

QUEENS

SUMMER 2015

THE MAGAZINE OF QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF CHARLOTTE



Stroke of Genius

AFTER JUST FIVE YEARS, QUEENS' WOMEN'S AND MEN'S TEAMS GRAB NATIONAL SWIM CHAMPIONSHIPS

Also

Hidden Talents
The Learning Society
Campus Artburst
New Terrace for Burwell



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QUEENS MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2015

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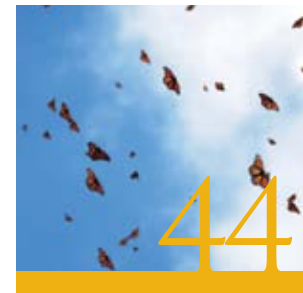
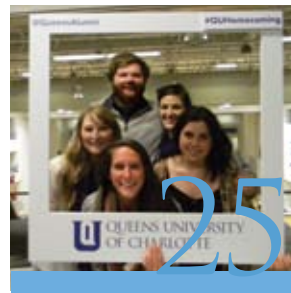
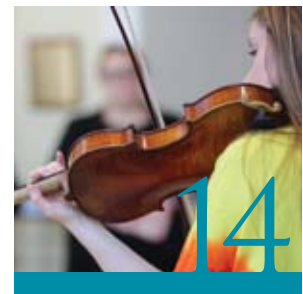
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IN 1988 QUEENS LAUNCHED A SPEAKER SERIES FOR STUDENTS AND THE CITY

By Amy Rogers

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YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DO IN THEIR DAY JOBS, BUT WHAT THEY DO WHEN THEY LEAVE CAMPUS MAY SURPRISE YOU

By Adam Rhew



On the Cover:

Sophomore Matt Josa (middle, in white cap with Rex emblem) leans back in anticipation of the start of the 200-yard backstroke at the NCAA-D2 finals in Indianapolis. He won first place, setting a total of five national records at the March event. Both the men's and women's swim teams won national championships; see the story on pages 4-5.



President Davies speaks to guests at Michael Lewis' lecture for The Learning Society on February 26.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Nothing delights me more than finding excellence where it may not have been expected. Our Queens staff, faculty and even my own family will tell you I relish that kind of surprise.

As educators, we are privileged to see many examples of unexpected excellence, in both small ways and bigger ones. For instance, who would have expected a fledgling swim team—without even a pool on campus—to set its sights on winning a national championship and then do it within five years? In my book, that counts as a big one.

No less meaningful are the myriad of smaller examples of unexpected excellence. The undergrad whose charisma is changing the atmosphere of our basketball games (page 3). The social scientist who opens minds to entirely new ways of thinking about our differences (page 7). The MBA student who keeps tutoring, even though he's completed the course requirement (page 10).

This issue of the *Queens Magazine* is full of such stories. One of my favorites is the feature on hidden talents of faculty and staff (page 18). It will introduce you to people with unexpected gifts and interests, who use them to enrich our university and the world beyond.

Our Queens community never ceases to surprise and delight me. Our goal is to do the same for you.

Best wishes,

Pamela Davies
Pamela Davies, PhD
President

We'd like to
hear
from
you!

Please send your letters to:

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Charlotte, NC 28274

Letters should include your full name, address and class year or Queens affiliation. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Your Letters

The winter 2015 issue highlighted the 25th anniversary of the EMBA program in a Q&A with Professor Bill Berry. His comments brought back memories for former student Milissa Martineau Donahue EMBA '96. Also in that issue, the recruiting achievements of alumna Betty Simpson Smith '67 prompted Babette Reeves '83 to share her story. And finally, a member of the Class of 1958 provides a broader perspective on President Davies' leadership.

Your writing really captured the essence of the man who gracefully instructed my classroom experience.

Both Bill Berry and Don Wallace changed my way of thinking. I have used these skills in the hospital boardroom and as a consultant many times. I am stronger in my approach, as the Harvard case methodology gave me a wide perspective that I most certainly did not have when I entered the program.

—Milissa Martineau Donahue EMBA '96,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Betty Simpson Smith '67 was my high school counselor. Midway through my senior year, the college I planned to attend went private, and I could no longer afford it. I was devastated and went to talk with Betty. She told me about Queens and its new scholarship, and helped me fast track an application.

I was in the first class of Presidential Scholars who entered in 1979, so I am fairly certain I was the first Presidential Scholar she recruited. Without Betty and the Presidential Scholarship, college would have been delayed or impossible for me for quite a while. Thanks for featuring Betty and all her terrific work over the years with Queens.

—Babette Reeves '83, Denver, Colorado

Nothing has been more important to what has been accomplished in recent years and the prospect for fulfilling what is still to be achieved than the leadership of President Pamela Davies. She continues to set a vision for the university and its students. Those of my generation are deeply grateful for her leadership that has honored our heritage and brought educational excellence to a new era of students.

—Roxana Mebane Atwood '58, Harrisonburg, Virginia

Get Your Game On!

AT BASKETBALL GAMES, LAWRENCE BELL '16 INCITES ROYAL FEVER

Twenty year old Lawrence Bell is at just about every basketball game, and he is hard to miss. Sure, Rex the Lion is always there too. So are the Royals cheerleaders. And yet, Bell, a junior, is the one who has been, quite literally, the game changer. His personality is infectious, his enthusiasm contagious.

“One of our vice presidents was sitting courtside, pointed at Lawrence and said, ‘Who IS that?’” says Cherie Swarhout, an assistant athletic director. A sports management major with a minor in marketing, Bell is also treasurer of the Sports Marketing Association, the student club spearheading the effort to turn Queens’ basketball games into must-see events. When the Levine Center, complete with a championship size court, opened in August 2013, more than quadrupling capacity, the school made it a goal to get more students in the seats.

“They challenged us this year to create tradition,” says Bell. “We really wanted to establish this fun, energetic culture.”

Bell and other members of the Sports Marketing Association entertain the crowds with everything from trivia to on court contests. Where it once was like “pulling teeth” to get people to participate, now Bell says they pull at his shirt, begging to be part of the fun.

“What he does is pretty cool; he gets the crowd engaged,” says Tosha Arriola, an education professor who also works with Bell in a leadership group he’s part of. “He’s very relatable and well liked as a student. It’s a different format than we’ve had, and it gets everyone really excited.”

Bell runs into the stands and works the crowd, maximizing the mic during any break in the play. And it’s working. More people are coming to the games than ever before.

The January 24 game against Anderson University was proof. The team played to a packed house and had

its first ever national audience the game was broadcast by CBS Sports Network as the NCAA Division II Game of the Week. “The crowd was amazing, not just for showing up, but for staying involved in the game,” Bell remembers. “It really showed that what we are doing as a club is starting to

have an impact on the culture. If I can look back five years from now and see a packed house, then I’ll know we’re on to something. I can already see it, and to see that growth is really important to me.” ■

—Michelle Boudin





Stroke of Genius

ONLY FIVE YEARS OLD, THE QUEENS SWIM TEAM SCORES BIG AT NCAA D2 CHAMPIONSHIPS IN INDIANAPOLIS

Nick Arakelian was eating lunch with his Queens teammates on the first day of the NCAA Division II Swimming and Diving Championships in Indianapolis when news filtered back. The men's 200-yard medley team, the one that had performed so well in the preliminary races in the morning, had been disqualified. It was the result of a technicality—a wrong name on the official registration card—but a mistake that sent the room of swimmers into silence as they took in what losing an entire event meant to their national title dreams.

"There was just this wave that washed over us, and we were all sad about it," says Arakelian, a freshman. "I'd say that lasted about five to ten minutes, until there was an attitude that we weren't going to let it affect the way we swam the rest of the meet."

Coach Jeff Dugdale had made the mistake and, shattered, came to apologize. They were starting off with a deficit; to win, they'd have to make up the loss. Everything the coach had worked for the last five years—to prepare his team for a

national win—had been jeopardized.

The team's response to his apology? Mistakes happen—we'll swim harder.

Another wave washed over the team in the form of a nasty stomach bug that made its way through both the men's and women's teams, as well as the coaching staff. But the Royals didn't let that determine how they swam, either. At the end of one of Matt Josa's swims, spent and discouraged, he rested a minute before getting out of the water. Dugdale leaned close. "Tell my mom why I didn't swim well," Josa said under his breath. Turned out he set a national record.

After four days of competition, Queens not only bounced back from a clerical error but fought through illness to see both the men's and women's teams crowned national champions on March 14.

It is the first team national championship in any sport for Queens.

En route to the trophies, Queens knocked out Drury University, which had been a 10-time defending champion for the men and had won six of the last eight titles for the women. The Royals

won 17 events while setting 12 national records. Sophomore Josa (five national records) and freshman Patricia Castro-Ortega (six national records) were named most outstanding swimmers for the men and women, respectively, and Arakelian won four individual events.

Not bad for a program that is just five years old, and didn't even have its own swimming pool until 2013. But it probably shouldn't come as too much of a surprise, given the vision of



Zachary Phelps '16 tackles the backstroke.



Coach Dugdale and the team unity his swimmers can't help but gush over.

Dugdale began to mold the program in 2010 with SwimMAC CEO and Director of Coaching David Marsh serving as consultant—Marsh has coached more than 30 Olympic athletes. Their strategy would put Queens in a position to win a national title in five years.

Dugdale was lured to Queens by President Pamela Davies and Vice President of Advancement James Bullock with the promise of the school's full support and, one day, its own state-of-the-art pool. The old pool in the soon-to-be-demolished athletic center was so bad that Davies discouraged them from taking a look. "She was afraid that if we saw the pool we'd say no," Dugdale says, laughing.

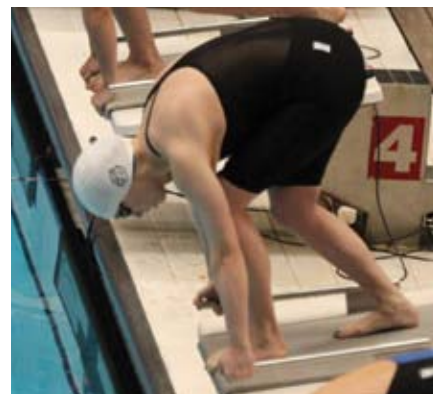
She needn't have worried. One meeting with Davies was all it took for Dugdale to realize that a powerhouse could be built at Queens. "It was mind-blowing, the vision she had," he says. "We absolutely wanted to follow her lead."

He would need to stay focused on that vision in the days to come. The team

practiced for only three months when the old pool's heater and chlorinator gave out. Dugdale and his new recruits began traipsing across Charlotte to train at Mecklenburg County Aquatic Center, at high schools, at outdoor city pools—anywhere they could find water and lanes. That continued for more than two years, until the Levine Center for Wellness and Recreation opened in August 2013. Inside, at last, was a new 33-meter competition swimming pool.

Queens took incremental steps upward in final NCAA standings each year. In 2012, the men were 11th and the women were 21st; in 2013, the men were ninth and the women were 10th; and in 2014 the men were fourth and the women were third.

This year, both the men and women thought they had a good shot at the title—until the early men's relay disqualification and illness began to snake their way through the team. But focus, Dugdale's encouragement and some gutsy swims resulted in Queens men totaling 433.5 points (runner-up Drury University had 417.5 points) while the women tallied



Lillian Gordy '15 prepares to race.

540.5 points (runner-up Drury had 489.5 points).

"I always knew Queens would one day win a title," says senior Lillian Gordy. "I just wasn't sure if it was going to happen during my time here. But ever since my freshman year, we would always bring in recruits that were better than what we already had. Seeing that progress with the talent we were bringing in, I knew it was going to happen sooner rather than later." ■

—Jodie Valade

Briefly Noted



(Left and above) Queens' first nationally-televised basketball game took place January 24 against Anderson University, the Royals men winning 80-65.

ROYALS BASKETBALL ON CBS
Queens' men's and women's basketball teams battled Anderson University in the Royals' first live televised sportscast on January 24. The Royals had home court advantage at the Levine Center for the CBS double-header. CBS also broadcast the university's first televised commercial during the games (available on YouTube).



Susan DeVore, CEO of Premier Inc., addresses guests attending the 2014 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year luncheon.

BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR

Susan DeVore, CEO of Premier Inc., became the 30th recipient of Queens' annual Charlotte BusinessWoman

of the Year Award. DeVore accepted the prestigious honor on March 9 at a luncheon in the Frances Young Dining Room. Premier Inc. is a leading healthcare improvement company and has won ethical and quality-performance awards under DeVore's leadership.

AUTHOR MENTORS UNDERGRAD WRITERS

On January 12, award-winning novelist Dana Spiotta began a semester-long workshop with three undergraduate creative writing majors. Alyssa Beckitt '15, Dana Robles '15 and Laura Forester '16 were selected from a competitive pool of students to hone their craft. Throughout the semester, the students submitted new work and provided criticism for their peers.

PRESIDENT RECEIVES INTERFAITH AWARD

MeckMin presented the Sydnor Thompson, Jr. Community Leader Award to President Davies at Covenant Presbyterian Church on March 18. The award was bestowed on Davies for her interfaith work at Queens and as a board member of the YMCA. MeckMin is a consortium of approximately 100 congregations representing more than a dozen faith traditions.

