

QUEENS

SUMMER 2010

THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE

The First Men

Queens went co-ed, and they came

Also

A New College of Health
Levine Gift for Recreation Center
McColl School's 30th
Newsweek's Jon Meacham
Students for Haiti

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In February, Queens University of Charlotte was named one of the top 25 universities in the nation for innovative use of social media in higher education. Judges at CollegeSurfing.com, a popular search engine for college applicants, used Twitter feeds, Facebook pages, blogs and YouTube videos to evaluate schools. Tufts University was ranked first; Queens was ranked 20, above Princeton (23), Vanderbilt (31), and NYU (37).



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QUEENS MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2010

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The *Queens Magazine* is printed on a paper which is 30 percent post-consumer waste fiber and 50 percent total recycled fiber. Elemental chlorine-free pulps, acid-free and chlorine-free manufacturing conditions meet and exceed archival standards. Using 10,341 lbs. of paper for this project, here are the benefits of using post-consumer recycled fiber instead of virgin fiber:

26.06 trees
11,069 gal
1,225 lbs
2,412 lbs
18,458,685 BTUs

preserved for the future
wastewater flow saved
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WHY THEY CAME, WHY THEY STAYED AND WHERE THEY ARE TODAY: FIVE MEN FROM THE EARLY CO-ED YEARS LOOK BACK

By Kaysi Winsman '09

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A NEW COLLEGE OF HEALTH TACKLES THE GROWING NEED FOR QUALITY CARE

By William Cody, PhD, and David Roberson



On the Cover:

Paxton Mobley '92, Sean Kelly '93, Marcus Sims '94, Bobby Lindauer '92 and Greg Waldrop '93.



(L-r) John Mack, President Pamela Davies and Hugh McColl, Jr. kick off the McColl School's 30th anniversary celebration.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

At Queens we like to say we're "on the move." Fittingly, this issue of the *Queens Magazine* is all about milestones.

In May more than 600 graduates received their diplomas, marking a significant milestone in their lives. Their fields of study were diverse, yet whatever their passions we know they are well-equipped to make their marks upon the world.

The McColl School of Business celebrates its 30th anniversary this year, and what a great source of pride it continues to be. MFA in Creative Writing instructor Cathy Smith Bowers was named the North Carolina Poet Laureate, an honor that bolsters the program's momentum in building a national reputation.

This past semester brought two significant milestones in our *Investing in Queens' Future* capital campaign. The generosity of both the Blair and Levine families will spark changes to academic programs and facilities that will benefit our students for decades to come.

And finally, the feature story takes a look back in Queens' history to the watershed decision to become co-educational. We talk with five pioneering alumni to find out what it meant to them and where they are now.

Best wishes,

Pamela Davies, PhD
President

Your Letters

In response to "Carpe Recession!" in the winter 2010 issue of *Queens Magazine*, I give kudos to Dr. Chuck Bamford on a great article that was incredibly insightful and inspiring about starting and building a business during a recession. As a small business owner, I found his points of particular interest. It's easy to feel like a challenging economic climate is the time to hunker down and wait it out, but in reality, this is a great time to step ahead of the crowd and build a business.

—Dawn Newsome, MBA '07

We enjoyed so much the variety of articles in the winter edition of *Queens Magazine*, especially "East River Ambassador" about Beth Curry. If what she says is true, it's wonderful to know that our influencing her to choose Queens was the best thing we could have done for our college! What wonderful contributions she has made!

—Martha Woods Mallory '62 and Flora McNair Price '62

Editor's Note: In the article, Curry said she decided to enroll at Queens after a weekend visit with Mallory and Price, who were students.

Unfortunately I didn't attend Queens (my folks thought part of college was leaving home and leaving town), but I have had a lifelong interest in the campus from the time I was in elementary school at Myers Park. I used to stop by your soda shop on my way home or wait for my sister to finish her piano lessons in the music building.

I am writing to tell you what a beautiful job you are doing with *Queens Magazine*. The layout, writing, and pictures grab my interest and keep me excited about Queens and all that is going on there. Thank you.

—Margaret Martin, Charlotte

Tell us
what you
think!

We'd like to hear from you about the stories in the magazine. Please send your letters to editor@queens.edu. Letters should be limited to 250 words and include your full name, address and class year or Queens affiliation. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Photo by Jason Fararoei

Charlotte rock band Lyra Shines (above) joined area musicians at Dana Auditorium in February for a student-sponsored rock concert. About 200 students attended the Friday night event that raised funds for Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Jam for a Cause

STUDENT-ORGANIZED ROCK CONCERT RAISES FUNDS FOR HAITI

Audancie Constant went cold when she learned of the massive earthquake that shook her home country on January 12. Like many people, she felt helpless watching the chaos in Haiti unfold on the news. Her thoughts immediately turned to the loved ones who lived there—her brother, sister, cousins and teenage goddaughter—as well as the places she would never be able to show her four-year-old son.

“The hospital I was born in went down,” says Constant, associate director for residence life at Queens, who moved to the United States at the age of 11. “It’s very hard to see these things on television.”

The Queens community felt her

concern, so students organized Jam for a Cause to help families like hers. The Campus Union Board had discussed holding a benefit concert; once they learned of the destruction in Haiti, they knew they had to take action.

“We changed the theme to fit what was going on in the world around us,” says Jaime Torres, a Queens junior and one of the organizers.

On February 5, Russell Howard, Lyra Shines, The Outlaws, The Neutrals and Up Hill Both Ways performed on stage in Dana Auditorium. There were raffles for donated items, and students put together displays to educate concertgoers about the Caribbean state of Haiti. By the end of the evening, Jam for a Cause raised nearly \$1,200 for



World Vision, a Christian disaster-relief organization that works with families across the globe.

“It feels great to know that we were able to make a difference,” says Torres.

“It touched my heart,” says Constant, who was still waiting to hear news of her loved ones in Haiti months after the earthquake. “It’s nice to see the students donate their time and effort.” She knows it won’t be easy for her homeland to rebuild, but she says the support from her Queens family gives her comfort during a painful time.

“It’s a great way to be part of a community that cares so much,” she adds. ■

—Reena Arora

Briefly Noted

GOVERNOR TAPS FACULTY FOR NC POET LAUREATE

Queens MFA in Creative Writing instructor Cathy Smith Bowers was named N.C. Poet Laureate by Governor Bev Perdue in January. Smith Bowers was a founding member of the Queens MFA faculty in 2001.

Smith Bowers says she has navigated through personal pain by writing, producing four poetry collections that focus on family and loss. Now, she hopes to use her platform to demonstrate the power of the spoken word to transform hurts and pains into healing.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY HOSTS AUTHORS

Author Kathy Reichs spoke at the Friends of the Library's 39th annual dinner in March. Her series of novels about Temperance "Tempe" Brennan inspired the popular TV series "Bones," and she shared stories of her adventures in Hollywood while working on the show.

Kathryn Stockett spoke at the luncheon; her first novel, *The Help*, is a *New York Times* bestseller and has been optioned by Steven Spielberg for a movie.



Queens instructor Cathy Smith Bowers.

THE FRIENDS OF MUSIC AT QUEENS HOSTS CONCERT

Themes of cultural identity and change highlighted a concert held February 6 by the Friends of Music at Queens and the Charlotte Symphony. Inspired by an exhibition at the Levine Museum of the New South, *Changes of Note* featured short chamber pieces composed by faculty from area schools. The Queens Chamber Singers sang music inspired by the life and work of African-American artist Lois Mailou Jones.

