to grow. You have to fall off the board at times. As you sink, you find more and more of God, and more and more of you.”

Compton says he’s seen peers lose their way and get back on track after participating in Cru and other religious groups on campus. “Young adults and teenagers are hungry to be loved, and they sometimes look for love in the wrong places,” he says. “Whenever I get to a mindset where I’m feeling something missing in my life, I remember that the void is God. That small voice that’s telling me I’m loved, that it will all be okay—that’s Him, and it’s my prayer that more people my age will hear that voice in themselves and not drown it out with drugs and alcohol, or what other people tell them about themselves.”

He continues, “I see a lot of believers here at Queens, and I truly believe God brought me here.”

Yates says that two years ago, as a first-year student, he began praying for the faith community at Queens to grow.

“Jesus says the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few, and I prayed that God would bring more workers to Queens,” he says. “It was clear the next year that God is answering those prayers because the faith community is incredible in strength and number.”
Achieving the highest class participation in the Queens Fund, more than half of the Class of 1962 returned to Queens to celebrate their 50th reunion on April 20-21.

Alumni Association Awards were presented by President Davies. Pictured from left to right are Sarah Porter Boehmler (representing her brother, Trustee Alex Porter), Fran Mathay ’67, Martha Woods Mallory ’62, Anne LeGrand ’72, Dr. Bill Thompson, President Pamela Davies and Dr. Charles Reed.

Dr. Reed Perkins gives a hard hat tour of the Rogers Science and Health building, currently under construction, to alumni.

Achieving the highest class participation in the Queens Fund, more than half of the Class of 1962 returned to Queens to celebrate their 50th reunion on April 20-21.
Growing up in Beaufort, South Carolina, Will Lee ’94 knew he wanted to attend a small college in a growing and dynamic metro area, because in his words, “The city equaled opportunity to me.” He had no idea just how much opportunity Queens would offer him over the next 20 years. In January, the university bid Will farewell as director of the Office of Traditional Undergraduate Admissions.

Woody O’Cain was the associate director of admissions when Will was admitted in 1990. “It was clear that here was a kid with integrity, intelligence and a deep sense of caring for others,” he says. Woody became both a friend and mentor during Will’s time as a student. Following graduation, Will joined the admissions team as a traveling officer. Will’s desire to travel led him to a variety of adventures, including a position as the associate dean of admissions for Leysin American School in Switzerland. Ultimately he returned to his roots at Queens to lead the undergraduate admissions program. During a decade in that role, he married and had two beautiful daughters. Woody O’Cain served as a groomsman in the wedding, and his daughters were flower girls.

As Will departed to join an educational consulting firm, Woody returned, this time as associate vice president and dean of admissions. In leaving, Will said, “Queens is not as much an organization to me as a family, because I grew up there. At Queens, people make a difference in each other’s lives every day.”

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Eleanor Hatcher, Director of Advancement Communications and Foundation Relations

Goodbye and Hello
AS WILL LEE ’94 DEPARTS, AN OLD FRIEND RETURNS AS DEAN OF ADMISSIONS

Beginning this summer, he will be a pioneer yet again, serving as the first male president of the Queens Alumni Association Board. “I am looking forward to serving during a time when there is so much momentum on campus as new facilities roll out this year,” he says.

Derek is employed by BB&T and is a proud father of two girls, Hadleigh (13) and Olivia (7). An avid tennis player, he spends much of his free time volunteering with Hospice, Junior Achievement, Charlotte Latin and his church’s Upward basketball team.

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Sara Blakeney, Executive Director of Alumni Relations

Breaking Ground
FROM THE FIRST CO-ED CLASS TO THE INCOMING PRESIDENCY OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, DEREK PAINTER ’92 HAS A LIST OF FIRSTS
1932

Nina Norris Blake celebrated her 100th birthday on January 29. She received a four-year scholarship to Queens after graduating from high school in Charlotte. She first taught school in Surry County but then returned to Charlotte. Nina married Eddie Franklin Blake and taught many years at Thomason School. She retired from teaching in 1972. She lives at Aldersgate, a United Methodist retirement community in Charlotte.

1938

Frances Sellers Barnard was chosen to be included in an October 2011 exhibit displayed in the Washington, D.C., convention center. The exhibit featured stories and pictures of 50 amazing seniors from across the country. Over the years, she has written and published several books. She published her last book, *Fran’s Pictorial Book*, a “remembrance of her wonderful life,” at age 95. She plays weekly canasta and Shanghai games and volunteers in her community.

1943

Mary Webster Sieg and her husband have relocated to Plano, Texas, to be near their daughters Marianne Sieg McCament ’80 and Sara Sieg Avignone ’83.

1944

Beatrice Potter Baldridge is thankful for much in her life. She lives close to her sons, their families and her four grandsons. She tutors reading skills privately and volunteers in the same capacity at Angel’s Flight Children’s Home. She serves on the board of deacons at an Assemblies of God church, and she celebrated birthday number 87 on December 26, 2011. She congratulates Queens on its growth and achievements!

1946

Estelle Darrow Rice and husband Nevin enjoy their mountain home. Age is making both of them a little “rusty,” but that is ok. Estelle continues writing poetry and prose, and twice a year, she teaches writing workshops. Life is good. They have seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, but none of them live nearby. She would love to hear from classmates.

1948

Eleanor Huske Alexander enjoyed being at a 90th birthday party for Cora Ann Parks Hudson’s husband, Lamont. Eleanor and Cora Ann live on the same floor at Sharon Towers retirement community and both attended a Queens luncheon at Myers Park Country Club to hear President Pamela Davies give an update on activities and buildings. They enjoyed seeing Billie Morton Clark and Peggy Phillips Crowder at the luncheon.

1950

Marianne Pemmenter Hibbard and husband John will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in December. They plan a summer visit to California to see son John, daughter-in-law Lisa and teenage grandsons Zachary, Alexander and Grant. Daughter Brandwyn is nearby in Ponte Vedra, Fla., and daughter Adrienne is only 80 miles away in Ormond Beach, Fla. Marianne stays busy in DAR, UDC, Phi Mu Alumnae, local Pan-Hellenic, the Woman's Club and church.

The class expresses sympathy to Mary Katherine Nye Keith on the death of her husband, William Harvey “Bill” Keith, who passed away on January 29.

1953

Marianne Sieg McCament ’80.

The class expresses sympathy to Haigler Jordan on the death of her husband, Weldon Huske Jordan, who passed away on July 13, 2011.

The class expresses sympathy to Mary Katherine Nye Keith on the death of her husband, William Harvey “Bill” Keith, who passed away on January 29.

Let your classmates know what’s new! Submissions are due July 31, 2012, for the winter 2012 issue. To submit your class note, go to: www.queens.edu/class-notes or scan our QR code.

Thank you to all of our alumni who submitted class notes! If you would like to contact the Office of Alumni Programs call 704-337-2256 or email alumni@queens.edu.
A Man of Letters

GERALD PALMER RAN THE MAILROOM AT QUEENS FOR ALMOST A DECADE, BECOMING LIKE A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY TO MANY

A
fter a long and successful career working the window at the Dilworth post office, Gerald Palmer received an opportunity in 1974 that he just couldn’t pass up. “I got a call from the current postmaster at Queens who was about to retire and he asked me if I would be interested in the position,” Palmer says. “It turned out to be one of the best decisions I made in my life.”

For the next nine years, Palmer was the king of the Queens mailroom. “The girls were just wonderful and became good friends. I loved talking with them and getting to know them. Those were some of the happiest years of my life,” he recalls.

Nancy Sullivan Burgin ’78 has exchanged Christmas cards with Palmer every year since graduating from Queens. From the time she arrived on campus in 1974, they became friends. “Mr. Palmer was a freshman’s best friend! I remember those first few weeks of college being so homesick and so far from home for the first time. Every day when I would walk into the post office, Mr. Palmer was there to greet me with a smile on his face and a hand full of letters from home. He knew us by name from the very beginning,” she says.