BEST MINDS CONFERENCE

Dean Eric Freedman and the Knight School of Communication hosted a talented panel for the Best Minds

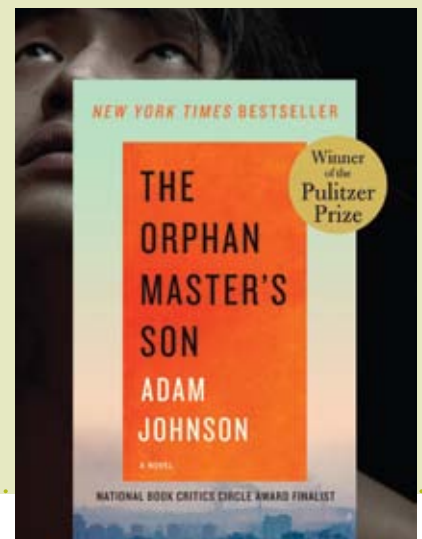
Conference on March 20 in Ketner Auditorium; panelists included key stakeholders from Google, as well as the Pew Research Center and the City of Charlotte. They discussed Google Fiber's impact on Charlotte's digital media literacy and community interconnectivity.

ADAM JOHNSON SPEAKS AT CONVOCATION

New York Times bestseller and Pulitzer Prize winner Adam Johnson spoke to more than 600 students, faculty and staff assembled in Dana Auditorium for Spring Convocation on February 10. Johnson discussed his research on and fascination with North Korea, which inspired the creation of *The Orphan Master's Son*, Queens' 2014-15 Common Read. ■

—Regina Betz

Adam Johnson, the author of *The Orphan Master's Son*, spoke at Spring Convocation. Photo courtesy of www.openlettersmonthly.com.



Finding Common Ground

EBOO PATEL INSPIRES INTERFAITH DISCUSSION

When Eboo Patel was eight or nine, he found himself invited to the cool kid's birthday party. He was elated and felt he'd "made it" in school. That is, until his mother instructed him to swap out the host's hot dogs with special franks from home adhering to Islamic dietary laws. Crushed at the prospect of being seen as an outsider, Patel instead found a kindred spirit in a Jewish boy facing the same predicament.

The third grader eventually became a noted social scientist and founder of the Interfaith Youth Core, working with students and colleges across the country to use religious and philosophical diversity as bridges of cooperation.

As part of the William and Margaret Witherspoon Lecture Series, Patel presented his thoughts on "The Art and Science of Interfaith Cooperation" to

a packed crowd in Ketner Auditorium on March 20. Later in the day he addressed a group of honors students in "Better Together," a course taught by professors Suzanne Watts Henderson and Margaret Commins.

In social places such as the birthday party—which he termed microenvironments—people choose either to align themselves with others based on commonalities, or they choose to separate themselves and create hostile environments.

He argued that college campuses have the best opportunity to create positive interfaith communities. He encouraged students and leaders in the audience to design projects that engage all people and highlight likenesses to strengthen relationships. "Bridges don't fall from the sky," he said. "We have to build them."

Queens, founded by the Presbyterian Church, has long been considered a welcoming and inclusive community. Christian faith remains a strong presence on campus, but today's increasingly multi-ethnic and global student body also includes Buddhists, Hindus, Jews and Muslims, as well as "nones" who identify as having no religious affiliation.

"We're proud of our welcoming atmosphere, but this issue is academically critical well," said Queens Provost Lynn Morton. "We consider it a hallmark of a 21st century liberal arts education to equip our students for success in a global context. That means building intercultural knowledge and aptitude, including experience with other languages, perspectives and religions." ■

—Regina Betz

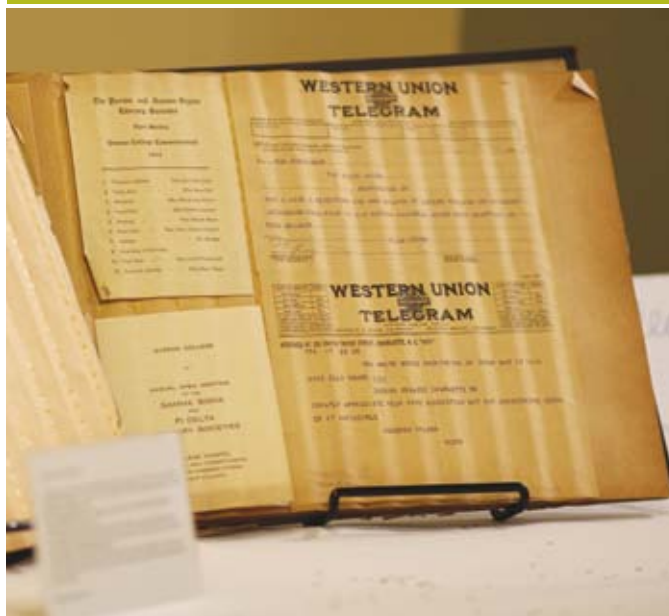
Eboo Patel speaks to students in Ketner Auditorium about finding common ground amidst religious differences. A Muslim, Patel holds a doctorate in the sociology of religion from Oxford University and is the founder of Interfaith Youth Core.



In the Classroom

TALES FROM THE ATTIC

IDST 200



(Above left) For the course “Tales from the Attic,” students research objects from the Queens archives to uncover history. Freshman Naomi Fraher researched this 1916 telegram to President Woodrow Wilson, in which student Ella Young invited the President and First Lady to an awards ceremony. They were unable to attend due to the war. (Above right) When Marissa Schrader '18 researched the popularity of parlor books, such as this example from the late 1800s by student Mary Barnhardt, she discovered a connection to modern times. The creative documentation of memories continues today with blogs and apps like Instagram.

There’s nothing like the discovery of an old photo from a storage box or an aged letter wedged between the pages of a book, tucked away for decades. These precious treasures lead to forgotten stories and histories. Such discoveries are exactly what students delve into during Professor Suzanne Cooper Guasco’s “Tales from the Attic” course.

In this one-credit-hour course, students discover the stories behind non-digitized objects from some of the Queens archives. Each student selects an item to research, such as an 8mm camera, telegram or set of Diana Fountain blueprints. Students then collaborate to assign responsibilities, design strategies, consider timelines and determine outcomes with one final product in mind: a public installation of the artifacts in McEwen Hall to provide a visual narrative of Queens’ history.

Inspired by BBC’s *A History of the World in 100 Objects*, Cooper Guasco challenges her students to connect their objects to Queens. She hopes the course will encourage students to gain a deeper understanding of how objects—particularly everyday objects we might take for granted—have a story to tell.

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS

- Reflection Paper 2 (of 3): After a visit to the Levine Museum of the New South, consider how this experience

can apply to the preparation and construction of the class installation as well as to individual research needs.

- Artifact Statement Paper: Identify the most pertinent research of your object that coincides with the installation’s overall theme.
- Collaborative Evaluation: Complete one self-evaluation and three peer evaluations to best identify team strengths and weaknesses throughout the research, preparation, and delivery of the installation.

FACULTY

Suzanne Cooper Guasco is the Robert Haywood Morrison Associate Professor and Chair of History and has been working at Queens since 2004. She teaches American history, including courses on the American Revolution, slavery and empire, the Civil War and antebellum political economy. She is the author of the award-winning *Confronting Slavery: Edward Coles and the Rise of Antislavery Politics in Nineteenth-Century America* (2013). She earned a BA from Rutgers University and a PhD in American history from the College of William and Mary. ■

—Regina Betz



Serbian Jovan Vukicevic set the school record in high jump and finished first place three times during the 2014-2015 season. A four-time national high jump champion in high school, he is enrolled in the McColl MBA program.

Going the Distance

IN JUST THREE YEARS, COACH JIM VAHRENKAMP HAS INCREASED ROSTERS AND BROUGHT CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK AND FIELD TEAMS TO BIG WINS

Typically the numbers that matter most in cross country and track and field are the clock times or the distance of a jump, throw or run. But there's another critical number—14—the number of participants needed to compete at the four meets necessary to earn eligibility for an NCAA championship outdoor meet.

When Jim Vahrenkamp joined Queens in 2012 as director of cross country and track and field, the Royals were just barely hitting the minimum. There were only four eligible men and, with some walk-ons from basketball and softball teams, 14 eligible women.

"It was pretty tough to put everything together," Vahrenkamp concedes. Nevertheless, two women made it to nationals that year and were named All-Americans.

Since then, the program has grown with the same leap-and-bound energy of a triple jumper. Seventy athletes

now compete as Royals in track and field events. "We have a foundation started," Vahrenkamp says, predicting the program will take another three to four years to hit its potential. "It's much like the swimming program. We're following their trajectory to compete nationally," he says. Recruiting, in particular, takes time to show results.

A pentathlete himself, Vahrenkamp came to Queens after three seasons at Augustana College in his native South Dakota. Ready to take charge of his own program, he said he was attracted to the Royals because of the tradition in this region for strong track and field and the passion at Queens to build a successful program.

Junior Nikia Squire is an example of Vahrenkamp's effect on promising athletes. A communication major, Squire came to Queens to play basketball. Bored in the off-season, she decided to run track. Six weeks later she was long jumping at nationals. She

competed at the NCAA Division II nationals this past indoor season and brought home All-American finishes in the long jump and 60-meter dash.

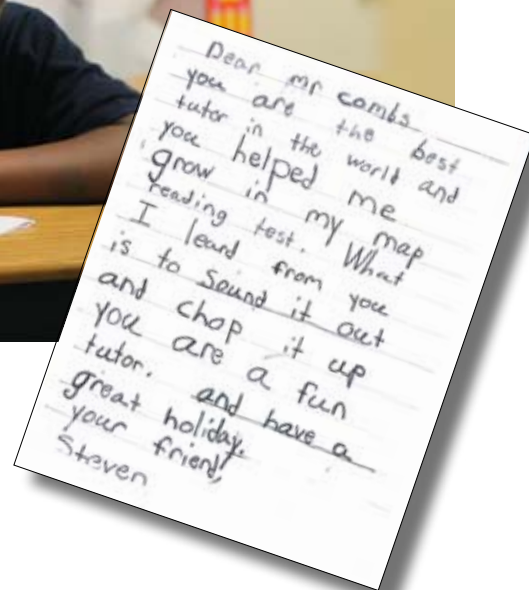
Athletes help recruit by suggesting friends for the program. Vahrenkamp says he focuses not just on physical qualifications, but on finding students who fit the team.

Being flexible is important to that fit. There are some facilities for track and field at the Levine Center and the Sports Complex, but Queens also partners with Myers Park High School to train sprinters, hurdlers and jumpers. During inclement weather, the pole vaulters have even traveled to Winston-Salem to practice. The distance group runs at public parks throughout the city. "My goal is to be a top 10 team in cross country and at the indoor and outdoor track and field championships each year," Vahrenkamp says. ■

—Jenn Q. Goddu MFA '13



MBA student Robert Combs (left) tutors third-grade student Steven Miles this past spring at Sedgefield Elementary School. The school's partnership with Queens has strengthened academic achievement. (Right) Combs received this note of appreciation.



Working Together

QUEENS HAS PARTNERED WITH SEDGEFIELD ELEMENTARY FOR FIVE YEARS, CHANGING LIVES AND FUTURES

The bright work of a multitude of students from Queens is literally written on the wall at Sedgefield Elementary School—over the years, volunteers from Queens have painted a series of colorful tutorials depicting everything from math tables to the importance of cultural diversity to the steps it takes to get from grade school to college.

But the role of Queens at Sedgefield goes deeper. It's as evident on the walls as it is in the halls, where MBA student Robert Combs '15 regularly finds fellow McColl School students, despite the fact that the leadership and development class that brought them to Sedgefield in the first place has long been over. "I didn't know if I would be the only one to stick with it," Combs says, "but I bump into people from Queens at Sedgefield all the time."

The university's role at the school started five years ago, and then grew

in the fall of 2011 in response to a community service challenge from the Carolina Panthers. It's still going strong, with volunteers providing tutoring, mentoring and lunch buddy roles, and building sustainable structures at the school like vegetable gardens and a science lab. The entire student body of Sedgefield even visits the Queens campus once a year where they learn about college life. Pat Taft, director of Queens' Center for Active Citizenship, says the connection is like family.

Sedgefield Principal Ivy Gill agrees. "A large part of our partnership is to make kids understand how college can be attainable for them." Queens students help the Sedgefield kids see the connection between striving for a goal and achieving it.

Combs says it's the sense of community from Sedgefield's staff and students that keeps him involved. He's grateful for the relationships, including

a special bond forged with 9-year-old Steven Miles. "The third time I came to read to him, he said to me 'I've been waiting for you all day.' It was the sweetest thing," says Combs.

Before tutoring, Miles was in danger of failing the third grade, and he was scheduled to spend the summer in school. Combs spent months focusing on raising his reading levels, and in April came promising news: he scored so well on an assessment test he'll skip summer school and go on to fourth grade in the fall with his friends.

Taft says there's a clear advantage to focusing so much time and effort on one service-based relationship. "Being here at Sedgefield for as long as we have," she says, "enables us to build a foundation for true and lasting change." ■

—Melissa Hankins

The Common Good

CHAPLAIN DIANE MOWREY WINS THE HUNTER HAMILTON LOVE OF TEACHING AWARD

Scott Trowbridge '98 had issues when he arrived at Queens as a freshman. He'd been labeled a juvenile delinquent and had encountered Tennessee's foster care system. He'd also converted to Hinduism as a teenager, which put him in a solid minority at the Protestant school. But when Chaplain Diane Mowrey took him to volunteer in a soup kitchen, he began to see himself differently. The experience was one of several at Queens that put him on a path to public service. Today he's a staff attorney for the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C., passionately advocating for the welfare of children. In his nomination of Mowrey for the Hunter Hamilton Love of Teaching Award, he credited her as playing a key role in his journey.