CHARLOTTE BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR ANNOUNCED

Catherine Bessant received the 2009 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year award at a luncheon on March 8. She is the global technology and operations



Catherine Bessant was named the 2009 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year.

executive for Bank of America.

"It has not been easy to be a banker for the past few years," she said at the luncheon. "Success is what happens after the situation that requires resiliency is over."

STUDENTS HELP ORPHANAGES

Students in Assistant Professor Karen Neal's "Parenting in Contemporary Society" class are transforming a renowned parenting guide into pamphlets for use in Ukrainian orphanages. Professor Yuliya Baldwin of UNCC is translating their work into Russian. Neal led a group of students to the Ukraine and Poland in May to work with a physician who serves orphans.

—Vanessa Willis



The Queens Chamber Singers performing music inspired by Lois Mailou Jones.

Cheney for President?

NEWSWEEK EDITOR SAYS HE SHOULD RUN

Standing at a microphone in Dana Auditorium, an audience member asked *Newsweek* editor Jon Meacham why he wrote in favor of Dick Cheney running for president in 2012. Meacham laughed but stood by his December 2009 editorial. He argued that someone with such strong convictions and public record as Cheney should take his arguments into the arena of electoral politics rather than punditry.

Meacham visited Queens on March 4 as the final guest for The Learning Society 2009-2010 speaker series. Touching on his personal background as a graduate of The University of the South in Sewanee (which he jokingly referred to as a combination of *Deliverance* and *Brideshead Revisited*), Meacham shared his thoughts on media bias, the future of the magazine industry and the next presidential race.



Meacham speaks with Autumn Cutter '13 following the afternoon student lecture.

Although Meacham acknowledged a bias within media, he does not agree it has the liberal slant many suspect. For those who think that the left controls media, Meacham questioned how a Massachusetts' senate seat went to Republicans after a lengthy Democratic reign. The bias, he explained, is not toward one political view or another but toward conflict.

When the floor opened for questions, a high school student probed Meacham on how the magazine industry plans to reach his generation. Meacham acknowledged that current methods would have to change, and he could foresee a day when people are required to pay for magazine content online. ■

—Jenny Matz '99



Reverend Duncan M. Gray Jr. at St. Peter's in Oxford, 1962.

Assistant Professor of Religion Araminta Johnson's first book, *One Was a Priest*, will be published in September by the University of Mississippi Press. The book chronicles the life of Johnson's childhood minister, Reverend Duncan M. Gray Jr.

Surprises from the Past

RELIGION PROFESSOR DISCOVERS HER MINISTER'S HISTORY

Gray, an Episcopal priest who was elected bishop of Mississippi, was swept up in the turmoil of the Civil Rights Movement. "He got his first church a few months before the Brown v. Board of Education case that changed everything," Johnson says. "He was an early supporter of integration and encountered a lot of resistance. And there are great lessons in his perspective, looking back on those years that changed our entire country."

As a child, Johnson was unaware of his involvement. They reconnected through a chance meeting while she was in Mississippi on a college tour with her daughter. As she listened to his stories, she felt compelled to capture them in a book.

"It's just uncanny how as the church moved him, he was always in the hot spots of controversy," she says. "He lived in Oxford in the time of riots on the University of Mississippi campus, in Meridian when there was a huge resurgence of the KKK there, and when many black churches were burned."

The title comes from a Protestant hymn about saints that honors the lesser known as those who are worth remembering and emulating. "One example was a priest," says Johnson.

Johnson came to Queens in 1998, and teaches philosophy and religion. She is also a professor in the freshman CORE program. ■

—Vanessa Willis

In the Classroom

**VIETNAM: JEWEL OF SOUTHEAST ASIA
JBIP 210 (REQUIREMENT FOR JOHN BELK
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM)**

History, politics and a little regional cuisine played an important role in getting Queens students ready for a summer stint in Southeast Asia. On May 13, juniors in the John Belk International Program (JBIP) left for a study tour of Vietnam that included visiting limestone islands and riding a dragon boat up the Perfume River to explore ancient imperial temples.

"The system in Vietnam is very different from ours, and students who go on this trip tend to be adventurous," said Assistant Professor of Political Science Alexa Royden, who taught the required preparatory course for the trip with Assistant Professor of Philosophy Eric Mullis. Royden and Mullis are no strangers to international travel; they both lived and studied in China.

To prepare, students learned basic phrases in Vietnamese, delved into the country's history, ate at a local Vietnamese restaurant and explored elements of Buddhism, the major religion of Vietnam.

PROFESSORS:

Eric Mullis, a Charlotte native, holds a PhD in philosophy from the University of South Carolina. He speaks Mandarin and studies Chinese philosophy and religion.



Photo by Mimi K courtesy of Flickr

Alexa Royden hails from Asheville, North Carolina, and holds a PhD in international relations from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland.

ASSIGNED TEXT:

Two Cakes Fit for a King: Folktales from Vietnam, Nguyen Nguyet Cam and Dana Sachs

ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE:

- Understand and use basic phrases in Vietnamese.
- Organize a service project to raise funds for the Dieu Giac Temple Orphanage in Ho Chi Minh City, a private shelter that houses nearly 120 children.
- Prepare a report about a place of interest within the country; take a leadership role while visiting the area researched.

—Reena Arora

"mine"

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS HAVE THEIR OWN SHOW

Graphic designers are the brains and talent behind some of our favorite images, yet we rarely know who they are. Mike Wirth, assistant professor of graphic design, thought it was time to give them a voice. Make that a gallery.

In March, Friends of Art at Queens hosted "mine," an exhibition of the personal art of 11 local graphic designers at the Max L. Jackson Gallery. Participants included professionals from academia, architecture, computer science, broadcast media, sustainable design and photography. "The exhibit exemplifies the mission of new media

design," Wirth says, referring to the undergraduate major that combines traditional graphic design with new media, such as animation and Web design.

Works included maps, dreamlike paintings and enhanced photographs. Drew Kinney's "Niger," which broke the name of the West African country across two lines to suggest a pejorative word, challenged the assumptions of viewers.

Students compiled an exhibition catalog that included a description of

the show's philosophy, biographies of the artists and artist statements. Wirth created the event's logo (shown below), which illustrates the infrequency of "mine" in a mountain of "their" work. ■

—Laurie Prince





John Mack and Hugh McColl, Jr. kick off the 30th anniversary celebration.

McColl School's 30th

IT STARTED WITH 14 STUDENTS

In 1980, Queens President Billy O. Wireman recognized Charlotte's growing need for skilled business professionals. Under his leadership, Queens launched the Master in Business Administration (MBA) program. It began with just four full-time professors and 14 graduate students.

"I was attracted by the incredible energy, with people just on fire to learn," says Cathy Anderson, who left a career in law to join the faculty in 1984 as an adjunct professor. She is now the Billy O. Wireman Professor of Business Administration.

Two early supporters were Bill Lee from Duke Power, who served on the Board of Trustees for nearly three decades beginning in 1970, and Hugh McColl, Jr. of NationsBank, also a trustee. Robert Finley, who led the program at the time, remembers McColl saying, "You pay attention to the quality of the experience, and the students will come." McColl's involvement was honored in 1993 by a gift to Queens from Alpheus L. Ellis, who requested that the school be named in his honor.