In 1977, Palmer received what he calls the greatest honor of his life: the graduating seniors dedicated the yearbook to him. When he retired in 1983, he was given another distinguished recognition when he was named an honorary alumnus.

After retiring from Queens, Palmer devoted his time to another passion, helping those in need. He spent the next 12 years at a local church pantry helping to feed the hungry as part of the organization we know today as Loaves & Fishes.

Today he keeps himself busy at his retirement community in Rochester, New York. At age 92, he serves on the residence council, calls bingo each week and says he plays some sort of card game every night. And he still looks forward to the mail. “I love getting the Queens Magazine and looking at the class notes section to see what is happening with my friends from Queens,” he says.

Patrick Lynch, Assistant Director of Annual Giving

Want to send a letter to Gerald Palmer?

His address is:

The Village at Park Road
1471 Long Pond Road, Apt. 207
Rochester, NY 14626

Gerald Palmer, longtime Queens postmaster, in the mailroom with a student in 1977.
Dancing into Her Second Century
AT 111 YEARS, ELIZABETH BUNDY WILL '27 KEEPS LINDSAY KAY TICE '05 ON HER TOES

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be born at a time when airplanes were not yet invented and electricity was a newfound luxury? That’s what it was like in 1900, the year Elizabeth Bundy Will '27, Queens' oldest living alumna, was born.

Let’s fast forward to the year 2003. While a student at Queens, I began my internship at Sharon Towers. Working in social services, I met many Queens alumni when working on social work assessments. Then I met Elizabeth.

From the beginning, I knew that this lady was a force to be reckoned with—a “Steel Magnolia” of sorts. She was fiercely independent, even though she had recently moved to assisted living. She was about to turn 103, and she was not thrilled about the idea of having to use a walker to maintain her balance. She carried her walker in the air, not a wheel touching the ground.

After she found out that the “blonde girl” was a “Queens girl,” I immediately was held in higher regard. She began to share details of her life, of the places she’d been and the things she’d seen. I learned that she was born in Monroe, North Carolina, on October 15, 1900. In 1923, she arrived at Queens to study classical piano under the tutelage of Dr. Ninniss. Throughout her life, music played an important role; she supported the arts as a member of the opera and symphony guilds.

Elizabeth married later in life and never had children, and she told stories with an emphasis on grandeur. She recounted her experiences as a world traveler, having been on many overseas trips throughout her life. In the 1930s, a time when people traveled in unimaginable style on luxury liners all over the world, she boarded the fabulous Queen Mary for a three-month tour to Europe. Such a sense of adventure did not stop as she aged. When she was in her early eighties, she became an accomplished ballroom dancer. She danced her way through the annual dance at Sharon Towers until 2010.

When I graduated from Queens in 2005, she called me to let me know that she was very proud of me. I can still hear her referring to me as “a fine person,” simply because I went to her alma mater. Her love for her college is apparent to all who know her, including those who dropped in last fall to wish her a happy birthday at her 111th celebration.

As a Queens alumna, I am proud to call her my own.
**1954**

Betty Lipe Davis and granddaughters went on a recent trip to Paris, which included time with friends made when Betty and Bill lived there. Last fall, Betty visited brother and sister-in-law Joseph and Carmie Lipe in Charlotte. While there, they spent time on the Queens campus and attended The Learning Society event downtown featuring Dr. Condoleezza Rice. Betty is extremely proud to be a Queens alumna!

Joan Farabow McMurray, a retired professor of English at the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, is leading the “good life” in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico. She and husband George anticipate a move to the United States in the near future, perhaps to Davidson, N.C. The past year, they traveled to conferences in the Caribbean and to special places and people in the United States. This year includes a possible trip to Germany and France.

**Doris Parsons-Nesbit** has not been well this year. Starting in July 2011, she first had double pneumonia, causing a heart attack and then the smallest stent in her heart, operating at 70 percent. Next, she had a stroke and then an MRI report that she has Parkinson’s disease. She went into her third rehab in Waxhaw, N.C., and then headed back to Florida to live with her sister in Miami.

**1956**

Ramona Price Keels had a bittersweet year. In April 2011, she and husband Charles sold their home in Cary, N.C., and returned to Union County, N.C., the place of their births. For eight months, they enjoyed their home together (9909 Potters Road, Wesley Chapel, NC 28104), which adjoins her farm where their oldest son and his family live. Sadly, Charles passed away on November 24, 2011. Ramona continues living there.

**1958**

Susan Sharpe Houg has lived in Scott Valley, Calif., for 21 years, dividing her time between church and community, songwriting/singing and visiting San Francisco. After attending the Glen Workshops in 2008 and 2011 in Santa Fe, N.M., she ramped up her songwriting and performing and has done yard concerts and home venues annually. A CD is planned, and she hopes Queens choirs will look at her work!

Mary Moore Mason-Redfern recently received two major media awards for her work as the London-based editor/editorial director of Essentially America. She was named the TravMedia Journalist of the Year at the ONE Travel Conference, and she won the best consumer travel article written about the United States at the U.S. Travel Association convention. Her contact details are Mary Moore Mason, 55 Hereford Road, London, W2 5BB, UK, tel: 011-44-20-7243-6954.

Sophia Leventis Trakas’ granddaughter, Anna Trakas, has just transferred to Queens. This will make three generations, including Sophia’s daughter, Maria Trakas Barry ’92.

Louise Cannon Whitley and husband Jim moved to Park Pointe Village in Rock Hill, S.C. Until their farm in Virginia sells, they will be back and forth to both properties. Last July, their first granddaughter was married and they welcomed their 13th grandchild, bringing the family to a total of 22. Makes for a fun time when they are all together!

**1960**

Flo Denny Durway enjoys visits with Tina Jones Hensley and Jane Agsten Long. Last fall, the Durways and the Hensleys were in Williamsburg, Va. In December, Tina and Flo had lunch at Flo’s house for Lillian McCulloch Taylor ’49. Flo and Dan spent three weeks on a cruise from Santiago, Chile, around Cape Horn, to the Falklands, Buenos Aires, Montevideo and Rio. Flo delights in five grandchildren; four live nearby.

Ann Barkley Grey and husband Sandy moved on October 25, 2011, to a continuing-care facility called **Anne-Lynn Stahl Teal ’68** and husband Steve ride their Goldwing 1800 on the Tail of the Dragon, an 11-mile stretch of mountain road with 318 curves that runs between Tennessee and North Carolina.
River Landing at Sandy Ridge. The address is 1575 John Knox Dr., Apt. P12, Colfax, NC, 27235. Any alumnae in the area are invited to stop by for a visit.

Lynn Fricks Rogers was reunited for the first time in over 50 years with her freshman “roomie” from Morrison dorm, Penny Moffett Robson. Penny and husband John, who live in Cambridge, England, made a Charlotte stopover Labor Day weekend 2011. Thanks to the efforts of Adelaide Anderson Davis ’61, arrangements were made for Lynn and Sara Bee Craig Johnson ’57, also a resident of Morrison, to enjoy lunch and a tour of the Queens campus.

1962

The class expresses sympathy to Margaret Blevins on the death of her husband, John S. Shippee, who passed away on December 27, 2011.

The class expresses sympathy to Susann Finklea Ervin on the death of her husband, Jacob Barron Ervin, who passed away on December 27, 2011.

Marcia Brinkley Frith and her husband celebrated their 45th anniversary with a trip last fall to the Holy Land and Greece. It changed her life to know she was standing on streets where Jesus walked, to look over the valley where David defeated Goliath, to walk the streets of Ephesus and to be on the Sea of Galilee. She encourages all to go.