At the undergraduate commencement on May 9, Mowrey was named the 2015 recipient of the award. Selected by a committee of her peers, and based on letters from students, faculty and staff, she exemplifies the award's criteria as a teacher who both



Chaplain Diane Mowrey shares a joyful moment with Norris Frederick after receiving the Hunter Hamilton Love of Teaching award at undergraduate commencement on May 9. She holds the Mrs. John R. Irwin Chair of the Bible in the philosophy and religion department.

inspires student potential and exhibits an extraordinary love of teaching. The cash award will be split between her and an academic department or program of her choice. It is funded by a gift from family members in honor of Richard and Isabel Hunter and Buford and Frances Hamilton.

Mowrey is in her third decade at Queens; she holds a doctorate in English literature from Duke University and a master of divinity degree from Harvard. With an academic office in Watkins Hall and a chaplain's office in Belk Chapel, she stays busy as both professor and Presbyterian minister. She conducts a chapel service once a week, oversees assistant chaplains and meets with students who have questions about religion or religious life. She conducts weddings as well as funerals, providing comfort to the grieving. She also oversees a group of students who are community service scholars at Queens.

Her emphasis on social justice provides a deep and steady anchor for the community, and she models what she believes. "Something she often says is, 'I'm here to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable,'" says Norris Frederick, chair of the philosophy and religion department. In her years at Queens, she has designed and led

mission trips to several international and national sites. Since 2000 she has taken a group of students to Guatemala over spring break on a journey of faith, self-discovery and humanitarianism. Amanda Leggett '08 looked back on that trip as a turning point in understanding how to help others. In her nomination of Mowrey, she wrote: "I look at the Guatemala spring break trip and semester class as honestly the most meaningful experience of my life." After Queens, she went on to earn a PhD and is currently a postdoctoral research fellow in mental health.

Nomination letters included many stories from former students about Mowrey's life-changing role in their lives, and about how her influence continues after school ends. "Dr. Mowrey still influences my life every time I have to make an important decision," wrote Natalie Weiner '09. The frustration she felt as a student—when she wanted easy answers to tough questions and Mowrey pushed her to think for herself—has turned into appreciation. Mowrey taught her to ask the right questions. "[I] still hear her saying, 'Will your decision lead you further on your path to being a good person, living a good life, and fostering a good society?'" ■

—Laurie Prince

PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

- 2013-2014 Ruth Stephenson
- 2012-2013 Kent Rhodes
- 2011-2012 Cherie Clark
- 2010-2011 Roger McGrath
- 2009-2010 Jane Hadley
- 2008-2009 Rick Crown
- 2007-2008 Phyllis Pharr
- 2006-2007 Emily Seelbinder
- 2005-2006 Charles Reed
- 2004-2005 Joan Quinn
- 2003-2004 Virginia Martin
- 2002-2003 Robert Whalen
- 2001-2002 Robert Finley
- 2000-2001 Frances McClain
- 1999-2000 Norris Frederick
- 1998-1999 Charles Hadley

Expansion Planned

DEMAND IS GROWING FOR THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION; A \$3 MILLION GIFT FROM ALPO AND MARJORIE KNIGHT CRANE '90 OPENS THE FUTURE

By Laura Sutton

Growing up as the daughter of James L. Knight, co-owner of the Knight news conglomerate, Margie Knight Crane '90 saw the importance of community engagement. "Giving back was never a question; the community supported us, and we supported the community," she says.

Her grandfather, an editor and publisher, helped college students in the Akron area, and after his death, Margie's dad and uncle expanded the family's generous support of education. By 1950 they had created the Knight Foundation, which today supports not only education, but also numerous community-focused initiatives, tapping an endowment that exceeds \$2 billion.

This history shaped Margie, and since 1991 she and her husband, Alpo, have contributed more than \$5 million to support student scholarships, facilities and programs at Queens. A gift earlier this year of \$3 million to fund the expansion of the James L. Knight School of Communication demonstrates their abiding belief in the power of education



President Davies toasted Alpo and Margie Crane '90 (left and center) at the annual Board of Trustees meeting in February. The couple's gift of \$3 million will fund the expansion of the James L. Knight School of Communication.

to positively shape lives.

The expanded Knight School will be housed in the 36,000-square-foot building formerly known as Walker Hall on Selwyn Avenue. The space will feature Smart Classrooms, the relocated Knight-Crane Convergence Lab, offices and digital, video, audio and distance-learning capabilities.

Eric Freedman, dean of the school, says, "This new space will expand our existing partnerships with city and

county government, libraries, schools, local industry, media organizations and municipal agencies—all for the benefit of our students and the residents of Charlotte."

The Knight School was established in 2010 through a \$5.75 million grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. In five short years, it has supported the Charlotte community by narrowing the digital divide. The result has fostered civic engagement



A vivacious and tireless supporter of Charlotte nonprofit institutions, Mary Liz Francis served as a Queens trustee for 15 years.

Mary Elizabeth Puette Francis

QUEENS LOST A SPECIAL FRIEND WHEN THE SPUNKY CHARLOTTEAN PASSED AWAY IN NOVEMBER AT THE AGE OF 99

The marks of Mary Liz Francis' generosity and service shaped Charlotte, her home for 76 years. During her lifetime, numerous organizations benefited from her leadership as a board member, including the American Red Cross, YWCA, Elon Homes for Children, Charlotte Museum of History, Duke Mansion and Myers Park United Methodist Church. Her

granddaughter, Mary Graham Forrest, smiles as she remembers her grandmother saying, "I just like supporting people who do good things."

Higher education was a cause especially dear to Mary Liz; she enjoyed the atmosphere of intellectual curiosity. She became part of the Queens community through her sister, Lucille Giles, a friend of President Billy

and stimulated socio-economic mobility. Expansion and technology upgrades made possible through the Cranes' lead gift will strengthen Queens' reputation as a national model for higher education's role in bridging the digital divide.

Once fully funded, Knight-Crane Hall will also house programs of the Blair College of Health, the Center for Student Success, the F. William Vandiver, Jr. Center for Internships and Careers and the Myrta J. Pulliam Center for International Education.

News of the Cranes' gift was shared in February with the Queens Board of Trustees, on which Margie has served as a member since 2007. President Pamela Davies expressed her personal gratitude and that of the Queens community. "I am personally and deeply touched by your generosity—and thrilled that Knight-Crane Hall will soon be a fixture on Selwyn Avenue," she said to those in attendance. "You are equipping us for future success, just as you have through the years. Your generosity has touched nearly every corner of campus, from student scholarships to Friends of the Arts to facilities, including Harris House, Rogers Hall and Belk Chapel. You have provided invaluable direction, and now a dynamic physical space for learning, growing and exchanging ideas."

The Cranes' generosity further establishes their own distinctive legacy on campus, as well as those of the Knight Foundation and of Margie's father, James L. Knight. ■



Porter Byrum waves to a jubilant crowd as he approaches Porter B. Byrum Hall. The hall was dedicated on March 31, in appreciation of his support for the university.

Porter B. Byrum Hall

On March 31, Queens dedicated Porter B. Byrum Hall, a seven-story, suite-style residence hall for upper division students. Byrum Hall, opened in 2012 as South Residence Hall, is the tallest building on Queens' Myers Park campus and affords lucky students views of the Charlotte skyline.

In 2011, Porter Byrum contributed \$20.9 million—the largest single gift in Queens' history—to support endowed student scholarships. This gift had even greater impact through the Byrum Endowed Scholarship Challenge, a dollar-for-dollar match to donors who committed \$50,000 or more to a new or existing scholarship fund. More than 75 students have been named Byrum Scholars since the scholarship program was introduced.

The fifth son of a pastor, Byrum attended Wake Forest University on full scholarship, and his experience has inspired a legacy of giving to Queens and other universities. The naming of Queens' premier residence hall honors his lifelong dedication to helping others receive a college education. ■

—Laura Sutton

Wireman. That introduction led her to serve as a Queens trustee for 15 years; she held a deep affection for students, faculty and administration.

In later years, Mary Liz frequently attended events on campus, getting to know President Pamela Davies. The annual trip of alumni and friends to New York City became a favorite. Age was not a deterrent to her; in fact, one year she scoffed at a doctor's orders to stay home, enthusiastically boarding the plane with friends. Mary Graham remembers joining her grandmother on several of the trips, experiencing firsthand

the close-knit Queens community her grandmother enjoyed.

Charlotte and Queens lost a dear friend when Mary Liz passed away at age 99 in November 2014. It is not surprising to those who knew her to learn she had taken great care in planning estate gifts to the organizations special to her. Queens is grateful to be among them and will ensure that her place in our history is honored and preserved. ■

—Laura Sutton

Mary Graham Forrest (left), granddaughter of Trustee Emerita Mary Liz Francis, visits Adelaide Anderson Davis '61 at Queens.



12:30 p.m.



In Trexler Courtyard, art faculty members Denny Gerwin (left) and Mike Wirth (right) create a wheat paste collage inspired by graffiti street art.

4:15 p.m.



Music major Jonathan Smith '17 sings a pop tune on the steps of Burwell Hall.



11:50 a.m.

Music therapy major Sadie McClure '18 plays violin in Siskey Rotunda.

Artburst

Students and faculty popped up in unexpected places for Artburst on Tuesday, March 24. Under Carolina blue skies, the performance art project transformed the Queens campus throughout the day, demonstrating that creativity is a vital part of the intellectual and cultural life on campus.

—Julie Funderburk



2:50 p.m.

Amanda Rose '18 fills Siskey Rotunda with beautiful harp music.



1:15 p.m.

Members of the Royal Ukulele Ensemble, who are music therapy majors, perform "You and I" by Ingrid Michaelson in Discovery Courtyard. (Left to right) Rachel McAndrew '17, Ava Marvin '17, Izzy Lover '17, Cherish Stephens '17, Katie Conrad '18 and Olivia Higdon '18.

THE

LEARNING

SOCIETY



IN 1988 QUEENS LAUNCHED A SPEAKER SERIES FOR STUDENTS AND THE CITY

Imagine a wish list of the most influential thought leaders in journalism, business, literature, science and world affairs. Now, imagine hearing those men and women speak in Charlotte and meeting them in person for conversations about critically important issues.



Students get a rare opportunity to meet speakers like best-selling author, Michael Lewis (left center). Left to right, Moderator Chris Williams, Eric Sloan '15, Michael Lewis, President Davies, Luiza Meziat '15 and Andy Nguyen '15.

That's exactly what The Learning Society of Queens brings to the university's students and to the city, with spring and fall lectures each year that are as dynamic and engaging as the speakers themselves.

The roster has featured a wide range of compelling—and sometimes provocative—public figures. Food activist Michael Pollan. Alternative-medicine guru Andrew Weil. Economist and funnyman Ben Stein. Aspiring but unsuccessful presidential candidates Ralph Nader and Alan Keyes. With diverse points of view, these speakers share one thing in common: an appeal to a demanding community of lifelong learners.

It all began in 1988. Queens supporter Gail Brinn Wilkins, a member since the beginning, recalls the challenge then-president Billy O. Wireman issued to Clyda Rent, vice president for community affairs. "He charged her with a way to bring a new 'presence' to the campus, by making it more than a small college in a residential neighborhood," Wilkins says.

“ GIVE THE STUDENTS A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET INTELLECTUALLY FAMOUS LEADERS AND INTERACT WITH THEM ON CAMPUS. ”

Rent envisioned a program to meet that challenge and brought to Wireman both the concept and the name of "The Learning Society." Wilkins explains: "We discussed how we could build a learning society to engage the public, but more importantly to give the students a rare opportunity to meet intellectually famous leaders and interact with them on campus."

Initially, Wilkins and other founders set out to recruit 25 couples whose support would underwrite the cost of events. The group then pushed its goal to 50, then 100. Today there are 160 members, with additional support from corporate sponsors.

The Learning Society continues to bring discourse and inquiry out of places of privilege and into the sphere of students. Before each evening's presentation, the visiting lecturer meets with students on campus for an open and informal Q&A session. In October 2014, war correspondent Bob Woodruff, known for his advocacy for veterans, discussed

everything from his frustrations with North Korea to his tastes in barbeque and iced tea. Students also interact with speakers later in the day, since the evening lecture is followed by a formal question-and-answer period. When students step up to a microphone before a thousand people, they know a broader community is judging their questions. The safety net of campus is gone as they engage in public discourse.

Kimberlee Servideo '14, who attended Queens as a Porter B. Byrum Scholar, was thrilled to take part in an event with MSNBC news personalities Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough. "It was such a great honor to be included, let alone having the opportunity to meet and interact with them during the event," she says. "What a great way to end my senior year at Queens."

In these ways, students not only hear the speakers share their life experiences but also see leaders who are poised in the public eye and at ease with an audience. Claudia Heath, The Learning Society's current president, remembers Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who "stood up for an hour without a

single note and never hesitated on a single word."

Heath emphasizes that speakers address critical contemporary issues in ways that engage students and effect the community. "I think of Queens not just as part of the fabric of Myers Park, but as a broader Charlotte resource," Heath says.

Members and sponsors receive VIP seating, books signed by the authors and the opportunity to attend private receptions with the speakers. The lectures, however, are open to the public and have broad appeal. This past spring, Michael Lewis, whose books *Moneyball* and *The Blind Side* were made into hit films, spoke to a packed crowd in Knight Theater. His topic was *Flash Boys*, his 2014 nonfiction bestseller about high-speed trading on Wall Street. Using a moderated fireside chat format—a departure from the typical podium presentation—he engaged the audience in dynamic interaction.

Clyda Rent says that a Learning Society event may be a Charlottean's first encounter with Queens. It may happen

on campus, or it may be uptown, since the society now hosts its spring lecture at Knight Theater or Blumenthal Performing Arts Center to both attract the uptown business crowd and accommodate larger audiences. Rent believes the society's commitment to the life of the mind will bring newcomers back, ensuring their first encounter won't be their last. ■



1996

BEN STEIN

Economist and Comedian



1998

GEORGE STEPHANOPOLIS

Journalist and Political Advisor

A member from the beginning, Gail Brinn Wilkins (right) and husband Howard Freese (left) with Ben Stein during his visit.