The students came. Today, more than 600 undergraduate and graduate

students are enrolled in the McColl School of Business. The curriculum has expanded to offer a bachelor's degree, professional and executive MBAs, a Master of Science in Organization Development, a coaching certificate and executive education programs through the Executive Leadership Institute.

To kick off the 30th anniversary, Hugh McColl, Jr. recently returned to Queens along with Morgan Stanley Chairman John Mack to share their thoughts on various business topics before an audience of more than 1,000 students and community guests. It was the first event in a year-long celebration of the school's anniversary.

The McColl School of Business is accredited by the Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs and the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, a distinction held by only 5 percent of business schools worldwide. Under the direction of its faculty and staff, the school continues to prepare its students for active leadership roles in business and public service. ■

—Amanda Taylor

Cato Achievement

COOPERATION BETWEEN QUEENS AND MYERS PARK SCHOOL GARNERS NATIONAL AWARD

The multi-faceted partnership between Queens and neighboring Myers Park Traditional Elementary School has earned national recognition as a model for effective leadership, professional development and strategic initiatives that boost academic success in lasting and profound ways.

The 2010 National Association for Professional Development Schools Award for Exemplary Professional Development School Achievement recognizes collaboration between colleges or universities and preschool-grade 12 schools that is significant and mutually beneficial.

"As a school of education, we have a commitment to reach out to the schools in our community," says Wayland H. Cato, Jr. School of Education Dean Darrel Miller. "This award is confirmation that what we are doing in that arena is working."

The relationship between the schools is reciprocal. Many Cato School of Education students have completed student teaching at Myers Park Traditional, and a group is now participating in a mentoring initiative that has demonstrated results in raising end-of-grade testing scores for at-risk students. Queens staff and faculty have also offered training and seminars for teachers at the elementary school, and several teachers there have earned master's degrees at Queens.

Paul Bonner, principal at Myers Park Traditional, says the award is a testament to how schools and universities can successfully work together: "This partnership works so well because we have a shared commitment to enhance education at all levels." ■

—Vanessa Willis



First Hall of Fame Inductions

Some of the first student athlete alumni to be recognized as members of the Royals Hall of Fame (l-r) Walter Aikens '91, Suzy Sulsona '97, Bill Kennedy '96, Sequoya Friday '99, and Kevin Yearick '98.

ACHIEVEMENTS CELEBRATED AT HOMECOMING

Homecoming 2010 festivities kicked off in February with the induction of the first class of Royals' Hall of Famers. Royals pride swelled as seven alumni and three administrators were recognized for their lasting contributions.

Five of the alumni inductees were student athletes: Walter Aikens '91, Sequoya Friday '99, Bill Kennedy '96, Suzy Sulsona '97 and Kevin Yearick '98. Aikens and Friday played men's and women's basketball, respectively, and the other three played soccer. The two

Royals Lifetime Achievement award recipients inducted were Christine Safford Beck '64 (women's tennis) and Jane Mack '66 (women's golf). Former Director of Athletics Dale Layer, Associate Professor Phyllis Pharr, and the late Dr. Billy O. Wireman were honored in the coach/administrator category.

The soccer inductees had the same coach—Fred Norchi—at Queens. Norchi, who is now men's soccer head coach, started and led the women's soccer program while also coaching the

men's team.

During the ceremony, Katie Wireman, the widow of former Queens President Billy O. Wireman, presented Director of Athletics Jeannie King with Dr. Billy O.'s men's basketball Elite Eight appearance ring. The ring marked the first-ever appearance of a Queens team in the quarter-finals of an NCAA championship. ■

—Vanessa Willis

Trustees Honored

OUTSTANDING SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED AT JANUARY DINNER

The Queens Board of Trustees honored a group of former trustees and advisory trustees for their exemplary service to Queens.

At the trustee dinner on January 28, Joseph W. Grier, Jr., Edwin L. Jones, Jr., Hugh L. McColl, Jr. and

Dorothy M. Martin '59 were named to the new position of Life Trustee. Trustee Chairman Ben Jenkins said the new position honors former trustees "whose commitment and service to the university have been not just dedicated but sacrificial, and whose sustained

efforts on behalf of the university have been extraordinary."

An additional 55 former trustees and advisory trustees were honored as trustees emeriti, in recognition of their outstanding service:

Judith Napier Allison '70
Elizabeth Gray Anderson '58
Sadler H. Barnhardt
Jean Trueworthy Batten '57
Christine Safford Beck '64
Claudia W. Belk
Irwin Belk
Paul F. Betzold
A. Richard Blair
Crandall C. Bowles
Byron L. Bullard
Parker Norman Call '68
J. M. Carstarphen III
Mary Jac Vaughn Chambers '61

Martha C. Chapman
John P. Clancey
W. Malcolm Clayton
Michele Prestera Craig '67
Barbara M. Crutchfield
Rose Grubb Daniel '79
R. Stuart Dickson
Carla Eloff DuPuy '69
Hugh M. Durden
Madine H. Fails '91
John C. Fennebresque
Carolyn Van Every Foil '60
J. Elizabeth Garraway '65
Betty Johnson Gray '51

Louise Johnson Guy '49
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Mary Whiteside Haught '63
Elaine Hallman Henderson '75
Benjamin S. Horack
Ruth Edmiston Hunter '42
Robert J. James
Helen B. Jones
Moiria Quinn Klein '77
Viola Alexander Lyles '73
Wilkes D. Macaulay
Susan Menk Cabell Mains '71
Juanita McLeod McInnes '61

Samuel H. McMahon '54
Sue Challen Moore '64
Caroline Love Myers '55
Jane Ellen Taylor Nichols '37
A. Bruce Parker
Martha Cooke Player '83
Delores K. Ray '92
John H. Robison
Arthur Ross
Sue F. Ross '61
Virginia Gray Vance '49
W. Terry Young
Joan H. Zimmerman

Class Act

DRAMA PROFESSOR JANE HADLEY AWARDED HUNTER-HAMILTON LOVE OF TEACHING AWARD

When Jane Hadley arrived at Queens in 1972 to teach drama, she came with instant status as the wife of one of the most popular professors on campus. Charles Hadley was beginning his eighteenth year of teaching literature, and students flocked to his classes for his humor and stories. He was not only a brilliant teacher, but a Fulbright Scholar and a voice coach. Over the course of his career, he would train many famous actors, including Charlton Heston, John Travolta and Scarlett Johansson.

Jane, with flowing hair and oversized sunglasses, proved a formidable talent in her own right, bringing life to the small drama department. She searched for scripts that would fare well with a predominantly female cast, invested hours pulling together funds and supplies, built sets, directed plays and taught the art of drama. The hours were long, and the adrenalin-charged post-midnight practices bore the discipline of military precision. Those who studied under her describe those classes as defining experiences.

When nominations began arriving for the 2010 Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award—the highest faculty award given by Queens University of Charlotte and accompanied by a \$15,000 cash gift—the office was swamped with letters for Jane Hadley. They arrived from current students, former students, and even from those who never had her as a teacher, but knew those whom she had taught.

For 38 years, Jane's enthusiasm for theater has been outmatched only by her love for her students. Many attribute their careers in theater, television, film and teaching to her



Photo by Jason Farabee

Jane Hadley is presented the Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award at the 2010 commencement ceremony on May 8 by Dr. Bill Clyde.

mentorship. Sally Wheeler Maier '89 is developing a theater department for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and she wrote, "I turn to her regularly for information and inspiration. She is the bar against which I have held all other instructors in my academic career."