Linda Goodman Heilig has enjoyed her children and grandchildren this past year, as always. She and her husband went on a mission trip last March to Miami with the Lutheran campus ministry of her church. It was tiring and rejuvenating at the same time. She enjoys subbing in a preschool with children ages 2 to 4 and actually celebrated her birthday this year with the preschoolers.

Martha Woods Mallory reports that our 50th reunion was a special time, with many returning to visit with classmates and to see the amazing things happening at Queens. We missed all who were not able to attend but hope we can stay in touch via email, phone and future reunions. Thanks again to the great committee who made the reunion such a success!

Virginia Bopp Springer and hubby Al spend winters on their sailboat Double Bells in the Caribbean. Summers are spent on their sailboat Westwind in the North Channel, Ontario. They live the rest of the year in a boating retirement community, Fairfield Harbor, in New Bern, N.C. Upon 50 years since graduation, she can rightfully thank Queens for giving her the foundation upon which her life was built!

1963

50th Reunion - April 19-21, 2013

1964

The class expresses sympathy to Kathryn Oehler Sellers on the death of her husband, Sidney L. Sellers, III, who passed away on December 9, 2011.

Janet Porter Stange and Leila Bennett Doughton ’60 met last May at the wonderful home (Overhill Farm) of Elizabeth Robertson Causey ’64 in Lincolnton, N.C. They enjoyed lunch and catching up. There was lots of reminiscing about Queens.

1966

Katherine “Kaki” Reed Harmon and husband Larry live in Thomsville, Ga., and Lake Keowee, S.C. Since both children, grandchildren and parents live in South Carolina, it makes for a lot of traveling. Both Kaki and Larry are retired.

Carol Cole McCrory enjoys retirement in the North Carolina mountains and gets together often with Elizabeth Eve ’67.

Joanna Allred McKethan and husband Sandy recently returned from a trip to Scotland, where she did background work for her next book which is set in Scotland and the United States. Her e-books, Lady in White and A Holiday Folly, are for sale from Red Rose Publishing. They toured the Highlands and traced the path that their ancestors took from Tarbert to Campbelltown, where they left for American soil in 1732.

Madeline Sonneborn Scharfenstein has lived in Charlotte with husband Ted for the last seven years. They are taking care of Madeline’s 91-year-old mom. Madeline discovered an interest in jewelry design and construction and has started a small business to that end. She enjoys gardening and reading. She looks forward to the new Queens sorority and fraternity houses and loves to see Queens grow!

Betsy Fuehrer Scherer retired in April 2011 after 45 years in education: 20 as an elementary teacher, 15 as a college administrator and 10 as an adjunct English professor at DeVry University. She and husband Ray, a retired minister, celebrated with a European river cruise. Betsy and Ray sing in a
community chorale and cook with a gourmet club. They have three grandchildren, ages 5, 6 and 8.

Leslie Moore Teague and husband of 45 years, Barry, enjoy golf and time at North Litchfield Beach, S.C. Son Brad, a project manager for an IT firm, is married and lives in North Arlington, Va. Daughter Elizabeth lives in Charlotte with husband Chris and their three children. Elizabeth has an interior design firm, EMC Design, and a shop, Stilo, on Providence Road at The Villa Shops.

Judy Wood was elected president of the League of Women Voters in Tarrant County, Texas, where she resides. Judy did her graduate work at Texas Christian University and has co-authored Fort Worth's Huge Deal: Unwinding Westside's Twisted Legend. She is active in a variety of arts and civic organizations.

1968

45th Reunion - April 19-21, 2013

Parker Norman Call has enjoyed traveling this year with fellow classmates Cindy Kilner Baker, Debbie Butler Bryan, Myrtle Emerson-Heery, Penny Birdsell Hofmann, Shippie Turley Quinn and Leigh Barnett Walker on trips to England, Cape Cod and New York. Everyone looks just as good as they did in 1968! Parker hopes everyone will mark April 2013 on their calendars and come to our 45th reunion.

Ellen Seastrunk Dozier and husband of 45 years, Robert, reside in Columbia, S.C. Robert is slowly retiring from his real estate appraisal company. Ellen is “bionic” with an implanted spinal cord stimulator that enables her to enjoy five grandchildren at their lake house. Robert Jr. moved to Atlanta as executive vice president of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. Daughter Ann is a physical therapist and has completed three Ironman events.

Mary Wain Ingram Ellison and husband Boyd retired eight years ago. He enjoys flying and his work with Angel Flight Southeast. She enjoys plein air painting, but recently has concentrated more on figures and portraits. They divide their time between Macon, Ga., and a home on the Florida Panhandle. Her sturdy Queens 25th reunion tote bag has accompanied her thousands of miles and survived all kinds of situations and weather.

Jean Dobson Farris and husband Bill have seven grandchildren: three girls and four boys ranging in age from 2 to 11. Five live just south of Nashville, and two live in Lexington, Ky. They are all within a short half-day drive. Jean is completing her third year as president of a private foundation that awards grants to programs and services for elderly men and women in middle Tennessee.

The class expresses sympathy to Susan Dixon Goldsmith on the death of her sister Ann Dixon Demonet '66, who passed away on December 21, 2011.

Elizabeth Barr Johnson has enjoyed attending Queens events at Mary McMillan Horton's '69 home in Richmond, Va. She and husband Sam have a wonderful new grandson. Daughter Sarah Barr lives in Richmond. They love to travel and just did the Baltics since St. Petersburg, Russia, was on their “bucket list!” Elizabeth plays golf and is on the executive board of the Garden Club of Virginia.

Lynn Woodward Lindberg retired in September 2011 and keeps busy with seven grandchildren (two in Baton Rouge, La., two in Gulfport, Miss. and three in Kenner, La.), household projects and traveling. Last October, she and husband Lyle celebrated their 43rd anniversary with a week in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. The highlight was ziplining in the rain forest. In December, Lynn went to Punta Gorda, Fla., for her aunt’s 90th birthday.

Judy Barry Maynard and husband Fletcher ended 2011 with the birth of their first grandchild. Bliss Maynard is the daughter of son Fletcher III and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, who live in Durham, N.C., and are on staff of “Cru” (Campus Crusade for Christ), assigned to Duke. Judy and Fletcher retired in Memphis, Tenn., where she gets to see Margaret Day Craddock, Barbara Billings Gassaway, Shippie Turley Quinn, Ellen Robinson Rolfe, Emily Woodside and many others regularly.

Judy Payette is still alive and well in England, where she teaches for the Department of Defense Schools. She has been at Lakenheath Middle School for 15 years and may retire one day.

Sidney Walker Pease lives in Atlanta with her husband of 44 years, Norman. She is the web editor, social media manager and blogger for Vacation Express. She loves writing about (and occasionally traveling to) Mexico, the Caribbean and Costa Rica. Son Jay and family are in Mt. Pleasant, S.C. Son Josh and his wife are in Atlanta. Sidney enjoys reconnecting with Queens friends at the annual Pawleys Island, S.C., getaway.

Nancy Day Rodger and husband Don moved just before Christmas 2011 from their condo in Palm Coast, Fla., to Grand Haven, Fla., a golfing community. Their new address is 44 Osprey Circle, Palm Coast, FL 32137.

Jane Bohde Strickland retired in 2002 from George Jenkins High School and now tutors,
When The Chick Palace launched in January as part of Barnes & Noble’s “NOOK First” e-reader promotion, it quickly went to the number one spot, selling 30,000 copies in the first two weeks. The book’s success was not a complete surprise to author Leslie Davis Guccione ’69; in fact, it confirmed her belief that “women on the far side of 50 are a demographic to be reckoned with.”

Leslie, who is an adjunct faculty member in Seton Hill University’s MFA program for writing popular fiction, says the time had come to write a work for women her age. “By the time I hit my mid-fifties, deep into my writing career, it was time to write a comedy from the heart for women my age, the audience I most identified with,” she says. “I created two friends facing all that mid-life throws our way and looked no farther than my four QC years for that abiding relationship.”