1999

LESLIE STAHL

Author and Journalist



2007

GENERAL ANTHONY ZINNI

Retired US Marine Corps General

Former Queens president Billy O. Wireman introduces an energetic Leslie Stahl to a crowded auditorium.



2013

SANJAY GUPTA

Neurosurgeon, CNN Chief Medical Correspondent



2014

MIKA BRZEZINSKI & JOE SCARBOROUGH

Television Hosts

Joe Scarborough (left) and Mika Brzezinski (center) mingle with (left to right) Eric Freedman, dean of the Knight School of Communication; Zenzele Barnes '15; Kimberlee Servideo '14 and Jamal Tate '15.

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Booking Famous Speakers

Each year, The Learning Society brings world class leaders to address students and the public in its fall and spring lectures. Considering that top level speakers book up to two years in advance and can charge well into six figures for one lecture, it's no easy task. Learning Society Director Julia Walton says it's part strategy, part luck and part hard nosed negotiation.

It starts with the strategy. The society's executive committee, currently led by Claudia Heath, has identified six fields of interest for the next several years: the environment, world affairs, female leadership, technology and science, healthcare and philanthropic innovation. "This helps to keep things relevant," Walton explains, "because these topics, broadly speaking, link back to the interests of our community." She solicits recommendations from Learning Society members, Queens' leadership and faculty, and from speaker agents. Final candidates must be intellectually stimulating and have high brand recognition, she says.

The long lead time adds an element of risk. How do you know someone who's at the top of the news cycle today will be just as intriguing 18 months from now?

"That does add a wrinkle," says Walton. "If they've just written a book, we consider whether it's their first time on the New York Times Best Sellers list. If they're in a leadership position, do they have a track record of accomplishment?"

Armed with ideas in hand, Walton investigates her targets with a goal of booking the top choices. She negotiates with powerhouse speaker bureaus, predominantly based in New York City or Washington, DC. "With a student session in the afternoon and a post lecture reception for Learning Society members, our requests are atypical. We require a good deal of flexibility," she says. Agents protect their clients' time, so convincing them to "go out of the box" can be a challenge. However, flexibility goes both ways. The Learning Society may have to meet extra security protocols for a former United States cabinet head, expedite airport services to get celebrities from airplane to ground transportation quickly and privately, or order special meals to meet a speaker's dietary needs.

"Once they've worked with us successfully and seen the quality of our program, especially the power of the student engagement piece for their clients, they become much more accommodating," says Walton.

So what are these luminaries really like as people?

"One thing I can say with confidence about all our speakers is that they are humble and gracious people," she says. "They have been authentic, generous and passionate about the students."

Rebecca Anderson

HIDDEN TALENTS

By Adam Rhew

Photography by Jessica Milligan

**YOU KNOW WHAT THEY DO IN THEIR DAY
JOBS, BUT WHAT THEY DO WHEN THEY
LEAVE CAMPUS MAY SURPRISE YOU**

One of the most enjoyable things about a stroll across Queens' campus is the wonderful mix of people you encounter along the way. Spend a few moments with some of our faculty and staff, and you'll be surprised and delighted by their many dimensions. A quiet philosophy professor transforms into an energetic dancer. The athletics director saddles up for a ride on her horse. An architect plans buildings—and a peaceful almond farm. These Queens personalities don't necessarily advertise their off-campus pursuits, but when you stop to chat, you'll learn how their hidden passions enrich the Queens community in unexpected ways.



ERIC MULLIS

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF
PHILOSOPHY
DANCER

After years as a martial artist—practicing Kung-fu and Tai Chi since high school—Eric Mullis understands his body. “I’ve always been a mover,” the philosophy professor says. He studied martial arts in Taiwan and Beijing, developing intense focus and control over his body and mind. But he had never applied those principles to dance until some friends invited him to participate in a show they were producing, set to Pink Floyd’s *Dark Side of the Moon* album. “I was fascinated with what they did, by the way they created movement together,” he recalls. Mullis set out to learn as much as he could about dance and choreography, founding a performance art group called The Triptych Collective and participating in the American Dance Festival in Durham. He’s incorporated lessons from dance into some of his classes and has written extensively on the intersection of movement and philosophy. “It has really shaped the way I relate to my body,” he says.

EMILY RICHARDSON

DEAN, HAYWORTH SCHOOL OF
GRADUATE & CONTINUING STUDIES
GENEALOGIST

Not long after her mother died, Emily Richardson was sitting on the floor of her house, sorting through the 40 boxes and four file cabinets left in her care. They contained thousands upon thousands of pages of documents of family history. Inside the cache was a small linen box that held 36 letters, written in black ink on YMCA stationery, sent from her grandfather from his post in Germany during World War I. “He was sort of an enigma to us,” Richardson says. “We didn’t really understand him. And then, sitting there, reading his letters from the war, I finally understood him.” Not only does Richardson view genealogy as a window to the past, but she also feels a sense of responsibility to be a caretaker of that family history. She’s a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution—seven ancestors from her father’s and mother’s families were in the Revolutionary War—and she can trace one branch of her family tree all the way back to the 1600s in Germany.

GENEALOGIST



JEANNIE KING

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS
EQUESTRIAN

One warm Oklahoma afternoon in 2011, Jeannie King made an impulse purchase: a horse. She was at her childhood home, visiting her parents after finishing Queens’ Executive MBA program, when she casually mentioned to a family friend that she was interested in getting back into riding. “I wasn’t really in the market to buy an animal,” she says. But then King saw Hank, a chestnut-colored American Quarter Horse with a white blaze. “I immediately fell in love. I felt like I had conquered this degree, and I had earned an opportunity to do something just for me. So I got him. And then I get back to North Carolina and have to tell my husband I bought a horse.” King arranged for Hank to be brought to Charlotte, where he’s kept a few miles outside the city. She rides at least a couple of times a week, and calls Hank “a total mama’s boy.”

EQUESTRIAN

MAC CABLE

CHIEF OF CAMPUS POLICE
ARTIST

Long before Mac Cable decided to be a police officer, he wanted to be a professional artist. As a young boy, he sketched and shaded in his coloring books. “My mama told me, ‘Son, this is a God-given talent, and if you don’t use it, you’ll lose it,’” he recalls. He planned to go to college for art, but a tough economy led him toward his second calling: law enforcement. “Commercial art just wasn’t that big back in the ’70s,” he says. Today, he’s rarely without a pencil in hand. Cable finds inspiration in his surroundings, often drawing scenes from the Queens campus. One sketch includes a rendering of the university’s stone-and-brick sign, with the incredibly lifelike portrait of a lion above. Cable’s pencil strokes are light and precise, reflecting his passion for still lifes and portraits. He also does oil paintings and calligraphy. “I don’t do abstract,” he says. “Never done abstract. Probably never, ever, ever will do abstract. I’m just a realist.”



ARTIST



ERIN FOX

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT
ACTIVITIES
SINGER

In high school, Erin Fox's friends called her "the walking jukebox," for, it seemed, she was always bursting into song. "Everything reminds me of a song," she says. "Sometimes it's '80s, sometimes it's doo-wop, sometimes it's whatever makes cleaning my house more fun." Fox grew up in a musical family—her parents and siblings are all musicians or singers or both—and founded an all-female a cappella group, The Sapphires, at UNC Greensboro. When she moved to the Queen City, she joined the Charlotte A Cappella Show Chorus, where she sings lead, the position that carries the melody. The group sings in the barbershop style and competes regionally and nationally. "They're sparkle-diva awesomeness," Fox says. "Sequins, false eyelashes, very focused on showmanship and quality vocal performance." She's also a member of Queen City Groove, a more laid-back a cappella group, similar to the one Fox started in college. As an alto, she sings everything from the 1940s classic "In the Mood" to current Top 40 hits. "Those concerts are lots of fun because everyone gets to play in the sandbox."

TROY LUTTMAN

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR
CAMPUS PLANNING & SERVICES
ALMOND FARMER

Troy Luttman knew he wanted to create a beautiful place. That may not come as a surprise for someone who creates stunning campus buildings for a living. But this idea was different. Luttman, who was instrumental in the design and construction of the first phase of Queens' master plan, wanted to do something different, something that focused on the peacefulness of nature. "I wanted to do something that would challenge my mind in ways other than architecture," he says. That desire, coupled with his grandmother's Italian heritage, led Luttman to buy six acres of land in Elkin, North Carolina, in the lush Yadkin Valley. The land became a farm, Tranquilla Grove, where Luttman planted 20 almond trees, and is preparing to plant 100 more. "It sets my mind at ease," he says. "That was the balance I needed from my intense architecture work." The property slopes gently, breaking away from a tree line, where Luttman will eventually build a barn to sell the almonds when they're ready to harvest in about five years.

ALMOND FARMER



ROCK CLIMBER

HELEN HULL

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT
OF ENGLISH AND CREATIVE WRITING
ROCK CLIMBER

Hanging from a rope on the side of a climbing tower became something of a distraction for Helen Hull. She started climbing on a tower at the University of Maryland, where she was working on her PhD in the early 2000s. When she moved to Charlotte in 2003, she found an indoor climbing gym and became obsessed. "It was probably a little bit of dissertation procrastination," she says with a laugh. Hull would climb a couple times a week before she finished her degree and joined the Queens faculty, where she teaches literature and composition courses. "It is exhilarating and thrilling. I totally shut everything out." While some climbers only focus on getting to the top, Hull appreciates the journey. "For me, it's the process—being on the side of the wall or the mountain and figuring out the next hold, the next stable place to put your feet or hands."



JON SIMS

SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
OF ADMISSIONS

BODYBUILDER

Ask Jon Sims what he ate for lunch, and chances are you'll get more information than you bargained for. "I can tell you exactly how many grams of protein I'm eating, how many grams of clean carbs, fats, sugars," he says. "I measure all of that precisely on a daily basis." A couple of years ago, Sims, who works in the admissions office, started competitive bodybuilding after a workout buddy suggested it. "It's not the norm for most people in higher ed," he says with characteristic understatement. Sims doesn't count calories, but he tracks almost everything else in his fitness life, following a carefully regimented training schedule. "We're trying to do what, in a sense, 99.9 percent of the human population can't do, which is gain muscle while losing body fat." Sims says preparation is more important than the actual workouts, where he can bench press 225 pounds 30 times in a row—just like an NFL defensive lineman.



Alumni got creative with tailgate decorations showing a love for Queens on Valentine's Day.

On Valentine's Day, Homecoming Celebrates Royals Love

In the midst of snow days up north and icy weather in North Carolina, Queens had a beautiful February day to bring alumni, students, parents and friends together to celebrate Royals pride. We might not be a football school, but we know how to tailgate! Greek organizations were among those setting up in the Fine Arts parking lot. Chartwells, the campus food service company, served a picnic lunch, complete with street food and a doughnut food truck. Music, outdoor games and decked-out décor completed the fun atmosphere. Following the tailgate, alumni and seniors headed to the Senior-Alumni Mixer in the Levine Center to cheer on the women's and men's basketball teams. ■ —Emily Pinkerton



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

(Top row, left to right) 1. (Left to right) Queens seniors Allie Reilly, Diamond Russo, Jaime Napoleon, and Emmalie Mitchell enjoy the sunny celebration. 2. Beau Rowe '13, Sarah Hoyle '13, Jordan Roberts '13, Danielle Phillips '13 and Laura Morgan '13 snap a group shot. 3. (Left to right) A guest joined Ann Tapia '14, Andy Wertz '14 and Rachel Bradshaw '14 for the festivities.

(Bottom row, left to right) 4. Alumni enjoy reconnecting at the Senior-Alumni Mixer. 5. Queens couple Christopher and Kristen Kelly Ammon (both '02) spend part of their Valentine's Day with their Royals family. 6. Parents Council member Jeff Monday and his daughter, Julia Monday '18, participate in a friendly game of cornhole during the tailgate. 7. Jay and Staci Benson McBride (both '92) host a tailgate for fellow alumni and friends.



The New York Trip

FOR 25 YEARS, ALUMNI AND FRIENDS HAVE VISITED BROADWAY

The year was 1989. Adelaide Anderson Davis '61, alumni director at the time, had the idea to arrange an alumni trip to the Big Apple. She pitched the idea to Queens drama professors Charles and Jane Hadley who enthusiastically agreed to lead the tour. Rounding up a group of alumni, the Hadleys made travel arrangements and off they went on an adventure that would become a beloved tradition.

The group has stayed at different venues throughout the years, including the Hotel Edison in Times Square, the Gorham and the Warwick. Attending Broadway plays is a highlight; favorites have included *Phantom of the Opera*, *Jersey Boys* and *Chicago*. Sue Ross '61 has been part of the group since the beginning. "While the group varies from year to year, the camaraderie is consistent—whether we use the generous free time to go shopping with Adelaide at the Carlisle outlet, head out with like-minded adventurers to the Tenement Museum, or out on the town with fellow night owls to have a nightcap at the top of a skyscraper," she says.