Students know her home phone number; alumni stop by her house when in town. Edith Busbee Gholson '83, who has spent nearly three decades in nonprofit management, took directing classes under Jane. Over the years she has returned for career advice, applying Jane's insights to organizational management, fund development, adherence to deadlines and supervision of human resources.

Jane has stretched, challenged

and empowered those she has taught. The opening of the Jane and Charles Hadley Theatre in 2005 is a tribute to the impact both she and her husband have had upon the very fabric of Queens. "It is so easy to salute the achievements of medicine and science, of technological advances, or the drama of a well-fought legal battle," wrote Cynthia Mills '84 in her nomination. "How powerful instead to celebrate communication through the dramatic arts at a time when the level of our interactions has been reduced to inane 140 character Tweets...and to honor a woman whose entire career is marked by humility and service in shaping lives." ■

—Laurie Prince

Play Together, Stay Together

THE LEON LEVINE FOUNDATION AWARDS THE LARGEST FOUNDATION GIFT IN QUEENS' HISTORY, LAUNCHING A NEW HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER



The Levine Center will be built along Wellesley Avenue, on the site of the existing Ovens Athletic Center. It will include fitness facilities for students, faculty and staff, as well as offices for the athletics department.

Campus life and the university's *Investing in Queens' Future* campaign received an unprecedented boost in April with the announcement that The Leon Levine Foundation of Charlotte has awarded a grant of \$7.5 million to name The Levine Student Wellness and Recreation Center at Queens. The award—the largest foundation gift in the university's history—is for a \$30 million multipurpose facility that is the largest single project in the campaign.

"When we initially planned the campaign, it focused heavily on academic facilities, because our board recognized this as our top priority," said President Pamela Davies. "But the board also understood the vital role of wellness and recreational facilities, and agreed that we should add such a center to the

campaign if we could find a visionary donor to make the lead gift.

"We are thrilled that the Levine Foundation, with a long record of supporting health and wellness projects, has stepped forward to help us make the center a reality," Davies said. "This wonderful facility will affect the daily lives of all who study and work at Queens, and we are immensely grateful to the foundation for its generosity."

Leon Levine, chairman of The Leon Levine Foundation, commented on the impetus for the gift. "For decades, Queens University of Charlotte has helped to set the bar of academic excellence in our community," he said. A recreation center for students will enhance the university's appeal. "The talented faculty and staff continue to build a first-class university, and this

new facility will help draw top caliber students to this important institution."

The Levine Center, to be constructed on the site of the existing Ovens Athletic Center, will be a 130,000-square foot facility on three levels, and will be the main location for all wellness and recreational activities at Queens. The center's upper level will feature a fully equipped fitness center for use by the entire campus community. Other features include a three-lane, .10-mile indoor track, a fitness center, studios for dance and aerobics classes, and study space. There will also be a three-story indoor climbing wall and a food court.

The heart of the center will be an innovative and technologically advanced performance gym with flexibility for a wide range of uses. Moveable walls

and reconfigurable seating will enable quick adaptation to a variety of uses, from three separate playing courts for classes or intramural sports to conversion to a 2,000-seat venue for basketball games or other varsity athletic competition. For special events such as commencement, the gym can be transformed into a 2,500-seat theater.

While meeting a variety of needs for the whole campus, the center will also tremendously upgrade facilities for Royals athletics, with the athletics department occupying space on the first and lower levels. This includes modern offices for coaches and staff, a weight room, training room, trophy room, classrooms, conference space, and well-appointed locker rooms for the Royals and visiting teams. Combined with the new space available at the Queens Sports Complex on Tyvola Road, the center will complete a total overhaul of space for campus athletic programs.

Brian Ralph, vice president for enrollment management, said the Levine Center will be an aid in recruiting today's students, who place a significant emphasis on activities centered around fitness, recreation and sports. "The lack of this kind of facility at Queens has been a challenge for attracting students who have come to expect wellness and recreation centers on every college campus," he said.

shows that students who are engaged socially and pursuing fitness and wellness

Levine Center will provide space for students to gather, play intramurals, grab a smoothie and cheer on the Royals. "It won't just be a huge addition for our athletics department—it's going to be a tremendous enhancement to our campus," Ralph said.

John Downey, dean of students, said the new center "is probably one of the most talked about projects within the traditional undergraduate student body in my time at Queens." Today's students expect such facilities. "Our goal in student life is to promote an agenda that includes healthy living through exercise, sports, and recreation. This facility will go a long way toward helping us achieve that goal and inspiring students to come to Queens and stay here through graduation," he said.

It will expand the strong sense of community at Queens. "It will also further promote interaction between students, faculty, and staff because many of the employees at Queens will utilize the facility," Downey said. "And this facility will have a tremendous benefit on our athletics department and the sense of school spirit on campus. In other words, everyone benefits as a result of the Levine Center."

The \$100 million *Investing in Queens' Future* campaign, which will include the balance of funds needed to construct the center, runs through 2012. ■

—David Roberson



Three views inside the Levine Center. From top: A spacious two-story lobby provides a grand entrance for the center; the technically advanced performance gym can be configured into a hall for special events; the entire campus community will enjoy the benefits of the fitness center.

are more successful students and have higher graduation rates," he noted. The



By Kaysi Winsman '09

*Queens officially went co-ed in 1988;
five men from the early years look back*

Paxton Mobley was already accepted to his grandfather's alma mater when he received a letter in the mail from Queens, inviting him to explore the men's tennis team. He was the number one tennis player on his high school team, and at the time his aspirations were to become a professional tennis player or to study veterinary medicine.

Greg Waldrop wanted to study abroad, so he applied for the most prestigious scholarship offered. Marcus Sims wanted to play soccer. Sean Kelly and Bobby Lindauer were high school basketball stars. These five men chose Queens in the first years that the school went co-ed.

We asked them to look back on what their experience was like and how it influenced where they are today. As part

of a renaissance in Queens' cultural fabric, they were pioneers in a change sweeping American higher education, a minority on a formerly single-sex campus. Here's what they told us about why they came and the impact it had.

In the fall of 1988, Paxton Mobley accepted the opportunity to play tennis and study on scholarship for dual degrees in studio art and art history, and says those decisions, and the relationships he developed with peers and faculty at Queens, account for where he is today. One of the few men in the art program at the time, Mobley was allowed to have a personal studio on the top floor of Watkins Hall. He used that space to paint and worked with professors on an independent study basis. "What that did for me was develop



Above: Commencement 1992, the first male graduating class. Front row (l-r): Andy Gartrell, Shawn Stinson, Doug Andrew, admissions counselor Woody O'Cain, Kevin Harris, Paxton Mobley, Brad Morgan, Bill Goldsmith. Back row (l-r): Derek Painter, Jay McBride, Ray Hart, Stacey Waits, Bobby Lindauer, Dan Pearson, Scott Handback, Walter Aikens.

my style," he explains from his California studio, the home of Paxton Fine Art. Those early years at Queens gave him the confidence to develop a personal technique, midrealism, that he continues to explore today in both painting and writing. "In the art program, they gave me the ability to be very individual and express myself and keep painting; they kept teaching me but letting me find my own way," he says.

Paxton Mobley '92 (right) in his art studio in Seaside, California.





President Billy O. Wireman's ideas about education, and the school's emphasis on international learning, drew Greg Waldrop to Queens in the fall of 1989. The Alabama native was awarded a Presidential Scholarship, the school's most prestigious award (full tuition for four years). Waldrop quickly became involved on campus, from the student newspaper and student government to student theatre productions.