When she arrived at Queens in the fall of 1965, Leslie immersed herself in art and writing. Although she majored in art, her love for writing was never far away. She participated in the national literary fraternity, Sigma Upsilon, and contributed to Signet, the Queens literary journal. In Vienna, she completed a study abroad program. Her memories of Queens during those days are vivid, especially those that portray a bygone formality. “We had to change our clothes when leaving the studio before going to eat in the dining hall, because no pants were allowed on the front part of campus,” she recalls.

Upon her graduation from Queens, she took a job in Wilmington, Delaware, as a copywriter at an advertising agency. It jumpstarted her career, creating deadlines and a demand for words and ideas. Leaving the advertising world, she concentrated on writing novels for adult, middle grade and teen readers. To date, she’s had 30 books published; recognition has included starred reviews and best sellers.

As a Northerner coming to a small women’s college in the South, Leslie believes her experience at Queens shaped who she is and impacted her success. She gained confidence and formed lifelong friendships that remain a large part of her life. She remembers that years ago, her Boston-bred husband, Joe, was amazed by all the Southerners who came into his life, thanks to Queens. “It’s stayed that way since my arrival in front of Watkins in 1965.”

Leslie Davis Guccione’s ’69 top-selling ebook, The Chick Palace, follows the midlife friendship of two former college roommates. Guccione lives in Duxbury, Massachusetts, and is the author of 30 books.
supervises University of South Florida interns and participates in church work. Husband of 43 years Gene, the retired city manager of Lakeland, Fla., has a real estate broker’s office. She has three children: Swane, 40, Michael, 38, and Gina, 37, and six grandchildren, ages 3-11. They enjoy their river house near Homasassa Springs, Fla.

Anne-Lynn Stahl Teal is now retired and loves it, but Steve still works as a real estate appraiser. Their great pastime is riding their Honda Goldwing alone or with other members from their chapter. “Life is always better on two wheels.” She would love to hear from anyone living in the greater Cincinnati area.

The class expresses sympathy to Kathy Fristoe Trono on the deaths of her mother, Ruth Conner Sheppie Turley Quinn, and her father, John William Fristoe, who passed away on December 31, 2011, and December 5, 2011. She feels much gratitude for her Queens connection and the kind and comforting words that have come from her Queens family.

Leigh Barnett Walker volunteers with the Harford County Public Library, where she tutors kindergartners as a Partner in Reading. Leigh practices yoga, knits with a local Knit Wits group and sings in her church choir. Leigh traveled last September to Boston and to Provincetown, Mass., and sings in her church choir. Leigh Barnett Walker volunteers with the Harford County Public Library, where she tutors kindergartners as a Partner in Reading. Leigh practices yoga, knits with a local Knit Wits group and sings in her church choir. Leigh traveled last September to Boston and to Provincetown, Mass., with Queens friends Parker Norman Call, Myrtle Emerson-Heery and Sheppie Turley Quinn. They had a great time being together!

1970

Charley Carlock cherishes the simple, rich “meetings” she has with people, whether that be her spouse, close friends and family or chance encounters in her day-to-day life or in her travels. She reports that life is good and also a struggle at times, but she knows that we grow through the hard places. She is really blessed, and she does not want to miss anything!

Mary Beth Burry Donati lives in McComb, Miss., with husband of 40 years, Vic. They have three sons, Vic III, Tim and Tyler, and two grandchildren. Youngest son Tyler received his Wings of Gold this year and became a navy aviator stationed in Japan. Mary Beth works as a registered nurse with the McComb school district.

Elizabeth Gay lives in Charlottesville, Va. She is still demonstrating for universal peace and animal and human rights. She may retire this year and bring to a close her 25-year-old psychotherapy practice. Her daughter, 20, recently completed a service trip to Honduras to build a school for orphans.

Luna Lambert Levinson has retired as director of the Education Resources Information Center at the U.S. Department of Education. She and husband Dan, inspector general of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, have moved to an apartment in Chevy Chase, Md. Daughter Claire is a territory manager for St. Jude Medical. Daughter Hannah is a student at the University of Maryland School of Law.

Sallie Moore Lowrance enjoys her role as “GaGa” with nine grandchildren under the age of 9. Four of the grands live in Beijing, China, three live in Nashville, Tenn., and two are in Charlotte. Sallie keeps busy with Queens and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Foundation, tutoring in a second-grade classroom, and also as the wife of a pastor. Last fall, Sallie and husband Fred visited Beijing and Japan.

Carolyn Sakowski traveled in October 2011 all over western North Carolina to promote the third edition of Touring The Western North Carolina Backroads. She was able to see several old Queens friends along the way. She thanks all for their support. Each month, she will be adding material to touringbackroads.com, so please check it out.

Erwin Heeseman Williams works at Wells Fargo Securities and co-owns a booth at BLACKLION Dilworth in Charlotte. She volunteers with the Friends of the Library at Queens. She is a member of the Royal Society advisory committee and encourages all to become involved with a minimum donation of $1500. Husband Donnie is doing well after having his right knee replaced last October. Son Donnie Jr. began a job with Rollover Systems, Inc.

1972

The class expresses sympathy to Sherry McGeachy Beasley on the death of her father, Robert Hayward McGeachy, who passed away on January 25.

1973

40th Reunion - April 19-21, 2013

1974

The class expresses sympathy to Linda Barnett on the death of her daughter, Sidney Elizabeth Owens, who passed away on January 14.

Marie Storer Corne is thrilled to be a grandmother. Daughter Betsy gave birth to Lila in November 2011. Marie still works but is able to stay with Lila on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Son James received his MBA from Penn State and works as a registered nurse with the McComb school district.

Laura Tomlin Jamison left the real estate business last year as there were too many short sales and foreclosures that went nowhere. She did some
volunteer work for the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party and hopes to do more this year with the Democratic National Convention coming to Charlotte. Her oldest daughter, who works at Bank of America, is pursuing her MBA at the McColl School.

**1976**

The class extends sympathy to Leslie Allsopp on the death of her father, Richard Allsopp, on August 19, 2011, and the death of her mother, Sally Henley Allsopp, on September 20, 2011.

The class expresses sympathy to Suzie Griffin Bowman on the death of her father, Robert Ashley Griffin, who passed away on May 31, 2011.

Marilu Hickey Novy thought the 2011 reunion was wonderful and that it was so great to realize that we are all still the family we were so few years ago. She is still going to the dogs. She is heading to Florida with Hanna, the Portuguese Water Dog, for the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship; she qualified three different ways to get there.

Elizabeth Pearce and husband Richard Lasota are looking for a warmer home in the Delray-Boynton Beach, Fla., area. Are any alumni there? They enjoyed New Year’s Eve dinner with Moira Gomez Madonia and Betsy Kiser Strauss ’75 and husbands Peter and Bill, respectively. Richard retired early, in February 2011, and loves it. Elizabeth thanks Kathy Haley Herman and Michelle Manire for all their work on the 35th reunion in April 2011.

Ann Phillips and spouse Heather finally moved into their new Florida home. They have done a lot of work on the house. The next big project is the yard. Both Ann and Heather work with the same Hospice organization. They report that every weekend feels like a vacation. Ann still cannot believe that they went swimming in the pool on Christmas Eve. The welcome mat is out!

Nancy Philpy accepted the gracious invitation of Martha Mitchell Aiken and husband Joey to meet in November 2011 at their western North Carolina mountain home and joined Suzie Griffin Bowman, Sharlene Manley Kaney, Amy Thomasson Little, Amy Shinn Reaves and Anjay Ashe Williamson. Several husbands came. They had a fabulous weekend of food, fun and story sharing and agreed it was a highlight of their year.