Both Adelaide and



(Clockwise from top left) 1. This year's event was held at The Union League Club. (Left to right) Brandy Rowell '94, Emberli Edwards '01, Suzy Sulsona '97, Sue Ross '61 and Ryan Petersen '94. 2. Stephanie Hilleson Safrit '86 (left) and Paige Ferguson Burgess '85 (right) enjoyed the signs and sounds of Times Square during the 2013 trip. 3. Professors Emeriti Jane and Charles Hadley were honored at the 2015 event. Dr. Hadley (left) addresses guests alongside event co-host Sally Wheeler-Maier '89. 4. During the trip two years ago, David and Cathy Parks Loevner '71 (left) and Dick and Cathy Fehon Herbst '69 (right) hosted Queens alumni and friends at The University Club of New York. Guests included Charles Randolph-Wright (center), producer of Motown: The Musical, and Professors Emeriti Jane and Charles Hadley (beside Randolph-Wright).

Sue count the trip after 9/11 among the most significant. The people they encountered offered sincere appreciation for supporting the city at such a difficult time. On a lighter note, a visit to Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church one Sunday drew the attention of the minister. From the pulpit, he welcomed the Queens group accompanied by "President Charles Hadley." Upon his return to Queens, Professor Hadley mentioned to then-president Billy Wireman that he best clean out his office.

Queens alumni living in New York City have hosted the visitors, including Beth Rivers Curry '63, MBA '83 and

Betty Johnson Gray '51. As the guest list has grown to include Queens alumni, parents and friends living in the area, receptions have moved to larger venues such as the Yale Club, University Club and Rockefeller Foundation.

This past January, Bill and Sally Wheeler-Maier '89 and Cameron and Liza Vann Smith '76 hosted a reception at The Union League Club. Attendance was a record high, and the evening honored original tour guides, Professors Emeriti Charles and Jane Hadley. It was a fitting celebration in this milestone 25th year.

—Emily Pinkerton

Royal Scholarship Days

ALUMNI SUPPORT THEIR ALMA MATER BY INTERVIEWING PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS



A little over a year ago, Will Kervick '14 was a senior working toward a psychology degree with a minor in organizational communication. During his four years at Queens, Will spent countless hours in the classroom; he was more than ready to move beyond those walls and into the marketing job that awaited him. Little did Will know that he would find himself back in the classroom within a few short months after graduation, this time interviewing prospective students during Royal Scholarship Days.

Queens hosts two of these events each winter for students who are invited to compete for select merit scholarships.

While on campus, candidates are interviewed individually and in groups by faculty, staff and alumni.

Receiving a Charles A. Dana Scholarship made it possible for Will, a native of Asbury Park, New Jersey, to attend Queens. When the Office of Alumni Relations offered him the chance to participate in Royal Scholarship Day as an interviewer, he welcomed it as a way to support his alma mater. "Queens is not a place where you can stay hidden and quiet. From the small class sizes to a small campus, Queens challenges its students to get out of their comfort zones and prepares them for the next steps in their lives," he says. While at Queens, he was

chief justice of the judicial board, class president and a member of Pi Kappa Phi fraternity.

"Queens is family," says Meg Stanley Johnson '88, the clinic coordinator for Queens' music therapy program. The emerging program attracted her as a prospective student, and a Presidential Scholarship made possible her four years at Queens as a music therapy and psychology major. When Meg noticed a call for Royal Scholarship Day interviewers in the daily newsletter to faculty and staff, she quickly volunteered. In talking one-on-one with prospective students in February, she was surprised at how many memories of her own scholarship interviews came to mind.

Will, Meg and other alumni provide a valuable service to Queens during Royal Scholarship Day. By asking thought-provoking questions and sharing their experiences, they also introduce a new generation of students to the Queens community. ■

—Laura Sutton



Alumni Meg Stanley Johnson '88 (far left) and Will Kervick '14 (left) interviewed prospective students this past winter during Royal Scholarship Days.

#Hashtags for Life

SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT DAVID BARNES '15 PUTS A MODERN SPIN ON HIS COMMENCEMENT REMARKS

I have attended more than 30 commencement ceremonies at Queens, and while every one of them has been special, this year's event was remarkable for a number of reasons, among them the speech by Senior Class President David Barnes. His description of Queens so reminded me of my own experience more than 50 years ago, and I realized that even as Queens has changed, the most important things have stayed the same. I did not know David as a student, but I wish now that I had. I hope you'll enjoy this excerpt, and will join me in welcoming David and the Class of 2015 to our alumni ranks.

—Adelaide Anderson Davis '61

My address this morning is titled #LifeHack, and it is comprised of a few hashtags that represent larger lessons I learned in my four years at Queens. For those of you who don't know what a hashtag is, it is a metadata tag, characterized by the pound symbol, which aggregates all relevant information related to a word or phrase. For those of you who don't know what a pound symbol is, it's a hashtag.

#JustPursueIt

The first of my lessons learned at Queens is that if you know who you are and what you want to do with your life, pursue it relentlessly. You may face opposition from those you love, like your family or friends; however, it is impossible to concurrently become and suppress who it is that you are supposed to be. You have to live with the decisions you make, and therefore you have to make them for yourself. So, #JustPursueIt.

#TrueNorth

This next bit of advice is to lead with intention without letting others define your leadership. As leaders, we need something that we're working towards, and it's not a sales goal or how many people show up to an event or how much we should fundraise. Give your followers something to believe in, share the big picture, listen to their feedback, and your actions will speak volumes. I challenge you all this morning to go out and find something to be passionate about, and lead in pursuit of your #TrueNorth.



At the traditional undergraduate commencement on May 9, David Barnes shared four lessons he had gained from his Queens experience.

#FeedYou

Life doesn't always come with instructions or a schedule. In the midst of figuring it out, don't forget to take the time you need to be well. I did a thousand-and-one things at Queens. I was a swimmer. An RA. I worked in various positions for orientation and in the student government association. I'm a brother of Pi Kappa Phi. I worked part time all the time. I served the community I've grown to love, and it's helped me realize who I really am. Pursue that which leads not to complacency, but autonomy and consistency in your life's work. Don't do too much, though, and be sure to #FeedYou.

#Thrive

Since the day we arrived, Queens has given us a foundation upon which

to build good lives for ourselves. If you didn't notice, the honor code represents and demonstrates the virtues we perpetuate in our community here on campus. As you learned from Aristotle, a good life requires a liberal arts—or at least a comprehensive—education and participation in the community. We learned the critical value of rhetoric and how to advocate for each other and ourselves.

You may have thought that your education ends here; I saw many posts on Facebook and Instagram this week about being finished. But your final test won't be written in a blue book. It will be written in your life's work. This is why we came to Queens. This is what sets our graduates apart. So when you leave here today, don't forget to invite me to your weddings—and don't forget to #Thrive. ■

—David Barnes '15

Thank you to everyone who sent a note to stay connected with classmates. We love hearing from you!

To submit your class note, go to www.queens.edu/class-notes. Questions or comments? Contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 704-337-2504 or alumni@queens.edu.

The Office of Alumni Relations appreciates the generosity of Forrest and **Mary Jo Patton Nelson '56**, Joe and **Sally O'Rourke Morris '66**, Landrum and **Elaine Hallman Henderson '75**, **Susan McEwen '78**, **Susan McConnell '83** and **Michael Spisso '01** and **Juliane Wysocki Spisso '02** for helping to sponsor our Queens Alumni and Friends reception on January 15 in Charlotte.

1941

The class expresses sympathy to **Amelia Bradham Kesling** on the death of her brother, Riley Augustus Bradham Jr., who passed away on November 26, 2014.

1942

The class expresses sympathy to **Leila Lassiter Turner** on the death of her sister, **Karleen Lassiter Waters '43**, who passed away on February 11.

1943

Margaret Hawkins Thomas recently celebrated her 91st birthday. She has 12 great-grandchildren and lives in Wendell, N.C., with one of her daughters. She is very thankful.

The class expresses sympathy to the family of **Karleen Lassiter Waters**, who passed away on February 11.

1945

The class expresses sympathy to **Josephine Wrenn Rice** on the death of her sister, **Miriam Wrenn Crosby '47**, who passed away on December 24, 2014.

1947

The class expresses sympathy to the family of **Miriam Wrenn Crosby**, who passed away on December 24, 2014.

1950

2014 was a special year for **Adelaide Foil Farrell**. One of her granddaughters, **Mollie**

Farrell '14, graduated in June from Queens and was a Chi Omega. She thinks it is great to have a granddaughter who not only shares the same university but is also a "sister"!

1953

Jeanne Harrison MacDonald and husband Charlie celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October 2014. Charlie's roommate at MIT, who was in their wedding, and his wife joined them in Charleston to help them celebrate.

The class expresses sympathy to the family of **Margaret Cashion Posey '53**, who passed away on December 31, 2014.

1955

The class expresses sympathy to **Elizabeth Camp Jetton** on the death of her daughter-in-law, Terrell Ann Gates Jetton, who passed away on September 26, 2014.

1956

Lynne Barnes Foley was always told moving into a retirement facility would be fun and now she knows. She reports that it is a nice time of their lives with several grandchildren out of college, more in now and still more in grade school. Husband Dave has a "little" Parkinson's, but they are managing well.



Sara Bee Craig Johnson '57 and husband Jim visit Rex in February at Curry Arena during a Queens basketball game.

CLASS NOTES

1957

Belle Lee Fite retired after working at the N.C. General Assembly in Raleigh for almost 35 years.

Jeanne Fleming Reynolds and husband John have recently moved to a villa at The Cypress of Charlotte. It is beautiful with countless amenities, such as daily gourmet four-page menus, maid service and every other service imaginable, and located in a gated campus near SouthPark Mall. Jeanne has been elected president of the book club.

1960

The class and alumni office appreciate the generosity of Dan and **Flo Denny Durway** for hosting our Queens Alumni and Friends reception on November 19, 2014, at their home in Raleigh.

Betty Powell Squatriglia comes to Charlotte regularly because all of her children and grandchildren are in the area. She enjoys traveling and recently returned from Paris and the beaches of Normandy.

1961

Polly Thompson Marshall enjoyed a two-week trip south, including one week in

Palm Beach with four longtime friends. One of her five granddaughters, Ann Carter Herbert, will be a sophomore at Sewanee, the University of the South. Daughter Carter Marshall Reid, senior vice president, chief administrative and compliance officer and corporate secretary of Dominion Resources, was one of four Richmond businesswomen awarded the 2014 Executive Women in Business Achievement Award. She was recently featured in Richmond's *Style Weekly*.

Brookshire Wynne McDonald went on a cruise with her five children and their spouses and 14 grandchildren for her 75th birthday.

1962

The class expresses sympathy to **Judy Black Cole** on the death of her husband, Dick Cole, who passed away on September 13, 2014.

This year, **Ginny Bopp Springer** serves her first year as advisor to the New Bern Appearance Commission. She recently completed the application process to become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

1964

Eleanor Randolph is an editor at *The New York Times* and is writing a biography



Ene Watkins Pate '67, Jackie White McGrath '67 and Sally O'Rourke Morris '66 enjoyed cruising the Puget Sound in September 2014 on the McGraths' boat, the Paraclete.

on Michael Bloomberg. She received an honorary degree from Queens in May at graduation. Eleanor spent her freshman and sophomore years at Queens, and then transferred to Emory University. She is profiled on page 29.

1966

Janice Medlock Atkeson retired from business and now serves as chairwoman of the Essex Elderly and Affordable Housing Committee. She is active in county functions and has 13 grandchildren. She has enjoyed traveling the last 15 years, missing only one continent.

The class expresses sympathy to **Peggy Reinhardt Moore** on the death of her husband, Edward L. Moore, who passed away on December 31, 2014.

Sally O'Rourke Morris' daughter Alicia married Scott Rudd in a surprise wedding. The invitation was for an engagement party, but it was actually a reception for Alicia and Scott. The room filled with screams as Joe announced the wedding to be held immediately in the large dining room set up as a chapel beside the ball room at their club. The wedding party rushed to change into wedding attire. The beautiful bride planned it all, including the idea for it to be a surprise.



Bonnie Currie Gilbert '63 (back left) and husband **Michael** (back center) celebrated 50 years of marriage at Hilton Head in August 2014. Attending the celebration were their grandchildren (left to right) **Eleanor, Caroline, Cate, Carter, Jack and Mac**.



Five members of the class of 1969 met in January in Arizona. (Left to right) Myrta Pulliam, Laura Davis Turner, Marion Spann Spivey, Cassie Edwards Sauer and Susan Staaf Fisher.

Lura Deaton McMurray has one granddaughter, Elle Smith McMurray, who was born on November 14, 2012, to her oldest son. Her third son is engaged to be married October 2.

1969

The class expresses sympathy to **Karen Clayton Carey** on the death of her husband, Steven Carey, who passed away on January 21, 2014.

The class expresses sympathy to **Jane Davis Collins** on the death of her husband, Ken Collins, who passed away on November 17, 2014.

Susan Staaf Fisher, Myrta Pulliam, Cassie Edwards Sauer, Marion Spann Spivey and Laura Davis Turner had a mini-reunion in January in Arizona.

The class expresses sympathy to **Jacqueline Moore Plott** on the death of her husband, Coy Plott, who passed away on November 20, 2014.

down the coast. She was thankful she was with them the week her mom passed as they were able to spend lots of time with her. Her mother was so happy to see them both.

1967

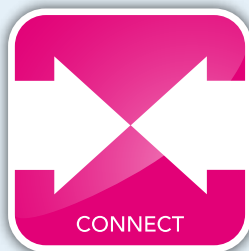
The class expresses sympathy to **Sue Denton Labriola** on the death of her mother, Lillian Denton, who passed away on April 14, 2014. Sue had a mini-reunion with **Marby Allen Little** and **Lana Hobbs Wolcott**, scouring antique stores and eating lots of food up and

1968

The class appreciates the generosity of Lee and **Bette Benson Atkins** for hosting our Queens Alumni and Friends reception on November 13, 2014, at their home in Charleston, S.C.