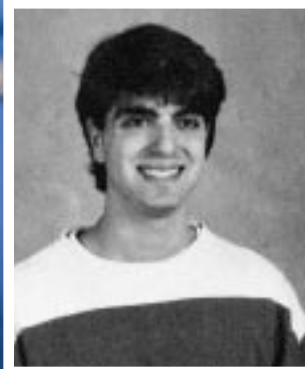
He had a good ear for accents and could easily imitate others. His funny imitations of Wireman earned him a campus-wide reputation. The president took it in stride, seeing beyond the humorous antics of a college student. He recognized that Waldrop had a natural born talent.

"Dr. Wireman was a wonderful sport," Waldrop recounts. "When I decided I wanted to learn another language, Dr. Wireman said, 'Do Chinese. It's up and coming.' I took that trait of being able to produce those sounds and directed it toward learning a tonal language."

Waldrop spent his last semester learning basic Chinese pronunciation and went on to earn a master's degree in international studies with a China focus from the University of Washington in 2000. He has also completed several language intensive programs, including two in Chinese—one at Middlebury College and another at the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies, where he met his wife. He traces his career path's beginnings to the exposure he got at Queens to other cultures. The International Experience Program, which later became the John Belk International Program, was placing students in parts of the world they had never seen. "If it weren't for the international experience, I wouldn't be married to the person I am or have the skill set that I do today. That opened the door to other cultures," says Waldrop. He and his wife speak Mandarin Chinese at home with their two-year-old son.

This summer he is working in China at an international law firm. "I'm wonderful at sales, but at the end of the day my passions are linguistics and putting large deals together," he says. He is earning a degree in corporate law with an international focus at Georgia State University College of Law and plans to combine it with his proficiency in Spanish, Chinese and English to assemble international deals.

When Waldrop enrolled at Queens, he was one of less than 60 young men on a campus of 1,613 undergraduate students. For years the school had struggled to find a sustainable foothold as a women's college. It was competing with hundreds of schools across the country for an alarmingly small and decreasing population of college-bound women interested in a single-sex education. As Queens faltered



As an undergrad, Greg Waldrop '93 (left) had a knack for imitating people. President Wireman encouraged him to use it to learn Chinese. He became fluent in Mandarin; this summer is working in China at an international law firm.

Biology Professor Kent Rhodes encouraged Marcus Sims '94 (right) to apply to summer medical programs when he was an undergraduate at Queens. To his surprise, Sims was accepted by all five. He became the first black male to graduate from Queens' biology department, and later was the first two-year chief of cardiology at the George Washington University Medical Center. He practices interventional cardiology in Atlanta.



economically, President Wireman concluded that “it wasn’t a question of whether there was going to be a college for women, it was a question of whether there was going to be a college at all.” Under his leadership, Queens hired a consulting firm to recommend options for a sustainable academic future and learned that 76 percent of college-bound men were willing to consider education at a formerly all-women’s college. On the other hand, only five percent of college-bound women were likely to attend a women’s college now that many men’s colleges had become co-ed. The firm recommended that Queens become coeducational to answer the challenge of economic recovery, and in fall of 1987, the Queens Board of Trustees approved what was to be a very timely change.

The decision to open Queens to male students was a game changer. Four-fifths of the women’s colleges that existed in the early 1970s went co-ed or closed; today less than 60 remain. Wireman’s push came at the right time, and Queens has evolved into a master’s level university that still has an intimate learning environment. Globally-minded students thrive from close relationships with faculty, who emphasize the pursuit of meaningful work.

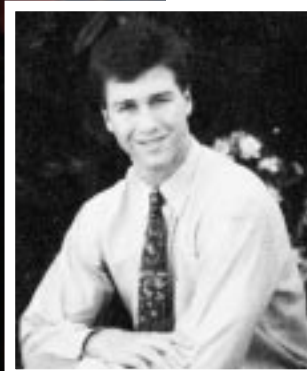


Queens celebrated the first men with the whimsical cover of the 1989 yearbook (left), drawn by Professor Marbury Brown.

Marcus Sims arrived at Queens in the fall of 1990, recruited by the new soccer coach Fred Norchi who was building a men’s team. Norchi would go on to assemble winning teams for both men’s and women’s soccer; today he is ranked in the Top 10 of NCAA Division II men’s soccer coaches.

“Coach Norchi was recruiting my best friend in high school, and he decided to recruit me to play soccer for Queens as well,” Sims recounts. His best friend signed





elsewhere, but Sims enrolled on a soccer scholarship, expecting to play four years. But after two years, he was faced with some tough choices. Soccer, biology and chemistry labs couldn't all be priorities, so Sims focused on his academics in the biology department during his remaining two years at Queens.

"Coach Norchi helped me to make the right decision in terms of my career," says Sims. He reaped big rewards. "I became the first black male to graduate from Queens' biology department, went on to medical school and now practice as a cardiologist in Atlanta." His experience was evidence that a defining mark of the Queens undergraduate experience—close mentoring relationships with faculty—had successfully crossed the gender divide. The new male students were enjoying a benefit that defined generations of young women at Queens. And they were thriving.

Like Sims, the other two men came to Queens because of sports. Bobby Lindauer was a promising young basketball player from Florida who arrived in the fall of 1988. Despite his reservations about playing men's basketball at a school that only a year earlier had been a women's college, he was persuaded by both his father's enthusiasm and Coach Dale Layer's gusto.

"His presence and his confidence in what he was going to be able to do swayed me, and I said, 'I'll give it a shot,'" remembers Lindauer about the conversations he had with Coach Layer. "I took a leap of faith." He and three other first-year recruits stayed off the court and practiced for a year while Layer recruited enough players to compete at an intercollegiate level.

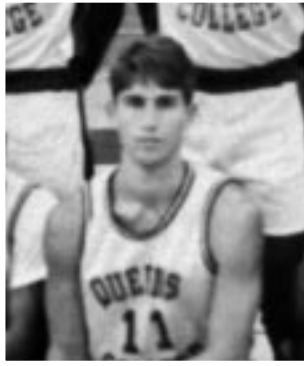
The risk paid off, giving Lindauer an experience that prepared him for life after college. The discipline of the basketball court, the responsibility of representing his school, the challenges of classes and the opportunity to study abroad in China got him ready for the business world. In small classes, students were pushed to collaborate on projects and field questions after presentations. "I know I would not have had all of those experiences had I gone to a bigger school where my friends went. I got a lot more out of my education than I think they did."

By the time he received his diploma in 1992, he was ready for the next step. "My first job out of school was with NationsBank in Tampa, Florida," Lindauer says. "I was in a management training class with 20 to 25 other graduates starting their first jobs. There wasn't one of them in there I felt inferior to. In some ways, I felt like I maybe had more preparation than they did."

He later returned to school to earn a law degree from UNC Chapel Hill and today is a partner at Johnston Allison & Hord. He lives with his wife and children in Charlotte.

Bobby Lindauer '92 (left) was a promising young basketball player from Florida who came to Queens as a recruit for the first team. The responsibility of representing his school, and the discipline of the court, prepared him for life after college. He is pictured in his law office at Johnson Allison & Hord, where he is a partner.

Sean Kelly '93 (right) was also recruited to play basketball at Queens in the fall of 1989. The small campus made it easy to get involved, and Kelly credits the classroom experience with shaping his workplace abilities. In 2009 he was named one of Wall Street's "Top 40 under 40."