Linda Cable Shute was commissioned to write Precious in the Sight of the Lord, based on Psalm 116:15, for the retirement of their church music director. In late February, son Preston finished his six-year contract as fire control on the USS Curtis Wilbur, Yokosuka, Japan. Preston plans to help take care of his dad before returning to Georgia Southern University to earn a degree in software architecture.

**1978**

Nancy Sullivan Burgin divides her time between Columbus, Ga., and her beach home. She is busy with daughter Sarah. Sister Meg Sullivan Clark has retired. Sister Elizabeth Sullivan ’85 works as a physical therapist at Egleston Children’s Hospital and enjoys life with Margot, 2. At the Fabulous Five Fest, Nancy rubbed in the fact that she was going to Boz Scaggs without the other four. Queens thanks Nancy for hosting an alumni party at her home in Columbus.

Carla Jeffords Vitez’s youngest daughter, Celeste, surprised her by applying in fall 2011 to Queens. Carla volunteers with a Charlotte public school garden. Husband Larry opened a public sailing and rowing center at Lake Norman, N.C., www.nccsailrow.org. In December, she visited Susan Ellsworth Wiggs and her parents in Fayetteville, N.C. Carla was a frequent guest in the Ellsworths’ home during her Queens years.

Susan Ellsworth Wiggs’ eldest daughter, Anna, married in May. Her youngest child, David, is still
in elementary school. Besides expertly managing her entire family, she keeps trim by walking and coaching volleyball.

1980

Sally Wyeth McLaughlin is the 2011-2012 president of the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs, Ga., (sandyspringsrotary.org) and practices law at Raymond S. Martin, P.C., with offices in Sandy Springs. She and husband Charles have two Wire Fox Terriers and live in East Cobb, Ga.

1983

30th Reunion - April 19-21, 2013

1984

The class expresses sympathy to Rowena Gregg Gibbons on the death of her father, Thomas Alexander Gregg, who passed away on January 18.

Jane Hughes Redding is an attorney in private practice in Asheboro, N.C., with husband Scott. Daughter Cynthia is a sophomore at Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., where she is having as great an experience in college as Jane did. Cynthia recently traveled to Ireland and hopes to do her junior year abroad in London. Jane serves as chairperson of her local school board.

1986

Lori Lumbard Smith works as a tour guide at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. Her husband prepares to retire after 28 years in the army. Oldest son Travis spent a year as a Fulbright Fellow in Russia and got married last January. Son Taylor is a lieutenant in the army and got married last June. Daughter Rosie is a high school senior. Daughter Katie is in eighth grade.

1988

25th Reunion - April 19-21, 2013

Sara Lee Hinnant works on accepting the limits of multiple chronic illnesses and discovering the next third of her life. Son David, his wife and five children, Tim, Erika, Jade, Amber and Phoenix, live in Cherokee, N.C. David is on his second mission in Iraq. Daughter Mary Jo is a North Carolina Teaching Fellow at North Carolina State with the goal of becoming a high school math teacher.

Trish Vail Hobson is the associate executive director of community development at the Men's Shelter of Charlotte. She and husband Ross are busy raising two teenagers, Ross and Helen, along with alpha dog Chipper and new puppy Snoopus.

Ashley Whitsett Hollingsworth and husband Craig keep busy running their company, Hollingsworth Roofing. While son Whit is navigating the challenges of adulthood, being on his own and working in Cleveland, Tenn., daughter Kane is trying to figure it all out at Chapel Hill, N.C. Kane and Alecia, Meg Stanley Johnson’s daughter, meet as often as their schedules will allow to have lunch and catch up at Carolina.

Karen Bengston Hughes and family live in Kernersville, N.C. Son Art is in seventh grade. She enjoys keeping in touch with Nellie Henderson Davant, Molly Waldrup Johnson, Nancy Swecker Swan ’89 and so many more on Facebook. She and others are planning a trip to Switzerland to see Suzanne Manzer Muskin in her new “very old” home.

Meg Stanley Johnson works in the music therapy program at Queens. Meg and husband Doug have three children. Daughter Alecia is at Chapel Hill, N.C., and daughter Lainey is soon to be off to college. Son Blaine is in high school and busy with year-round swimming.

Kelly Billingsley Jones and Wade live in Bentonville, Ark., and own Basils Restaurant in Rogers, Ark. (Check out Basils on Facebook.) Kelly would love for her Queens friends to come see the newly-opened Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville. Kelly enjoyed vacationing last July at Folly Beach, S.C., with Kathy King Briggs ’89. Kelly (under Kelly Billingsley Jones) loves hearing from her college friends on Facebook.

Katja Reed Lackey lives in Dover, Del., and is a mother, wife and working artist and educator. She and Queens roommate Suzanne Manzer Muskin (visiting from Geneva, Switzerland) had an afternoon together in Philadelphia. They had not seen each other in 20 years! Suzanne was visiting the United States with her husband and two boys, looking at colleges and visiting with family and old friends.

Amy Church McMurray is busy raising two boys with husband Scott. Mac and Miller are heavy into sports and scouting and doing all that they can to help Mom with new puppy Duke.

Suzanne Manzer Muskin and her family moved in November 2010 to Switzerland from Morocco. Last July, she came to visit colleges with oldest
Halftime in the Locker Room

A GIFT TO THE LEVINE CENTER FROM FORMER BASKETBALL CAPTAIN T.J. LEWIS ’97 AND HIS WIFE, CHARMAIN PUGH LEWIS ’98, PUTS MID-GAME STRATEGY IN SLEEK QUARTERS

A basketball scholarship brought T.J. Lewis ’97 to Queens, where he captained the first men’s team in university history to make the NCAA tournament. Just 16 years later, he and his wife Charmain Pugh Lewis ’98 have made a major gift to name the Lewis Men’s Basketball Locker Room in the Levine Center for Wellness and Recreation. T.J. credits his Queens education as a major factor in his successful career in financial services, and now he and Charmain want to help ensure that other students have the same transformational experiences at Queens as they did.

“Queens builds leaders,” T.J. asserts, explaining that in an environment where leadership is encouraged, students can create their own experiences. Both of the Lewises rose to the challenge during their Queens years—Charmain started a student fashion show, and T.J. secured summer internships at Bank of America that ultimately led to his first job after graduation. After 13 years with the bank, he took a job three years ago with Urban Lending Solutions as an executive in corporate diversity and business development.

T.J. also credits former President Billy Wireman with helping students get connected to leaders in the community. Wireman introduced T.J. to Hugh McColl Jr., who was the chairman and CEO of Bank of America when T.J. graduated, and also chair of Queens’ Board of Trustees. “When I crossed the stage and shook his hand, he said ‘Welcome aboard,’” T.J. recalls. “Queens offers a personal connection that is extraordinary.”

After several successful years in Bank of America’s commercial lending and consumer real estate divisions, McColl asked T.J. to join Queens’ Board of Trustees. That’s where he was first able to express his strong support of athletic programs at Queens.

“My experience playing basketball at Queens had a huge impact on my life. To this day, the memories of making the NCAA tournament give me chills. It was a great ride,” he says. He and Charmain are happy they are able to contribute to the next generation of athletics at Queens.

“When I joined the board, I was outspoken about the university’s need for a new athletic facility that would serve every student. The Levine Center will impact everything from admissions to student life. I know firsthand what the Levine Center will do for Queens, and Charmain and I want to give back to what we believe in.”

Eleanor Hatcher, Director of Advancement Communications and Foundation Relations

Top: T.J. Lewis ’97, Charmain Pugh Lewis ’98 and their children at home.

Bottom: T.J. Lewis ’97 in 1996, just before being named captain of the Royals men’s basketball team.
son Saul and had a get together with Becky Bennett Stowe '87, Molly Waldrup Johnson, Jodie Henderson Coulson '89, Lori Wiseman Hallman '89, and Julie Thomas Walton '91. She brought youngest son Hillel, 5 at the time, to the party. Suzanne has had frequent contact with other Queens friends, meeting up with Katja Reed Lackey in Washington, D.C., and seeing old friends last summer at Nancy Swecker Swan's '89 home in Charlotte. She thinks that it is wonderful to keep those friendships and reconnect with old friends.