Theckla Donsbach Sterrett and husband Tate downsized about six years ago and came to dislike their small living areas and kitchen, but were caught up in the recession and had to stay there. They have sold that house and bought a bigger house in Plaza Midwood, a cool eclectic neighborhood in Charlotte. They welcomed a third grandchild in April 2014. Daughter Theckla and husband Beale had a son, Beale II.

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CLASS NOTES



Robin Reeve Allen '73 (center) and her family attended the January 6 swearing in ceremony of her husband Rick (center left) as a United States Congressman from the 12th district of Georgia. In attendance were the Allens' son and three daughters, their spouses and children. The Washington, D.C., ceremony included Speaker John Boehner (center right).

The class and alumni office appreciate the generosity of Charles and **Laura Davis Turner** for hosting our Queens Alumni and Friends luncheon on November 20, 2014, at their home in Winston-Salem.

1970

The class expresses sympathy to **Ellen Denton** on the death of her mother,

Lillian Denton, who passed away on April 14, 2014.

The class expresses sympathy to **Ann Rhea Ham** on the death of her mother, Sara C. Rhea, who passed away on February 17, 2014.

Mary Marshall Nash enjoys retirement, taking care of many pets, including dogs, cats and birds. She enjoys spending time with friends,



The Reverend Rebecca Ricketts Yarbrough '75 (right) serves at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Davidson, N.C., assisting with Galilee Ministries in east Charlotte and working on congregational development.

gardening and canning the produce from the garden. She still sings and plays the piano.

Ann Porter Pyles and husband are both retired and have the luxury of time to spend with eight grandchildren. This is in addition to traveling, volunteering and simply enjoying life.

1971

Betsy Way Childers lives in Shady Spring, W.Va., with her husband and two dogs. She has two grown sons. She enjoys retirement after a career as a high school Spanish teacher and loves spending time with her two grandchildren, who live a couple miles from her home.

J. Segar Gravatt still enjoys working in the church as she is always challenged both pastorally and theologically. She sends love to all of her classmates.

Ruth Lee Hill Hair attended the swearing-in ceremony of **Robin Reeve Allen's '73** husband, Rick Allen, as a United States Congressman from the 12th district of Georgia on January 6 in Washington, D.C. **Ruth Lee** and **Robin** both have homes in Cashiers, N.C., where they spend a good bit of time in the summers. They have enjoyed renewing their friendship.

The class and alumni office appreciate the generosity of **Aileen Ponder Hatcher** and **Penny Pennington O'Callaghan '78** for co-hosting our Queens Alumni and Friends luncheon on November 5, 2014, in Atlanta.

1973

Robin Reeve Allen's husband, Rick Allen, was sworn in on January 6 as a United States Congressman from the 12th district of Georgia. They have lived in Augusta, Ga., for 41 years where they started and ran a successful construction company for 37 years. They have seven grandchildren with another one on the way. Their three daughters live in Carrollton, Ga., Atlanta and Augusta. Their son is a diplomat in the Foreign Service and lives in Ho Chi Minh City. **Robin** and **Ruth Lee Hill Hair '71** see each other in Cashiers, N.C., where they both have homes.

Like Father, Like Son

A QUEENS FRESHMAN CARRIES ON HIS FATHER'S LEGACY—ON AND OFF THE BASKETBALL COURT

Darryl White '92 sits in the stands at every Royals men's basketball game. He comes to cheer on his son, Darryl White, Jr., a freshman and guard on the team.

"It feels good to see him out there," he says. At 6 feet 6 inches tall, Darryl strikes an imposing figure—but in conversation, his strong sense of empathy shines through. He puts it into practice as the family services director for Habitat for Humanity Charlotte, where he's worked since 1994.



Darryl White (top center, holding trophy) and the Queens basketball team celebrate their 1992 win of the Marriott Classic Basketball Tournament. He was named MVP.

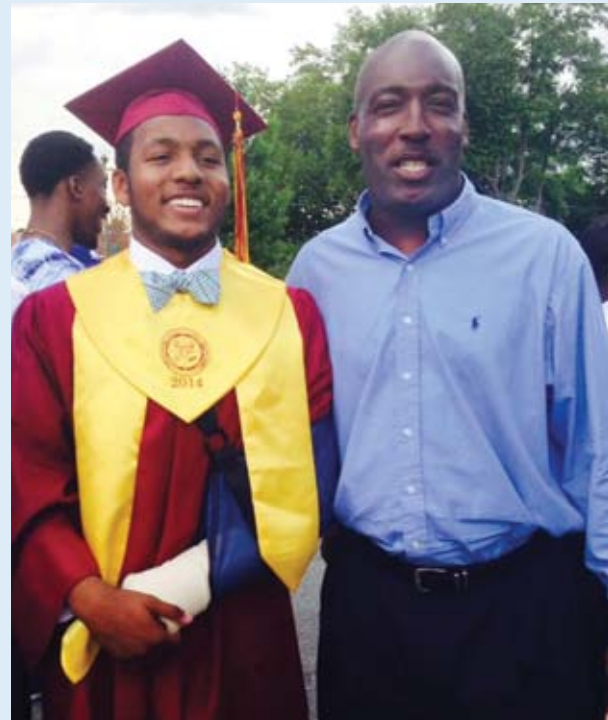
Darryl is the family's original Royal. After four years in the army and two years at a junior college in Washington state, he transferred to Queens to be closer to his family in Charleston, South Carolina. He liked Charlotte and Queens' intimate feel, and he was excited to play basketball during the program's second-ever season. The team excelled that year, racking up 20 wins. "That was huge for us," he says.

He graduated from Queens in 1992 with a degree in sociology, and remains engaged with his teammates and his alma mater. He has served on the Center for Active Citizenship advisory board and the Queens alumni board, and for many years continued to play basketball with his former teammates in summer leagues and at pick-up games on campus. His son frequently came along to watch. "Pretty much everybody knew him from the time he was just a little toddler," he says.

Yet even as he grew up watching his father play, and then played basketball himself, there was never an expectation that the younger White would follow his father's lead. He balanced athletics with academics, earning a full academic scholarship to the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. At Queens, though, he realized he could focus on his studies and still play his favorite sport—at a school he had loved since he was a child.

"I've been around [Queens] so much for so long that I've always secretly wanted to go here," says Darryl, Jr. "Especially if I had the opportunity to play basketball. It's a great school. I love the atmosphere."

For Darryl, being able to watch his son play for his alma mater is an experience he never expected, and one that he doesn't take for granted. "I think for most fathers, that's probably their dream, for their kid to play at the same school where they played," he says.



A proud dad, Darryl White (right) attends his son's graduation from Harding High School in 2014. Darryl, Jr. (left) wears not only a yellow ribbon for Advanced Placement achievement, but a cast on his broken left arm, the result of a pick up basketball game at Queens. The break required surgery; he had just been released from the hospital that morning.

His son admires his history. "It definitely inspired me, to see him pursue the game," Darryl, Jr. says. "I always wanted to be like my dad." ■

— *Aleigh Acerni*



Darryl White, Jr., played guard during the 2014 2015 men's basketball season.



Karen Terrana Long '76 and Boone Boies Bullington '75 enjoyed an unexpected reunion in August 2014 at a wedding they attended in Durango, Colorado.

The class expresses sympathy to **Malinda Kincaid Johnston** on the death of her daughter, Sarah, who passed away on May 1, 2014.

1975

The Reverend Rebecca Ricketts Yarbrough retired in January from Centralina Council of Governments after 37 years. She is now on staff at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Davidson, serving as deacon, assisting with Galilee Ministries in east Charlotte and working on congregational development. Husband David is teaching at UNC Charlotte. Daughter Kathy works in management with the *Wilmington StarNews*. Daughter Nancy works in Charlotte and hopefully heads to physician assistant school soon.

1976

Karen Terrana Long had an unexpected reunion with **Boone Boies Bullington '75** in the Colorado mountains. They both attended a wedding with separate close affiliations: Boone's with the groom and Karen's with the bride. They enjoyed catching up as they had

not seen each other since Karen's wedding in 1978. Boone and her husband looked fantastic and were spending the summer at their home in Creede, Colo. The Longs welcomed their first grandson in late fall 2014.

Clinton Corbett recently designed the oratorio score and graphics for the New York production of *The Velvet Oratorio*, an opera/theater piece commemorating the 25th anniversary of The Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia. She currently is designing the graphics for *The Money Lab*, an economic vaudeville. Both are produced by Untitled Theater Company #61 in New York City.

The class and alumni office appreciate the generosity of Cameron and **Liza Vann Smith** and Bill and **Sally Wheeler-Maier '89** for helping to sponsor our Queens Alumni and Friends reception on January 29 in New York City, which honored Professors Emeriti Charles and Jane Hadley.

1977

The class expresses sympathy to **Suzanne Freeman Grice** on the death of her mother, Beverly L. Freeman, who passed away on January 3.

1978

The class and alumni office appreciate the generosity of **Penny Pennington O'Callaghan** and **Aileen Ponder Hatcher '71** for co-hosting our Queens Alumni and Friends luncheon on November 5, 2014, in Atlanta.

Claire Ritter, jazz pianist/composer, released her 11th CD recording of original compositions, titled *Soho Solo*, supported by her fourth Arts and Science Council Regional Artist Grant. Owen Cordle of *Jazz Times* and the *Raleigh News & Observer* describes Claire's work in the liner notes: "Succinct & skillful—like the NC born jazz legend pianist/composer Thelonious Monk's style." The recording can be purchased at www.claireritter.com or iTunes.

1980

The class expresses sympathy to **Deborah Sibley Mitchell** on the death of her mother.

Carol Troutman Wiggins was one of the contributors of music, material and/or ideas along with 100+ other composers for the book, *Fun Band Warm Ups: Secrets from 100+ Band Directors Worldwide* by The Fun Music Company in Adelaide, Australia. It was released on February 17. Read more about the book at funmusicco.com/band-warmups-program.

1981

The class expresses sympathy to **Malinda Posey Parker** on the death of her mother, **Margaret Cashion Posey '53**, who passed away on December 31, 2014.

1985

The class and alumni office appreciate the generosity of Stephen and **Cynthia Smith Watson** for hosting our Queens Alumni and Friends reception on July 31, 2014, at their home in Asheville.

1987

Katherine Blackwelder is happy to report that she is now not only singing but also playing organ and piano. She got a piano



Katherine Jane KJ Price Grissom Morgan '89 married Adam Kyle Morgan on September 6, 2014, in High Point, N.C.



Among the Chi Omega alumni visiting campus in September 2014 to celebrate the unique sisterhood they experienced were (back row, left to right) **Ashley Hutchens Mills '00**, **Lori Townsend '01** and **Emily Case '02** and (front row, left to right) **Amanda Stefanski '02** and **Katie Breedlove DeCicco '01**.

as a graduation present in 1987, and her boyfriend surprised her with a beautiful Lowery organ for Christmas last year.

1988

The class expresses sympathy to **Beth Erwin Ford** on the death of her husband, Trevor Ford, who passed away on September 20, 2014.

Molly Waldrup Johnson and **Mark Johnson's EMBA '00** son Billy received a heart transplant at age 3 and a kidney transplant from Mom in 2012. They are involved in the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House. Read their story on page 36.

1989

Katherine Jane "KJ" Price Grissom Morgan was married on September 6, 2014, to Adam Kyle Morgan in High Point, N.C. Queens classmates in attendance were **Nellie Henderson Davant '88**, **Karen Bengston Hughes '88**, **Lisette Hasbun Johnson '88**, **Christi Parham Arnette**, **Kathy King Briggs**, **Jodie Henderson Coulson**, **Linda Warren Gerdes**, **Lori Wiseman Hallman** and **Nancy Swecker Swan**. KJ enjoyed

celebrating with new sister-in-law **Penny Morgan Dale '81**. Daughter **Maggie Grissom**, Queens class of 2018, was maid of honor. Maggie roomed her freshmen year with **Linda Warren Gerdes's** daughter **Kaylan**. Maggie and Kaylan both pledged Kappa Delta.

The class and alumni office appreciate the generosity of **Bill and Sally Wheeler-Maier** and **Cameron and Liza Vann Smith '76** for helping to sponsor our Queens Alumni and Friends reception on January 29 in New York City, which honored Professors Emeriti **Charles and Jane Hadley**.

The class expresses sympathy to **Roslyn Segal** on the death of her mother, **Dorothy Levine Segal**, who passed away on January 30.

1991

Michele Roseman Aikens and **Walt Aikens's** son **Walt Aikens, Jr.** was drafted in the fourth round of the 2014 NFL Draft by the Miami Dolphins. His rookie season included playing time at corner, safety and special teams. He ended the season with 15 tackles, a pass deflection and an interception.

1993

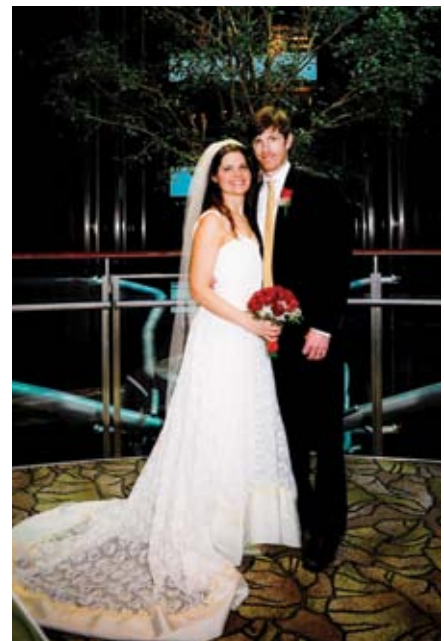
Jane Bott Childrey is now the director of alumni relations for The Pennington School, which is the boarding school in New Jersey she attended prior to Queens. She loves her new role and looks forward to attending the next Queens event in New York City.