Sean Kelly arrived at Queens in the fall of 1989 as a basketball recruit. Like Lindauer, he became interested in Queens because of a relationship with Coach Layer. But it was a campus visit that caused him to make up his mind. "Once I visited the campus and had a chance to meet the faculty and other students, I knew it was a super fit for me," he says. He enrolled and found that being on a small campus made it easy to get involved, a pivotal experience in preparing for life after college.

"The professors are world class—as recognized by the number of North Carolina Professor of the Year awards the school has won—and thanks to the small faculty-to-student ratio, students actively participate in every class. This helps students develop the ability to present and defend their ideas, which is critical in the workplace," he explains.

After Queens, Kelly earned an MBA from UNC Chapel Hill and established himself as a financial manager. Last year he was named one of Wall Street's "Top 40 under 40" by *On Wall Street* magazine. He lives with his wife and children in Atlanta, Georgia, where he is an executive director for Morgan Stanley Private Wealth Management. He remains close to Queens, serving on the Board of Trustees for the last eight years.

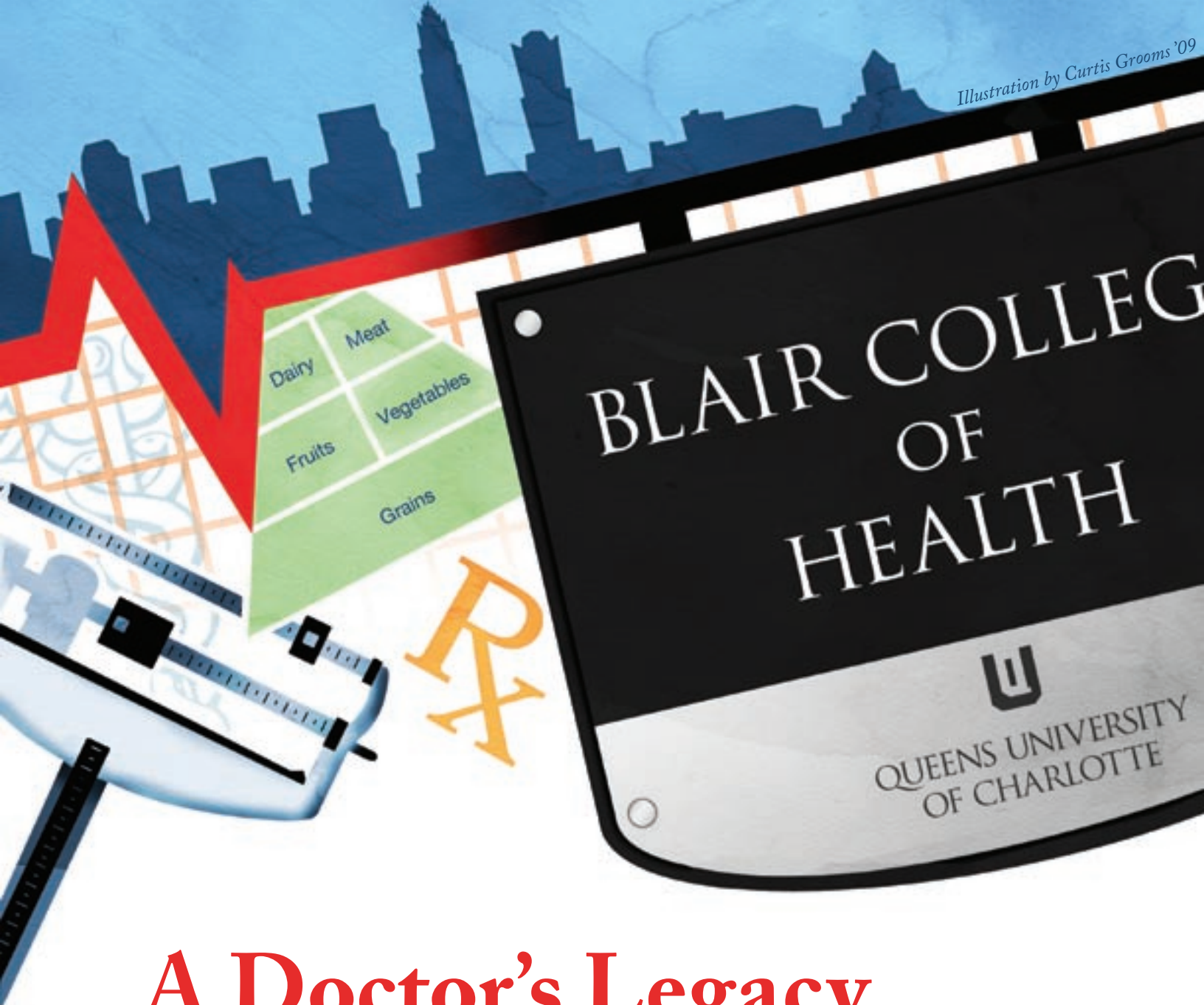


By the late 1990s, a cultural and economic awakening had occurred at a small college in the heart of bustling metropolitan Charlotte. It sparked an evolution that brought a clearer view of the school's purpose and of what it meant to the city and its alumni. The college that started before the Civil War to educate young women would soon expand its vision to become a comprehensive university open to all.

Because they were among the first men to enroll, Paxton Mobley, Greg Waldrop, Marcus Sims, Bobby Lindauer and Sean Kelly arrived at a time when the future was still being decided. They were pioneers in a movement that redefined not only Queens, but also the landscape of American higher education.

"The co-ed experiment was a gamble on Dr. Wireman's part," says Bobby Lindauer, "and I hope that everyone who cares about the school at this point would think it was a worthwhile gamble, one that has already paid off and will continue to pay off." ■





A Doctor's Legacy

A NEW COLLEGE OF HEALTH MEETS A GROWING NEED FOR QUALITY CARE

During World War II, Andrew Blair was one of the few practicing physicians left in Charlotte. Too old to enlist, he became legendary for his long hours and committed service to local citizens. His son Richard Blair recalls stopping by his father's office in downtown Charlotte one afternoon after a movie. "Three flights of steps up to his office were filled with people, from the walkway to the building up to the third floor," he remembers. His father died of a heart attack three years after the war ended, in 1948, while visiting a patient in Presbyterian Hospital.

When Queens opens the Andrew Blair College of Health on July 1, it will be a tribute to one of Charlotte's most beloved physicians of the 1930s and 1940s. Andrew Blair's practical

concern was matched by his commitment to teach others to care for the sick. As chief of staff at Presbyterian Hospital, he also served as an instructor in the hospital's School of Nursing. His sister, Elizabeth Blair, was on the Queens faculty and later became dean of instruction. (The nursing programs at Queens and Presbyterian Hospital merged in 2004.) To honor his father's life work, Richard Blair and his wife Delores, of Pawleys Island, South Carolina, have made a \$7 million gift to establish the Andrew Blair College of Health.

The Presbyterian School of Nursing will be the first and largest component of the new college and the foundation for future expansions that may include programs in public health, nutrition, gerontology, health informatics and health science



or health management. Collaborative efforts with other Queens academic units in health communication, health services and health care leadership are also being considered, as is a wellness institute, perhaps operated in partnership with Charlotte-area organizations.