Kasey Seay Wilson and husband Roy are testing the waters of the empty nest. Twin daughters Caroline and Courtney are off at school but close to home at Valdosta State University. Kasey travels and sells pharmaceuticals for Depomed.

1990

Sara Jenkins Collins is public relations and events manager at the CFIDS Association of America (the job that pays) and is proud to have helped the organization weather a year-long communications crisis in 2011. She will serve one more year as chair of the board of Hands On Charlotte (the job that does not pay). Sara and her two cats live in south Charlotte.

Kristen Hiller Metz lives in Jacksonville, Fla., with her husband and son. She and Gordon celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary this year with a fabulous trip to Alaska. The three of them enjoyed a helicopter ride to a glacier, dog sledding and whale sightings. Kristen wishes everyone a wonderful 2012!

1992

Connie Weber cweber@kacast.com practices law in Charleston, W. Va., representing employers in discrimination and other personnel related suits. If not in the courtroom, she is coaching soccer for Jack, 13, Amelia, 10, or Sam, 5, or in the yoga studio. Husband Erik Engle aquired his SSAC certification and coaches middle school soccer. West Virginia is a great place to visit—let Connie know if you come.

1993

Shelley Britt Belk and husband Gary celebrated 17 years. Son Zach is 15. Twins Marleigh and Mae are 12. They have been blessed to welcome two new children through the miracle of adoption, Janis, 15, and Eddie, 8. They moved six years ago to Mount Airy, Md., when Hyatt transferred Shelley as director of food and beverage and catering sales. Gary works for Hammer and Nail Construction.

1994

Jason Buckner has been working in the healthcare IT field and raising his three children, Nicole, 14, Jacob, 13, and Joshua, 7. Jason is the Indiana business manager for HealthBridge.

Marcus Sims will change practices to East Atlanta Cardiology in 2012. Marcus received his U.S. Soccer National D License and is an assistant coach with the South Dekalb YMCA Jaguars U11/12 team, ranked #17 in the state. Son Marcus James has had three consecutive undefeated seasons, making his dad proud. The Sims family added a new addition, Myles, who celebrated his first birthday on Thanksgiving Day 2011.

1996

Julie Martin Dean left Queens in December 2011 to expand her private voice studio with Community School of the Arts in Charlotte in the Plaza-Midwood neighborhood. She enjoys a full schedule of private students and works with group classes of kids and a karaoke class for adults.

Kelly Hamilton Hogan and husband Frank welcomed their fourth son on March 24, 2011. Theodore “Teddy” Hogan joined big brothers Ryan, 8, Hunter, 6, and Hank, 3. Last June, they all visited Charlotte, where they got to meet mommy’s college roommates Stephanie Tripp Augier and Kristy Jolly Liles and explore the Queens campus. It looks better than ever!

1998

The class expresses sympathy to Perry Blickenstaff on the death of her father, Wayne Blickenstaff, who passed away on December 23, 2011.

Heather Connelly Brownfield and husband Andrew Brownfield '97 welcomed their first child, Brooklyn Elizabeth, on June 13, 2011.

Lauren Thomas Flores enjoys her work as a director of development at The Westminster Schools in Atlanta. One of her favorite moments each day is carpooling to the school with her oldest son, Sam, who is in pre-1st. Lauren, Dean, Sam and Thomas enjoyed ringing in the New Year with Dr. Diane Mowrey and Zoe!

The class expresses sympathy to Mary Collier McElroy on the death of her mother, Mary McElroy, who passed away on September 25, 2011.

Sarah Terry Argabrite '06 and Dan Argabrite '03 were married on September 17, 2011, at a small vineyard in Graham, North Carolina.
Erin Pitts began working in December 2011 at Georgetown University as director of medical and dental alumni programs.

Cara Riley lives in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., and works as a departmental supervisor for The Legend Group, a full-service retirement plans company. She was recently awarded the 2011 Gold Team Award for her participation and involvement with Walk MS, an annual event she supports since being diagnosed in 2009. In April, she took a weeklong trip to Paris.

Laura Buck Sharpe, after more than 10 years in the event industry, has made a career change and joined the Arts & Science Council of Charlotte as the marketing manager for power2give.org. She lives in Charlotte with her husband, cat and dog.

Rebecca Sorgius Staege and her family welcomed David TianXiang Staege, adopted November 29, 2011. Sometime this summer, they will also complete the adoption of another son, bringing their household total to four children. They live in China, where they are teaching.

Kevin Yearick and Sarah Hehman Yearick ’01 spent Memorial Day weekend 2011 in Vermont for Henry Okoth’s wedding, catching up with Gabe Neville and Wayne Smith. Kevin picked up 10 pounds, lost 15 and gained five back, making his New Year’s resolution a wash. Kevin and Sarah celebrated 12 years of marital bliss in December 2011. Sarah remarked, “I can’t believe how happy I am” (however, her fingers were apparently crossed).

2000

Rebekah Davis Ahrens is serving the final year of her tour as a foreign service officer in Seoul, Korea. She will return at the end of 2012 to Washington, D.C., to study Indonesian. In summer 2013, she will take up her onward assignment as an economics officer at the embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia. Husband Frank works as the director of global PR for Hyundai Motor in Seoul.

Cameron “Cammie” Rogers Helms and husband Trey announce the birth of their son, Worth McClendon Helms IV, on December 2, 2011, at 12:37pm.

Katie Nutter McCallum and Sean welcomed new son, Michael Kenneth, on June 1, 2011. Older sister Josephine is ecstatic over her baby brother!

Betsy Hinko Rhodes and husband Nick welcomed their daughter, Vivian Frances, into the world on November 22, 2011, at 9pm, weighing seven pounds, seven ounces and measuring 20.5 inches long. Everyone is doing well.

Tina-Marie Venus recently received the Accredited Asset Management Specialist SM designation after months of preparation. She recently celebrated her sixth anniversary as operations manager with Gaskin Asset Management and her 11th year in the investment industry. She lives in the SouthPark area of Charlotte.

2002

Kelly McGraw Anderson and husband Brandon celebrated their first wedding anniversary on October 2, 2011, and then welcomed their precious baby boy Tyler into the world on November 10, 2011. They live in the Raleigh, N.C., area.

Erica Brady Angert and Jack Angert live in Baton Rouge, La. Jack works as an actuarial analyst at the Louisiana Department of Insurance and is working on earning his certification as Associate of the Society of Actuaries. Erica is a stay-at-home mom to their two boys, Kent, 4, and Dean, 2. They have an ever-expanding vegetable garden, learning more and more about growing their own food.

Maribel Bastidas-McGonagle works for the Cincinnati Area Chapter of the American Red Cross. After graduation, Maribel was a chief editor for La Noticia—the Spanish-Language Newspaper and then led Duke Energy’s Hispanic outreach efforts. In 2008, she moved to Ohio after marrying Kyle McGonagle. Their daughter Isabella is 18 months old. Maribel has great memories of her time at Queens as an international student.

Jill Brumer has moved back to Houston, Texas, and is the style shop coordinator for the nonprofit Workshop Houston, where she teaches sewing, drawing and screenprinting to underprivileged youth. She also works as an adjunct professor of drama at San Jacinto College.

Melissa Moxley Conlogue lives in Charlotte. She is a stay-at-home mom to three beautiful children: Taylor, 7, Noah, 4, and Leah, 1. It has been a tough year, but friends and family have been great, especially those wonderful Queens girls who have been there for every eventful moment over the past 10 years.