1996

Julie Martin Dean Juliedeansings@gmail.com started her own voice studio last year, serving singers of all ages and professional voice users. She is thrilled to be a small business owner and enjoys working in the Plaza Midwood neighborhood of Charlotte. She began online lessons earlier this year and her first client was a Queens alum!

1997

Heather Honeycutt Bostic and family will celebrate daughter **Ashley Reagan's** 2nd birthday in July, and big brother **Hank Montgomery** will turn 4 in November. Their big adventure this year will be spending July near Cape Lookout, N.C. If you're in the area, be sure to give them a ring!



Laura Thee Smith '03 and **Andrew Andy Smith '04, MBA '14** married on January 24 in an at sea ceremony in the Caribbean.

Where the Heart Is

A FAMILY BROUGHT TOGETHER BY QUEENS BATTLES THE ODDS WITH BRAVERY AND GRACE



In 2014, the Johnson family (left to right: Annie, Molly, Mark and Billy) attended the groundbreaking ceremony for a Ronald McDonald house in Atlanta. Molly and Mark wear Beads of Courage, which commemorate the challenges faced by children undergoing treatment for serious illness.

Billy Johnson was just four weeks old when he received a new heart; it was his grandfather's birthday. Billy was born with heterotaxy syndrome, a rare birth defect that typically involves the heart and causes organs such as the stomach, intestines, liver and lungs to develop in abnormal locations.

Although he's beaten the odds again and again, it hasn't been smooth sailing for Billy since his arrival in 2008. At seven years of age, he has been admitted to the hospital 42 times—about once every six weeks. Maintaining his health is a constant battle. Colds and viruses that would be a nuisance for a healthy child could have serious

“He has been a miracle boy before he was even born,” says Molly Johnson, Billy's mother. A Queens alumna, Molly graduated in 1988 with a degree in music therapy. She was a “miracle baby” in her own right, born so prematurely that she weighed less than 1,000 grams at birth—about the weight of a bag of rice. “They didn't even name me for months,” she says. “There was no hope that I would survive. But obviously I lived.”

Molly's doctors had explained that the chances of carrying Billy to term were very slim. “There was nothing to do. I would just carry him and pray,” she says. “I knew that he was a fighter even before he was born. I would get worried about the baby, and I would feel a big whack, a kick. It was like the baby was saying, ‘Alright Mom, I'm OK in here.’”

The class and alumni office appreciate the generosity of **Andrew Brownfield** and **Heather Connelly Brownfield '98**, **James Johnson '10** and **Lindsey Collins '11** for helping to sponsor our Queens Alumni and Friends reception on December 4, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

Audean Horgas Godehn served as president of Queens' Friends of the Library this past year.

Robert Jones was selected as a winner of the NCMA (National Contract Management Association) Top Professionals Under 40 in Contract Management Award. He received the award in November 2014 at

the Government Contract Management Symposium (GCMS) in Washington, D.C. Robert presented at NCMA's World Congress 2014 and 2013 and presented a new topic at GCMS 2014.

Katie Densford McCoy was elected president of UNC Chapel Hill's Master of Public Administration Alumni Board for the 2015 term. She and her husband of 11 years live in Charlotte, where Katie works as city strategy manager.

1998

Our class appreciates the generosity of

Heather Connelly Brownfield and **Andrew Brownfield '97**, **James Johnson '10** and **Lindsey Collins '11** for helping to sponsor our Queens Alumni and Friends reception on December 4, 2014, in Washington D.C.

1999

The class expresses sympathy to **Rebecca Skidmore** on the death of her father-in-law, William L. Skidmore, who passed away on February 16, 2014.

The class expresses sympathy to **Beverly Speed** on the death of her father, George Wendell Speed, who passed away on January 25.



Billy holds a sign with the dates of his heart and kidney transplants. He is one of five to receive both pediatric transplants at Emory Hospital in Atlanta.

ramifications for a child like Billy, whose immune system is suppressed by medications that help keep his body from rejecting his transplanted organs. Organs, plural, because in 2012, after complications that led to months of dialysis, Billy also received a kidney transplant. Molly was the donor.

It hasn't slowed Billy down a bit. "He is the happiest young'un you'll ever meet in your life," says Mark Johnson, Billy's father and a 2000 graduate of Queens' EMBA program. "There's something special about him."

"He wakes up in the middle of the night all the time. He's just happy to be here—and he plays," says his mom.

And yet, if it weren't for Queens, there would be no Billy. Mark and Molly are both Queens alumni, but they didn't meet at school. Instead, they were set up on a blind date by one of Mark's EMBA classmates, who thought they'd really hit it off. The pair bonded over a love of Lake Norman and a mutual admiration of Billy Wireman, president of Queens from 1978 to 2002, who became a close friend. When the couple discovered they were pregnant, they decided if the child were a boy, he would be named William Keith. Keith for his grandfather, and William (called Billy) for Dr. Wireman.

Their first child was a girl, Annie, a wonderful big sister to Billy, who unfortunately never got to meet either of his namesakes.

The Johnsons, who live in Denver, N.C., have made many sacrifices to care for their son. Molly has given up her music therapy practice. Mark has turned down job opportunities that would've taken the family too far away from their wonderful medical team in Atlanta. Annie has spent months apart from her parents and brother while Billy was undergoing treatments. After seven years of parenting a spirited boy with serious health issues, both Molly and Mark have gained enough medical knowledge that they seem to have earned honorary medical degrees. And they've done it all with amazing grace and strength.

"They are ferociously and lovingly going to do whatever they can for their children," says Dalya Kutchei, an EMBA '00 classmate of Mark's. "[Watching Mark and Molly care for their children] has confirmed the ongoing, lifelong lesson of Queens. We go in ... thinking it's more about work. In reality, it's all about how we're going to live our full life."

Billy's health continues to have its ups and downs. In the future, he will need another kidney transplant—luckily, Mark is also a match. Heart transplants typically last 10 to 15 years, and the risk of other illnesses or infections is always there.

But the Johnsons don't take a single day for granted. "Sometimes my brain starts going to this dark place. And then I think, I'm not supposed to be thinking about the what-ifs," Molly says. "That's what Billy teaches me; the right now and the today and the present moment. He's at a regular school in a regular classroom, thriving, happy, living a happy life. That's the way we're all supposed to be." ■

— *Aleigh Acerni*

2000

Tricia Taylor would like to share her music with Queens. After being successful in the corporate world, she is pursuing her dream of writing songs/singing. She would love feedback, comments, subscriptions (songwriting, voice, etc). Visit online at youtube.com/songrighter33.

2001

Chi Omega alumni **Katie Breedlove DeCicco '01, Elizabeth Hunter Persson '00, Suzanne Maddox Phillips '97, Marci Turso '97, Kristin Whitley Haas '02, Angie Balotti Charles '03, Lori Townsend '01,**

Laurie Gregg Arena '01, Amanda Stefanski '02, Angela Wiley Jacklin '04 and Kristen Kelly Ammon '02 gathered to celebrate in September 2014 in Charlotte.

Melissa Swonger Orr accepted a new role as supplier oversight manager at GE Capital (Synchrony Financial). She ran her 70th marathon in fall 2014 and has only two states left in her 50-state marathon quest.

2002

Erica Brady Angert and Jack Angert and their two sons, Kent, 7, and Dean, 5, live in Richmond, Va. Erica works as a postpartum doula, helping

families transition to life with a new baby, and Jack is an actuary working at Genworth Financial. They enjoy running, playing with their kids and binge-watching Netflix shows with dessert after their kids are asleep.

Chris Kolobow is well on his way towards the ultimate goal of rural primary practice. He has completed the family nurse practitioner program at Georgetown, achieving magna cum laude. He and the fam are now packing for their next big adventure in Sandpoint, Idaho.

Amanda Stefanski and a group of Chi Omega alumni got together on Saturday, September 27, 2014, to celebrate the unique sisterhood they

CLASS NOTES



Matthew Caldwell '04 covered the ACC Football Championship as sports editor of *The Oconee Leader* in Watkinsville, GA.



Chris Miller '04 is engaged to marry Brooks Pope in October 2015 in Charlotte.



Molly Rose Nass Jacobs '09 married Ben Jacobs on August 30, 2014, at the Ballantyne Resort in Charlotte.

experienced at Queens, Theta Gamma. A small group visited campus and the new “house” in the afternoon. A larger group got together that night. In attendance were **Suzanne Maddox Phillips '97**, **Marci Turso '97**, **Ashley Hutchens Mills '00**, **Elizabeth Hunter Persson '00**, **Laurie Gregg Arena '01**, **Katie Breedlove DeCicco '01**, **Lori Townsend '01**, **Kristen Kelly Ammon**, **Emily Case**, **Kristin Whitley Haas**, **Amanda Stefanski**, **Angie Balotti Charles '03** and **Angela Wiley Jacklin '04**.

2003

Laura Thee Smith and **Andrew “Andy” Smith '04**, **MBA '14** were married on January 24 in

an at-sea ceremony in the Caribbean. Their families were in attendance, and the ceremony was officiated by the ship’s captain. They reside in Charlotte.

Dre Alford Manoni, husband RJ and son Daxton recently sold their Charlotte home and relocated to Fort Mill, S.C. Dre celebrated her first year in March with LPL Financial, where she is a learning and development consultant. She looks forward to LPL relocating in 2016 to Fort Mill, so she can enjoy a much shorter commute. Daxton turned 2 in April.

Fay Marcus is enjoying her fifth year with the very busy Something Classic as the culture

director, where one of the many perks is eating lots of goodies from the bakery. Daughter Ava, 10, is into dance, piano and lots of modeling; look for some of her most recent work on Belk’s website. She and her daughter are having fun working on a very long list of upgrades to their old bungalow while living the quiet, girly life together.

2004

Matthew Caldwell has been sports editor of *The Oconee Leader* (Watkinsville, Ga.) since 2006. In that time, he has covered high schools, University of Georgia football, Georgia Tech football, the SEC and ACC football championships, Chick-fil-A Bowls and Chick-fil-A Bowl Kickoff Games, Belk Bowl, MLB, NFL, NHL, NBA and NASCAR. He has also photographed George Strait, Garth Brooks and Bob Seger concerts. An avid baseball fan, he has been to 16 of 30 Major League Baseball stadiums.

Alison Kendrick does volunteer work with The Lunch Project program in Tanzania, including public relations. Read more about her involvement on page 39.

Chris Miller is engaged to marry Brooks Pope in October in Charlotte.

Andrew “Andy” Smith MBA '14 and **Laura Thee Smith '03** were married on January 24 in an at-sea ceremony in the Caribbean. Their families were in attendance, and the ceremony was officiated by the ship’s captain. They reside in Charlotte.



On January 15 in Olathe, Kansas, **Austin Woodworth '06** and **Neal Woodworth '07**, welcomed twin sisters **Charlotte** and **Quinn**.

Feeding the Soul

THE LUNCH PROJECT IS CHANGING TANZANIAN EDUCATION, ONE MEAL AT A TIME



Sarah Brock '05 (left) attends a closing program in 2013, presented by students at Lemanyata Primary School. The school was the first in Tanzania to receive support from The Lunch Project.

“THEY DON'T
SPEAK THE SAME
LANGUAGE, BUT
THEY HAVE THE
SAME SOULS.”

Sarah Brock '05 is talking about finances, and her eyes are wet with tears. She isn't choked up about numbers or spreadsheets, rather what it means to serve as the record keeper for The Lunch Project, a Charlotte nonprofit that's feeding hungry children in Tanzania.

Sarah, a financial planner, became inspired by the organization through Rebecca Wofford, a family friend and the project's founder who attended her church.

“My mom was the church cook,” Sarah says. “She loved Rebecca dearly and was a big fan of The Lunch Project. I knew I needed to get involved.”

Sarah's mother passed away in 2012 following a battle with cancer. Ever since, Sarah's been dedicated to the mission of feeding others. “Food is life,” she says. “It's a way I can honor my mother.”

The Lunch Project began in 2011 from a trip Rebecca, a law professor at the time, took to a public primary school in Tanzania. On assignment with the United Nations, she was examining the country's elementary education system and discovered that, while school enrollment was high, attendance and performance were low. With no lunchtime meal provided, how could children learn? She decided to help.

The project started with one school. Project leaders encouraged mothers to accompany their children to school and prepare the lunchtime meals while the children learned. Eventually, attendance rose at the school, the test scores improved, and today, the students have enough energy that they started a soccer team. The Lunch Project is working.

The team moved on to a second school, and the organization grew. Alison Kendrick '04, a friend of Sarah, also volunteers and handles public relations for the organization. Both live by the Queens motto, “Not to be served, but to serve,” volunteering dozens of hours per week, on top of full-time jobs. Both have traveled to Tanzania

and met the kids they're feeding. “These people were so full of love and life,” Alison says. “I didn't know I would be the one leaving feeling empowered.” Sarah adds: “These kids are exactly the same as ours. They don't speak the same language, but they have the same souls.”

A complementary part of the project brings the story of Tanzanian schools back to students in Charlotte. “We are teaching empathy,” says Sarah.

“I didn't know what I wanted to do when I was in school,” she says. She majored in English literature before falling into finance. “I wanted to change the world.”

Through love and lunch, and honoring her mother's legacy, she is. ■

—Virginia Brown



Alison Kendrick '04 (center) shows photos to eager students from Lemanyata Primary School this past January. They loved seeing pictures of themselves, especially funny ones.