"We've seen record enrollments in Queens' nursing programs this year, and we know that demand for well-trained people in a wide variety of health professions is increasing annually, and is expected to continue growing for some time," says William K. Cody, dean of the Presbyterian School of Nursing, who will serve as dean of the new college.

"Expanding our programs in the health professions is a strategic step not only to meet the interests of Queens students, but also to address our aging society's growing need for health services," he says.

Andrew Blair's son, Richard, served as a Queens trustee from 1999 to 2006 and became an emeritus trustee in 2010.

He said he hopes the new college will serve as a lasting memorial to his father's dedication to the practice of medicine and to the people of Charlotte.

Andrew Blair served as an ambulance driver in France during World War I before graduating from the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He moved to Charlotte after completing his internship in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1924 and built a busy practice as an internist. He later worked with his sister to establish a program through which nursing students at the hospital could study at Queens to earn both RN and BS degrees at the completion of a five-year program. Many of Charlotte's nurse leaders received degrees from Queens through this program. Both Blair and his sister are remembered through memorial scholarships at Queens.

Queens President Pamela Davies says the new college will be a fitting tribute to one of the most respected medical leaders in Charlotte's history. "Andrew Blair was a revered figure whose career was a testament to the importance of service to others," she says. "As a university that emphasizes the value of service, Queens is tremendously honored that our new College of Health will bear Dr. Blair's name. His life and legacy will be a wonderful inspiration to those who study and teach here." ■

—David Roberson

Why a College of Health?



A great city typically boasts a major private educational institution for healthcare professionals. Soon Charlotte will be able to boast of one in the Andrew Blair College of Health at Queens. Why is the university making this commitment?

Colleges and universities exist to serve a societal purpose, to address the pressing and challenging social issues of our times. Queens is especially sensitive to this principle in light of our motto, *Non ministrari sed ministrare*, Not to be served but to serve. Contemporary issues in health include an unprecedented elderly population, the epidemic of obesity and access to care, which is currently out of reach for 15 out of every 100 Americans. Clearly, the need for increased attention to health in American society is a call that Queens is well disposed to answer.

Healthcare is also one of the fastest growing industries. Ten of the 20 fastest growing occupations are in healthcare, which will generate 3.2 million new jobs between 2008 and 2018, more than any other industry, largely in response to rapid growth in the elderly population. The health professions not only uphold the university's mission of service, but are also nearly recession-proof.

Healthcare is multidisciplinary. Many professions are required to meet the contemporary needs of a diverse population. A college of health positions the university to anticipate and respond to changing healthcare needs by addressing many different aspects of health. The presence of the Presbyterian School of Nursing at Queens has brought to the campus a critical mass of faculty and resources in the sciences, biology, psychology and nursing. The development of additional programs in healthcare is the logical next step to build on their availability in pursuing the university's mission.

The Blair College of Health Board of Advisors, along with Queens' leadership, is identifying the best health programs to develop. A health track has been added to the undergraduate major in human and community service. Plans are underway to establish a wellness institute. Other discussions have included a major in exercise science, a collaborative health administration track in the McColl School's MBA program, and a BS degree completion program in health management. The Blair College of Health holds great promise of becoming the major private educational resource for healthcare professionals in the Charlotte area. Its presence will undoubtedly expand the depth and breadth of Queens' service and value to the region.

—William K. Cody, RN, PhD, CNE, FAAN

REUNION 2010



Clockwise from top left:

The Reunion 2010 Award Winners took a moment to pose with Dr. Pamela Davies. (L-r): David Page EMBA '02 and his daughter, Caroline Page, who accepted the Alumni Service Award on behalf of their mother and grandmother, Judy Napier Allison '70; Dr. Mary Oates '85, Outstanding Alumni Award; Dr. Davies; Bill Kirk, Honorary Alumni Award; Professor Rick Crown, Honorary Alumni Award and Harriet Bangle Barnhardt '50, Sed Ministrare Award.

Class of 1955

Class of 1965

Class of 1960

Class of 2000



CHAPTER EVENTS



Above: John and Leslie Smith Ariail '65 hosted the Washington, DC chapter event at their home on March 10. Pictured here (l-r): Beth Garraway '65, Claudette Brown Hall '65, Leslie, and Fran Sours Turner '65.



Above right: Peter and Liz Massie Wyeth '70 hosted the Richmond chapter event at the Scott House at Virginia Commonwealth University on March 11. Pictured here (l-r): President Davies, Judy Gilman-Hines '61, Spencer Hines and Adelaide Anderson Davis '61.



Right: Atlanta area alumni and friends enjoyed their annual event at the home of George and Cathryn Cathcart Thomas '57 on February 4.

YOUNG ALUMNI HOMECOMING



Above: Adam Hardney '07, Juwaun Seegars '04, Richard Barrett '05, Philipe Araujo '08, and Cerena Beltran Hardney '05 celebrate Homecoming together after the basketball games.



Left: Men's and Women's games: Basketball alumni come back to their home court each year and go head-to-head to see who still knows how to play the game.



Paving the Future

The Class of 1970 poses for a group photo near the site of the future courtyard. Photos by Jason Fararoei.

THE CLASS OF 1970 FUNDS A LIBRARY COURTYARD

Brick by brick, a special section of the Queens campus is being given new life, thanks to the help of generous alumni from the Class of 1970. In anticipation of their 40th Reunion in April, the Class of 1970 took on an exceptional project. Following in the footsteps of the Class of 1969 (which helped restore the Diana Courtyard last year in conjunction with their 40th Reunion), the Class of 1970 is paving the way for a new courtyard leading to the front doors of the coffee house that opened in January in Everett

Library. The coffee house has quickly become a campus hot spot, with wireless Internet access, computers for public use, a fireplace, book exchange and cozy rooms for study.

The courtyard project was also inspired by a challenge from Sallie Moore Lowrance, who is generously matching gifts of \$500 or more made by her classmates to this initiative. The landscaped courtyard will include an attractive new seating area for students. Built-in benches will provide a place to congregate between classes, and tables

will make it easy to study outdoors. The brick-paved courtyard will unite and light the space between the Trexler Student Center and the library.

The Class of 1970 courtyard project has a goal of \$100,000 and the class is on its way to reaching it. The construction of the courtyard is slated to begin this summer and should be completed by the time students return to campus in the fall. ■

—Katie Beirne, Director of Annual Giving

Reunion 2011 - April 29-30

Classes ending in 6 or 1 will celebrate special Reunions. All alumni are welcome.

Join us to reconnect with friends and to see how your alma mater is evolving. Check out the preliminary schedule at www.queens.edu/reunion.



Adelaide Anderson Davis '61, Queens' associate vice president for alumni relations, will be celebrating her 50th Reunion, so this will be a big one!

In 1961 I had no idea what a big part my education at Queens would play in my life. I loved the friends, faculty and staff when I was a student, then volunteered here for many years and now have worked in alumni relations for 27 years this August. I cannot believe that April 29-30, 2011, will be my class's 50th reunion. Where has the time gone? Please plan to come back to celebrate your class reunions and Queens with me then.

Utilize the online Alumni Directory to reconnect with classmates. Go to www.queens.edu/alumni and click on the Alumni Directory link.

Questions? Contact the Office of Alumni Programs at alumni@queens.edu or 704-337-2536.

Exciting Times

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WRAPS UP ANOTHER YEAR

By Claudette Brown Hall '65, President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

The Alumni Association welcomes our newest graduates! They join the 14,000 plus members of the Queens Alumni Association. Queens welcomed alumni back to campus in April. Reunion was a huge success filled with activities, friends and fun. Congratulations to the chairs of this event, Elizabeth Hunter Persson '00 and Kathy Lennon Comer '89, and the alumni programs team who worked so hard to make it all happen.