Roxanne Reynolds Crawford lives in Matthews, N.C., with husband Scott and daughter Charlie. She enjoyed traveling quite a bit this past year to Atlanta; Port St. Joe, Fla.; Mobile, Ala.; and Las Vegas. She and Scott will be trying for baby number two this year, so keep your fingers crossed for them!

Chad Hensen lives in Charlotte and works for KPMG LLP. He recently transferred to the Financial Management Group at KPMG, which is within the Management Consulting Practice.
Chad is engaged to Natalie Kotowski ’05. They plan to get married this summer and will reside in the greater Charlotte area.

Rebecca Majors lives next to the Mouse in Anaheim, Calif. She recently started her own business, The Sophisticated Santa, which specializes in custom and designer holiday stockings and decorations.

Dr. Eileen Shake has been appointed the new director of the South Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership.

Megan Barrick Taylor and Parnell were married on May 14, 2011, at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Charlotte. The wedding party included Lindsay Thomas ’03 and Becca Grottoli Patch ’84. Parnell proposed in the Queens gazebo, and wedding photos were taken on campus. They honeymooned in the Mediterranean. They enjoy traveling, their Golden Retriever puppies and home improvement projects around their Plaza-Midwood home in Charlotte.

2003
10th Reunion - April 19-21, 2013

2004

Emily Candler married William Herman on April 16, 2011, in Bermuda. She moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. She completed a three-week volunteer program, breeding lions in South Africa, and continues to travel often.

Cori Lindstedt Hankinson has taken a break as a school counselor in order to stay home and raise son Cooper, 1. She enjoys her photography and hopes to see her business grow through Livin and Lovin Photography. She and Phil celebrated their five-year anniversary in March.

Kimberly Lauer, after working in Washington, D.C., nonprofits for over six years, started law school at the University of the District of Columbia School of Law. The program focuses on public interest law and clinical practice in conjunction with class learning. She expects to graduate in May 2014.

Taryn Rimland lives and works in Italy for USA Girl Scouts Overseas. She just extended her assignment for one year, meaning she will remain in Europe until April 2013.

Juwaun Seegars and Kristin Waite Seegars ’05 welcomed their daughter Rylan Fay Seegars, born September 13, 2011.

2006

Sarah Terry Argabrite and Dan Argabrite ’03 were married on September 17, 2011, at a small vineyard in Graham, N.C. Several Queens alumni attended, crying tears of joy, square dancing and celebrating. During their honeymoon in Charleston, S.C., they toured the USS Yorktown and ate lots of southern food. They live in Charlotte with two rescued cats, Charlie and Cheezburger and enjoy watching niece Louise grow.

Whitney Kimball Coe enjoys her work with the Center for Rural Strategies in Knoxville, Tenn., as a program associate and coordinator for the National Rural Assembly. She and Matt find their greatest enjoyment, however, as the captive audience of 1-year-old daughter Lucy Steele.

Vanessa Faura would like the world to know that before Queens, she was surviving. During and after her experience at Queens, she began living! Words will never be enough to express her infinite gratitude for this institution that has transformed her life forever. This spring, she began pursuing an MBA at the McColl School of Business (her second graduate program).

Jennifer Churchill Honaker and husband Matt live in Pineville, N.C., with their two dogs, Danny and Lucy. Jennifer is the athletic director for the Town of Pineville Parks and Recreation Department. Matt is a captain with the Charlotte Fire Department.

Claire Brenneman Ruth graduated in May from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts in Christian Counseling. She took the marriage and family therapist licensing exam on February 6. Her husband, a Davidson alumnus, graduated in May from Duke Divinity School. They are excited about what is in store!

Christa Soderstrom moved during winter 2011 to her hometown of Boston. Prior to the move, she worked as the operations manager for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer Charlotte, helping to raise more than $4 million in support of breast cancer philanthropic needs. She is now the special events coordinator for Big Brothers Big Sisters of
Massachusetts Bay, one of the largest adult-to-child mentoring organizations in the nation.

Erin Crager Woodworth and Neal Woodworth ’07 are building their first home together in Olathe, Kan. Erin works for Fred Pryor Seminars as a contract administrator.

Margaret Wylie works full time at AT&T, where she manages inventory for locations in Charlotte. Margaret has also been student teaching at Matthews Elementary and completed a bachelor’s degree in elementary education in May 2012 from Belmont Abbey College.

2008

5th Reunion - April 19-21, 2013

Sairy Sanchez Abarca worked for the University of North Carolina at Charlotte as a teaching assistant, completed her thesis and graduated in May with a master’s degree in architecture. She intends to begin the intern development program at an architecture firm in preparation for the Architect Registration Examination. Sairy is excited about the 2012 wedding of her sister Sianneth Sanchez ’07 to Jason Nark.

Danielle Adamczyk, “Danielle Soul,” is a singer, songwriter and musician with an incredible array of skill. She is classically trained on the piano and also plays the guitar. Her diverse vocal range leads to a dynamic on-stage performance. She is working on her debut project in the Charlotte area. You can find her at: www.DanielleSoul.com and www.facebook.com/DanielleSoulMusic, or follow her on Twitter: @Danielle_Soul.

Laura Brekke recently returned from a year at the University of Cambridge, where she studied theology at Wesley House and served as assistant chaplain at Trinity Hall. She graduated in May with a master in divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

Currently, she is under care to be ordained in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Jackie Groff Dargavel met husband Ian, a Lees-McRae College graduate, during her senior year. The two were introduced through teammates when both colleges’ teams advanced to the conference finals. They married in 2010 in Charlotte, and their first child, a baby girl, was due in February. Ian is a director of coaching for Charlotte United Futbol Club, and Jackie was employed with New Market Waste.

Susan Dutch, after a few nomadic years spent exploring New Zealand, Australia and England, followed by a brief stay stateside, is now in Asan City, South Korea, teaching English as a foreign language. She is participating in the Sketchbook Project, a collective of international artists submitting work for a traveling gallery, which can be viewed this summer in various locations in the United States and abroad.

The class expresses sympathy to Melanie Watkins Greene on the death of her husband, Matthew Timothy Greene, who passed away on December 3, 2011.

Jenny Wood Heimbigner happily married Joel Heimbigner ’07 on October 1, 2011. They continue to live in the South End area of Charlotte with their dog, Hudson.

Amanda Leggett is completing her fourth year of doctoral studies at Penn State University. She is working on her dissertation on depression and anxiety in older adults and taught a spring course on adult development and aging to 75 undergraduate students. She enjoys quick trips to New York City, where she catches a play or visits a museum, and loves rooting for Penn State sports teams.

2010

Emily Durham works at Stanly Regional Medical Center as a registered nurse in Albemarle, N.C., and lives in Concord. She plans to go back to school to further her career in nursing but has not decided what she would like to do yet. She is engaged to be married November 10.

Melanie Mosberg graduated in May with a master’s in social work from the University of South Carolina.

Arielya Taylor works in Charlotte for Carolinas HealthCare System as a registered nurse.

Amanda Valbert is a director of the youth volleyball program, Carolina Juniors Volleyball, at Sports Connection. She works part time at Carolina Courts, and, through networking, she acquired an assistant varsity volleyball coach position at Charlotte Country Day High School, leading her team to a record-setting season of 23-11. Amanda is halfway finished with completing a master’s degree in industrial and organizational psychology at Argosy University.
From Queens to Cambridge

ALTHOUGH FIVE DECADES SEPARATE THEM, LINDSAY COLLINS ‘11 AND PENNY MOFFETT ROBSON ‘60 DISCOVER THEY HAVE MUCH IN COMMON

Class of 2011 Valedictorian

Lindsay Collins is a graduate student at Oxford University. She keeps in touch with friends and faculty from Queens via Skype and Facebook. When she discovered that Penny Moffett Robson ’60 was living in nearby Cambridge, she connected with her and later spent a weekend at her home.