CLASS NOTES



Elisabeth Gonzales Lohmaneeratana '12 and Niran Lohmaneeratana '11 married in August 2014, taking photos at Queens after the ceremony.

2005

Sarah Brock does volunteer work with The Lunch Project program in Tanzania, including financial record keeping. Read more about her involvement on page 39.

Brittany Smith Lindberg and husband Matt welcomed their second son, Brock Curtis, on October 16, 2014. Older brother Colton is

adjusting well to the new addition. They are enjoying their new home in Weddington, N.C.

2006

Rachael Murdock joined the staff of Davidson College in June 2014, administrating for the psychology department. She has also recently presented her graduate research on U.S. Foreign Policy

toward Chile in the 1970s at the Society for Historians of American Foreign Policy 2014 Annual Meeting in Lexington, Ky., and at the Southern Political Science 2015 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, La.

Erin Crager Woodworth and **Neal Woodworth '07** welcomed twin girls, Charlotte and Quinn, on January 15. The twins join big brother Austin, 2, who adores them.

2007

Josh Bryce and **Katherine Morgan Bryce '11** married on October 18, 2014. The two were introduced by mutual Queens friends during Katherine's senior year. Several of Josh's lacrosse teammates and Katherine's Chi Omega sisters were in attendance or part of the wedding party. Josh and Katherine live in Charlotte, just a few miles from campus.

The class expresses sympathy to **Molly Collins** on the death of her father, Ken Collins, who passed away on November 17, 2014.

Neal Woodworth and **Erin Crager Woodworth '06** welcomed twin girls, Charlotte and Quinn, on January 15. They join big brother Austin, 2, who adores them.

2016



SAVE THE DATE
April 15 - 16

Interested in serving on your Reunion committee? **Contact the alumni office at alumni@queens.edu or 704-337-2536.**

Would you like to nominate someone for an Alumni Association Award? **Visit www.queens.edu/alumni.**

Congratulations to our 2015 Alumni Association Award winners!



Sed Ministrare
Sallie Moore
Lowrance '70



Outstanding Alumna
Blair Mauldin
Stanford '90



Alumna Service
Anne Pankey
Martin '65



Alumna Service
Elaine Hallman
Henderson '75



G.O.L.D. (Graduate of the Last Decade)
Ian Fiske '05



Honorary Alumnus
Richard Blair

2009

Molly Rose Nass Jacobs married Ben Jacobs on August 30, 2014, at the Ballantyne Resort in Charlotte. They live in the SouthPark area of Charlotte with their dog, Loki.

Sarah Burt moved to Jacksonville, Fla., and is marketing manager for a new home construction company. She got engaged in December 2014 and will get married in October 2015 in St. Augustine, Fla.

2010

The class and alumni office appreciate the generosity of **James Johnson**, **Andrew Brownfield '97** and **Heather Connelly Brownfield '98** and **Lindsey Collins '11** for helping to sponsor our Queens Alumni and Friends reception on December 4, 2014, in Washington D.C.



Laura Williams '12 got engaged to Dave Warrenfeltz on Thanksgiving Day 2014 in Charlotte; they plan to marry in January 2016.

2011

Katherine Morgan Bryce married **Josh Bryce '07** on October 18, 2014. The two were introduced by mutual Queens friends during Katherine's senior year. Several of Josh's lacrosse teammates and Katherine's Chi Omega sisters were in attendance or part of the wedding party. Katherine is the

second of three sisters to graduate from Queens: **Martha Morgan Runkle '06** and **Laura Morgan '13**. Josh and Katherine live in Charlotte, just a few miles from campus.

The class and alumni office appreciate the generosity of **Lindsey Collins '11**, **Andrew Brownfield '97** and **Heather Connelly**

Brownfield '98 and **James Johnson '10** for helping to sponsor our Queens Alumni and Friends reception on December 4, 2014, in Washington, D.C.

Niran Lohmaneeratana married **Elisabeth Gonzales Lohmaneeratana '12** in August 2014 in Charlotte. They were very excited to take wedding photos after the ceremony at Queens.



Joe Skuba '13 and wife Kathryn welcomed triplets on September 8, 2014, in New Orleans: (left to right) Tiberius, Astrid and Corwin.

2012

Elisabeth Gonzales Lohmaneeratana married **Niran Lohmaneeratana '11** in August 2014 in Charlotte. They were very excited to take wedding photos after the ceremony at Queens.

Laura Williams is engaged to Dave Warrenfeltz. He proposed on Thanksgiving 2014. They plan to tie the knot on January 4, 2016, in Charlotte.

2013

The class expresses sympathy to **John Diana** on the death of his grandparent Elmer Hulen, who passed away on September 30, 2014.

Joe Skuba and wife Kathryn welcomed triplets, Astrid Jane, Corwin Blaise and Tiberius DeGrau, on September 8, 2014.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS



Mardi Link MFA '14 (left) and Donna Kaz MFA '14 (right) enjoy a lighter moment in May 2014 during their residency at Queens.

Linda Nelson EMBA '99 has accepted a new position with her employer, Nuance Communications, and is now senior manager of sales enablement for the Diagnostic Solutions Group.

Mark Johnson EMBA '00 and **Molly Waldrup Johnson's '88** son Billy received a heart transplant at age 3 and a kidney transplant from mom in 2012. They are involved in the Atlanta Ronald McDonald House. Read their story on page 36.

Keith King EMBA '04 was appointed on January 28 by the Internal Revenue Service to a three-year term on the Information Reporting Program Advisory Committee (IRPAC). The committee is a forum for dialogue between the IRS and private sector tax professionals, on ways to improve information reporting, minimize burdens and discuss new industry tax regulations. IRPAC presents an annual report to the IRS commissioner, and the committee's recommendations are often implemented.

Ron Stodghill MFA '07 had a story published on the cover of the travel section of the Sunday *New York Times* on October 5, 2014. The story, "Savannah, Both Sides," traces the sometimes poorly documented racial history of Paula Deen's hometown. Stodghill is a former staff writer for *The Charlotte Observer* and *The New York Times*.

Tosha Arriola MFA '09 is a professor in the Cato School of Education and the director of the Teaching Fellows Program. She spent 15 years working as an elementary teacher in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools at Collinswood Language Academy, Nations Ford Elementary and Myers Park Traditional. Now she has the great opportunity to share those experiences with future teachers. Tosha is pursuing a master of science in organization development through the McColl School of Business.

The class expresses sympathy to **William Friedrich MBA '11** on the death of his father, Gordon Friedrich, who passed away on December 31, 2014.

Mark Killius EMBA '13 was promoted to senior vice president, business control manager with Global Technology and Operations for Bank of America.

Donna Kaz MFA '14 was awarded a residency fellowship at the Mesa Refuge in Point Reyes, Calif., to work on her memoir, *UN/MASKED*. After Mesa, she will travel to Cape Town, South Africa, to participate in the 10th Women Playwrights International Conference where her play, *If You Can Stand the Heat*, will be featured.

The class expresses sympathy to **Steve Immel MBA '85** on the death of his mother, Margaret Immel, who passed away on December 17, 2014.

State Alexander EMBA '98 was conferred the doctorate degree in higher education leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

In Memory

Susanne Bowen '35, 12/15/2014.

Nancy McIver Griffin '38, 9/14/2014.

Harriette Tuttle Buttermore '39, 11/26/2014.

Barbara Davis Hunter '40, 10/30/2014.

Anne Barrier Earnhardt '41, 9/28/2014.

Tera Bailey White '41, 8/15/2014.

Harriette McDowell Holton '42, 1/25/2015.

Catherine Greene Mackelfresh '43, 9/12/2014.

Margaret Mahaley Stoessel '43, 1/21/2015.

Karleen Lassiter Waters '43, 2/11/2015.

Mary Barnett '44, 1/7/2015.

Virginia Falls Bost '44, 12/1/2014.

Mary Puckett '45, 10/5/2014.

Mary Todd Flowe '46, 1/11/2015.

Miriam Wrenn Crosby '47, 12/24/2014.

Jessie Carter Jones '47, 2/18/2015.

Frances Williams Black '48, 8/30/2014.

Mary Jane Brooks Grantham '49, 1/17/2015.

Patricia Pallagut '49, 11/21/2014.

Claribel Moles Crawford '51, 12/16/2014.

Barbara Whitsett Edwards '52, 2/21/2015.

Cecilia Moss Feemster '52, 10/1/2014.

Peggy McNeely Howard '53, 12/19/2014.

Margaret Cashion Posey '53, 12/31/2014.

Jeanne Brice Thomas '53, 11/12/2014.

Sylvia Rabb Padgett '55, 1/13/2015.

Irene Williams '55, 9/14/2014.

Lucinda Pickens Lockwood '56, 12/12/2014.

Margaret Gary Moss '56, 1/1/2015.

Iris Phillips Ostwalt '56, 10/1/2014.

Mary Rolston Thompson '56, 1/4/2015.

Robert Kelley '57, 12/7/2014.

Airey Aultman Mallard '57, 12/1/2014.

Judith Ann Anderson Fainberg '58, 11/17/2014.

Betty Floyd '58, 2/18/2015.

Julia Rolston Hampton '58, 12/15/2014.

Louise Neil Jordan '58, 10/14/2014.

Alita White Sutcliffe '59, 11/18/2014.

Christine Snyder Wellons '59, 11/15/2014.

Jane Bowen Clarke '62, 10/30/2014.

Patricia Tyler Lare '66, 8/31/2014.

Brenda Wells Parker '66, 1/5/2015.

Jane Bohde Strickland '68, 2/21/2015.

Laura Fisher Parker '86, 11/23/2014.

Laura Somerville Woodall '92, 2/28/2015.

Gail Rothschild '95, 10/10/2014.

Esther Stanfield Barksdale '03, 1/27/2015.

Shannon Brittain '09, 9/8/2014.

Phyllis Pharr, faculty, 1/20/2015.

Dave Peterson, former Queens postmaster,
12/13/2014.

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Casey Zaitz MSOD '09



In chasing phenomena around the world, Henion reawakened her own sense of wonder. (Left to right) Monarch butterfly migration, Mexico; in search of the Catatumbo Lightning, Venezuela; the Great Migration, Tanzania.

A Quest for Wonder

IGNORING SKEPTICS, I EARNED AN MFA IN CREATIVE WRITING, THEN WROTE MY STORY OF EXPLORING THE WORLD

By Leigh Ann Henion MFA '09

Here's the truth: I sometimes make questionable decisions. Questionable in a what-are-you-going-to-do-with-that-degree way. I have undergraduate and graduate degrees that make people say things like: *Oh, I didn't even know you could study that.* When I added an MFA in creative writing from Queens to a BA in cultural studies, an MA in Appalachian studies and a graduate certificate in documentary studies, I got some familiar comments. Even a degree in something as recognizable as creative writing isn't always considered "practical" in mixed company.

I came to Queens as an emerging travel writer. I once flew into Charlotte Douglas from South America and went straight to class. The benefit of Queens' low-residency program—in which students toil in solitude and then come together for weeks of solidarity—is that I ran into half my cohort at the airport. Low-residency programs are especially valuable for non-traditional students attempting to fit passion into lives weighted with unrelated responsibilities. It's something I appreciate even more acutely now that I'm the mother of a five year old.

When my son was born, I wondered if I'd ever write again because so much

of my life was dedicated to taking care of him. I should have known better. At Queens, I'd worked alongside parents of children of all ages. In our day jobs, we were teachers and construction workers, psychologists and computer programmers—all of us dedicated to storytelling in our own ways. Most of us had friends cheering us on, but many also had loved ones wringing their hands over what it was that drove us to write poetry, or fiction, or essays into the night.

A few years after I graduated from Queens, I made what many would consider another questionable decision: On top of my teaching responsibilities at Appalachian State University and the rigors of parenting a toddler, I started writing a memoir. It began as a short piece. It grew into a travel-writing journey that led me to circumvent the globe, from swimming with sharks to sleeping on an ice bed. I produced a ridiculous number of drafts and, finally, a finished manuscript about how—during those early years of motherhood, inspired by my son's ability to marvel over simple things—I chased phenomena around the world to reawaken my own sense of wonder.

Lately, my son has been exceptionally curious—about venomous snakes, horse



Leigh Ann Henion MFA '09 (right) and her reindeer sled guide, Johanna Huuva, take a break on the Torne River near Jukkasjärvi, Sweden.

hooves, all sorts of things. Most inquiries are easy to answer with a quick Internet search. But others could be the basis for a college-level humanities course: *What happens after an animal dies? What is my life purpose?* He is discovering that not everything is known, and that doesn't have to be disquieting. Hopefully, my path—which might seem foolhardy to some—has shown him that it's okay to be driven by creativity and curiosity. Because wonder isn't about finding answers, it's about becoming more comfortable with questions.

Editor's Note: Leigh Ann Henion MFA '09 is the author of Phenomenal: A Hesitant Adventurer's Search for Wonder in the Natural World (Penguin Press, March 2015). Visit www.leighannhenion.com to learn more.

A NEW TRADITION

More than 5,000 people gathered in celebration at Queens' two commencement ceremonies on May 8 and 9. This year marked a new tradition with a move from the front lawn of Burwell Hall to the newly-constructed Hall Brown Terrace on the rear of the building. Built of matching red brick with a white balustrade, the elevated terrace provided a dramatic focal point for graduates and their families. Novant Health Chief Consumer Officer Jesse Cureton EMBA '02 and documentary filmmaker and Academy Award nominee Marshall Curry (son of trustee Beth Rivers Curry '63, MBA '83) delivered the two commencement addresses. Surrounded by stately Georgian buildings and century-old trees, the quad had a festive vibe.

—Laurie Prince

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