A special part of Reunion was the presentation of our alumni awards at the Saturday luncheon. Congratulations to Judy Napier Allison '70, Alumni Service Award; Rick Crown and Bill Kirk, Honorary Alumni Award; Harriet Bangle Barnhardt '50, Sed Ministrare Award and Mary Oates '85, Outstanding Alumni Award.

I would like to express our deep appreciation for the dedicated service of those alumni board members who have completed their terms: Ting Lan '99, Joseph Nganga '01, Arden Brannan Schell '68, Derek Sessions '91, Ann Logan Speer '59, Blair Mauldin Stanford '90, and Laura Davis Turner '69.

We also want to welcome our incoming board members: Jean Taylor Blaylock '60, Sherry Dunn Borgsdorf '97, Nancy Dorrier '66, Bonnie Currie Gilbert '63, Elaine Hallman Henderson '75, John Horton '03, Courtney Owen Neil '99, Mary Nethercutt '83, Derek Painter '92, Lynn Fricks Rogers '60, Raymond Warga '08, Cynthia Vanderford Wolfe '88 and Fernando Ycaza '05.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Ann Hinson '72, outgoing board president,

who has served with dedication and energy, traveling countless times to Charlotte from her hometown of Indianapolis. We are grateful for her able leadership.

The Queens of today is exciting. There is a momentum, as exhibited by the evolution of the campus, the generous donations and the impressive future plans. It is our goal to keep you informed and engaged and to listen to your suggestions about how to continue to build a strong alumni association. Please don't hesitate to share your comments with the alumni office or with me. My email address is cbh@carolina.rr.com. ■



Claudette Brown Hall '65

Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary

THE FEBRUARY EVENT DREW NATIONAL COVERAGE

By Bob Woods EMBA '01, Chair, McColl School Alumni Association

First, happy 30th anniversary to the McColl School faculty, staff, alumni, students and community! The school celebrated this milestone in February, with an open discussion between Hugh McColl, Jr. and John Mack, current Morgan Stanley chair. This event was a big success, with national media exposure. The MSAA will be partnering with the school this year to coordinate a 30th anniversary event focusing on the alumni. Be on the lookout for more information.

The MSAA Career Services Committee remains committed to creating networking opportunities for alumni and students. Based on your responses to a survey regarding career events, the committee hosted two seminars in the spring that focused on

resume-building and professional networking skills.

As part of our biannual Luncheon Speaker Series, the Social and Professional Activities Committee hosted Susan DeVore, president and CEO of Premier, Inc., in February. This was a sold out event. Everyone enjoyed hearing from a true expert in the healthcare industry.

The fourth annual Billy O. Wireman Memorial Golf Tournament will take place September 27. Our 2009 tournament raised more than \$27,000 for the McColl School Excellence Fund, so please save the date to come out to



Bob Woods EMBA '01 on stage with Hugh McColl, Jr. & John Mack.

support the school, MSAA and our current students.

If you are interested in learning more about the MSAA or accessing the online alumni directly, visit <http://mccoll.queens.edu/alumni>.

I look forward to seeing you at an MSAA event soon, and I invite you to share any ideas or suggestions you have to strengthen the Alumni Association. ■



Saturdays with Iván

WHILE A LOOM SITS IDLE,
TWO LIVES ARE WOVEN TOGETHER

Twelve weeks. In 12 weeks a person can accomplish a lot: learn to dance a sassy tango, grow a dandy moustache, or heal a broken heart. Last September I met Iván, a student from Bogotá, Colombia, as a component of English 320, my linguistics course at Queens. Given the choice of writing a research paper or studying language acquisition by chatting with a foreign student from the ELS center, I quickly opted for the latter. By the end of the semester Iván had learned to speak “American,” and I had gained a new friend.

The “friend” part was easy; Iván is a lively, interesting, engaging young man. Learning to speak “American” is far more difficult. How does a person progress from learning academic English through classroom drills and recitation, grammar and syntax homework, and reading or writing assignments to communicating in the vernacular and rhythm of this chaotic, extremely fluid language?

It would be self-serving to say that my weekly contact with Iván was the tipping point that pushed him from having the ability to communicate to speaking American, but leaving the Queens campus for coffee shops, restaurants, concerts, and even a trip to SouthPark mall gave him exposure to the city of Charlotte and its culture. While chomping on buffalo wings, learning that sliders are really little hamburgers,

or meeting the young techies in my office, Iván found America rubbing off on him, and he began to rub off on me. Casually exchanging observations about the people and things around us gave us new words and phrases to define.

As the leaves turned bright and began to fall, our conversations changed. Iván began attending my Tuesday night class at Queens, Introduction to American Studies, with Professor Bratyanski, who encouraged lively discussion and interaction in the classroom. As no subject was sacred and no insight or opinion censured, Iván was fascinated, scribbling notes. In the car ride from Selwyn Avenue to Ballantyne, he talked about the freedom the students enjoyed, how he felt it enhanced his learning experience, and pelted me with questions. “What are Indian reservations? What did the United States do in World War II? What is a pioneer?” Annoyed that the United States co-opts the word “America” for us alone, he insisted that a class on American studies should include South America and Canada. In the darkness of my car, an American attitude took root.

I think the day Iván began to speak American was the day I asked him a question and instead of answering “No,” he said, “Huh-uh.” Or maybe it was when he said, “Gimme a sec” or “My bad.” I am not referring to a mere recitation of American slang,

but a casual unconscious interchange between friends. My own 20-something children have kept me fairly conversant with the speech oddities and idioms of the younger generation, and I confess I may have inadvertently passed them on to Iván. On Thanksgiving Day, playing Xbox games with my daughter and her friends in our den, he could give and take the jibes and insults with the best of them.

The semester ended, Iván graduated top of his ELS class and flew back to Bogotá. Saturdays slid by without his cheeky grin and shining brown eyes, but the opportunity Queens gave me provided a lifetime of memories.

In 12 weeks I failed to learn “Stairway to Heaven” on my guitar, I did not finish weaving the scarf warped on the loom in my family room and don’t even ask me about the tango. But I did watch a wonderful young man try his wings, falter, sputter, and finally soar through a new language. ■

—Janet Ions

Janet Ions works in corporate security for Bank of America in Charlotte. She attends Queens through Hayworth College, a division of the university that provides undergraduate programs for working adults. An English major, Ions plans to graduate in 2011.

ONE SPRING DAY

Rising sophomore Saray Smalls takes a shot at the basketball toss at the Spring Carnival. Cotton candy, water slides, and a faculty dunking booth were all part of the fun on April 16. The annual event on the residential quad gives students a break before exams.

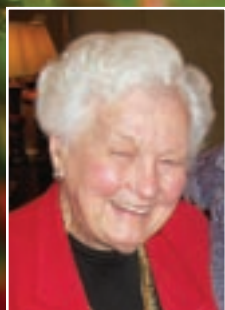




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Leave a Legacy



"The reason I have left Queens as a beneficiary in my will is so that my children and friends will know what was important in my life."

– Ann Mauldin Elliot '42

For more information about planned giving and The Albright Society, please contact Adelaide Anderson Davis '61, associate vice president for alumni relations and planned giving, 704-337-2329, davisa@queens.edu.