“It was an amazing feeling to know that I wasn’t too far from a fellow Queens grad and a pleasant surprise to find out we were both ADPs from Beta Iota Chapter at Queens,” she says. “It was a very special experience that I won’t forget.”

Lindsay majored in history and English literature at Queens and is working on her dissertation on Friedrich Schmitt, a German soldier during WWII who immigrated to the United States and became a civil rights activist for African Americans, youth and immigrants. Her dissertation focuses on his life during the Third Reich and why he eventually resigned from the SS. After majoring in music at Queens, Penny went to Cambridge to continue her studies. She plays several instruments and especially loves the organ.

Lindsay says her experiences at Queens inspired her to dream bigger.

“Queens taught me the inherent value of education,” she says. “It’s more than a future job or making your parents happy.” She says it provides the foundation of knowledge and in the process, changes those who receive it.

“We become better people,” she explains. Then she adds, “[It is] a privilege none of us should take for granted.”

Vanessa Willis

QUEENS

ALUMNI AND FAMILIES ARE INVITED BACK TO CAMPUS FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL ROYALS ALUMNI GAMES

OCTOBER 5-6

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All events will take place during the weekend including a Royals Club Golf Tournament and the Royals Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

It’s an event not to miss! Mark your calendars now to join us! More information at www.queens.edu.
Luis Cadilla PMBA ’94, vice president and finance manager with Bank of America in Charlotte, has been appointed financial lead of clearXchange LLC, a joint venture of Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo that is the first bank-owned solution of its kind. The joint venture will enable their customers to move money more conveniently and safely using a mobile number or email address.

Rick Warner MAT ’94 has recently been promoted to director of instructional technology for the Fort Mill school district. He is grateful to Queens for preparing him for this leadership opportunity as he continues his career in education.

Dalya Kutchei EMBA ’00, CCP and Ronnie Kahn eloped while sailing a 37-foot vessel around the British Virgin Islands and happily celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary in 2012. Captain Kahn has since sailed in races across the English Channel and in European countries, as well as in the Mid-Atlantic and Caribbean. Dalya uses her McColl School leadership skills as first mate and dinghy captain, and she is very involved with the McColl School.

Mary Wilken EMBA ’02 launched a new property, facility and association management firm, Home Management LLC, in summer 2009. It now has a staff of six and continues to grow. Her youngest child just turned 9. She has also become a grandmother of two beautiful girls.

Carol Ransone EMBA ’08 is in her second year of a doctorate program in Leadership and Change through Antioch University.

Marriages

Megan Barrick Taylor ’02 to Parnell Taylor, 5/14/2011.
Andrea Alford Manoni ’03 to R. J. Manoni, 10/2/2011.
Emily Candler ’04 to William Herman, 4/16/2011.
Sarah Terry Argabrite ’06 to Dan Argabrite ’03, 9/17/2011.
Jenny Wood Heimbigner ’08 to Joel Heimbigner ’07, 10/1/2011.
Cammie Rogers Helms ’00, a son, Worth McClendel Helms, IV, 12/2/2011.
Katie Nutter McCallum ’00, a son, Michael Kenneth McCallum, 6/1/2011.
Betsy Hinko Rhodes ’00, a daughter, Vivian Frances Rhodes, 11/22/2011.
Juwaun Seegars ’04 and Kristin Waite Seegars ’05, a daughter, Rylan Fay Seegars, 9/13/2011.
Casey Zaitz MSOD ’09, a son, Wyatt Thomas Zaitz, 1/13/2012.
Laura Beth Ellis MSOD ’11, a daughter, Anna Claire Ellis, 7/21/2011.

Births & Adoptions

Travis Bobb ’00 and Nicole Van Every Bobb ’02, a son, Brayden Scott Bobb, 3/7/2011.
Courtney Eliott Duncan ’90, a son, Knox Eliott Duncan, 12/12/2010.
Nella Sharpe Holden ’29, 12/12/2011.
Hanna Richardson Kitchin ’34, 10/9/2011.
Martha Hardin Laws ’38, 11/14/2011.
Martha Rayburn Coates ’39, 1/1/2012.
Mary Folger Tanner ‘40, 10/7/2011.

In Memory

Nella Sharpe Holden ’29, 12/12/2011.
Hanna Richardson Kitchin ’34, 10/9/2011.
Martha Hardin Laws ’38, 11/14/2011.
Martha Rayburn Coates ’39, 1/1/2012.
Mary Folger Tanner ‘40, 10/7/2011.
Let your classmates know what's new! Submissions are due July 31, 2012, for the winter 2012 issue. To submit your class note, go to: www.queens.edu/class-notes or scan our QR code.

Thank you to all of our alumni who submitted class notes! If you would like to contact the Office of Alumni Programs call 704-337-2256 or email alumni@queens.edu.
Twelve years ago, I walked across the graduation stage on a dewy spring morning at Queens. I had a job lined up in Hong Kong and as I accepted my diploma from Dr. Wireman, all I could think about was boarding that plane and the adventures in store. Sure, America was great, but she was so, oh, old hat?

I longed for exotic shores and I found them: Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand and France. Life was grand. I darted here and there on vacations to Thailand, Cambodia, Shanghai and Beijing. I was in Hong Kong when the twin towers were struck on 9/11. I voted in two presidential elections from abroad by absentee ballot. I learned Japanese, French, Arabic and Korean. I was honing my skills as a global citizen.

Living abroad was a high from which I dreaded coming down. The summer I returned home from my first long stint in Asia, memories of tuk-tuks and Star ferries melted away, replaced by what seemed like unending commutes from American suburbs and ubiquitous fast-food restaurants. It felt like the very antithesis of the exotic lifestyle I so craved.

Eventually I joined the Foreign Service of the US Department of State and was dispatched to South Korea, the “Hermit Kingdom,” where I now work as a Foreign Service Officer.

Somewhere along the way my perspective began to change. I don’t know when it happened, but somehow, as time has marched on, “old hat” began to seem pretty great. America has now become the place I long to live.

Every day I see Americans who flee abroad to find themselves, hunt adventure and exchange their American identities for global ones. It’s an important process: pushing yourself beyond familiarity, learning to look at yourself and your cultural identity from the outside in. But there is an intrinsic value to one’s nationality that I underestimated in my younger days.

I have lived in cultures where homogeneity is the key to success, where crimes that involve domestic abuse or sexual assault are under-reported or swept under the table, where women executives are a rarity, if they exist at all. I get a thrill these days when I walk to the airport line that says “American Citizens” and see every type of feature, skin and race. In Japan or Korea or China, such diversity does not yet exist.

America is lambasted from outside and within every day. It’s in every news report—how she’s falling behind here, breaking down there. She is criticized and attacked by those who fundamentally differ with what our nation stands for, or simply by our own citizens who are unhappy with the government, the economy, education or a million other things.

Twelve years as a global citizen have given me a different perspective.

By Rebekah Davis Ahrens ’00

Rebekah Davis Ahrens ’00 and her husband, Frank, live on Youngsan military base in Seoul, South Korea, with their 65-pound Labrador. Her favorite activity? “Walking our dog in Namsan Park in central Seoul where he is adored and photographed by all Koreans who are unaccustomed to seeing anything larger than a toy poodle.”
In a nod to the science of molecular biology, the south-facing "green wall" of the Rogers Science and Health Building will represent the pattern of a double helix. More than a dozen different species of indigenous Carolina flora will make up the design, which will change colors and textures during each of North Carolina’s four seasons.
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Paige Fisher ’12 has been accepted to graduate school in math at New York University this fall. This summer she will study biostatistics at the University of South Florida.

Justin Long ’12 will teach high school math in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School system this fall.

Khalif Guiden, Dec. ’12 will join Wells Fargo’s management training program in St. Louis this summer. This spring, he served as an admissions counselor.

Make your 2012-13 gift to support Queens students today with the enclosed envelope.