

*Connecting
the Dots*

GEN ED'S
HOLISTIC
APPROACH

*Beyond
Campus*

THE WHY
OF CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT

*Headline
News*

QUEENS
HOSTS
COMEY

QUEENS

MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2019



*The Right
Choice. The
Right Time.*

QUEENS WELCOMES
21ST PRESIDENT
DANIEL G. LUGO





Contents

- 2 | Under the Oaks
- 12 | Strengthening Queens
- 31 | Class Acts
- 48 | One Last Thing

14

The 21st President

Introducing Queens' New Leader

By Parke Puterbaugh

20

The Science of Art and Images

A Fresh Approach to Learning

By Kelley Freund

24

Defying Expectations

James Comey: The Man Behind the Headlines

By Dorothy Lineberger

27

Persecution. War. Violence.

Refuge(e)

Experiencing the Heart of the Problem

By Adam Rhew

A CALMING VIEW OF CAMPUS

Students flock to *Hammock Village* spring, summer, fall and even on sunny winter days. Some bring their own "swinging couches" while others rent them from the Levine Center.

ON THE COVER: Incoming President Dan Lugo gains a firsthand perspective of Queens from Ella Brucker '19 and Will Martin '20. The trio stands in front of Everett Library's 60-foot mosaic which depicts the fields of knowledge. The mural, a focal point of the library since its 1960 opening, pays tribute to Queens' Christian heritage and was created by Edmund Lewandowski, an established artist in American modernism.

Photo by Tricia Coyne

UNDER *the* OAKS



From the President

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As I begin my first days as Queens' 21st President, I can safely say that I have never been as excited about joining a new community as I am about joining Queens. This is, perhaps, saying something as I've joined many new and fine communities over the past 20 years while I worked in the law, entertainment, media, and

higher education industries and lived in New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Maine.

Through all of these journeys, my family and I have been on a quest to find not just a good, education-centered community, but a great one to call "home." In our view, a great university community is a) committed to the power of a multidisciplinary liberal arts approach to education that is ethically grounded and powerfully connected to the surrounding community and the world; b) a bastion of equality and lifelong learning accessible to all who are willing to intellectually and socially challenge themselves; c) a beacon of hope for its surrounding locale, nation, and world by inspiring a call to civic engagement and responsible citizenship through example; d) proud to compete and win at the highest levels and yet cognizant of its privilege—a community that is humble and grateful for the myriad circumstances and people who paved the way; and most of all e) filled with people who listen to and take care of one another, who strive to focus on what unites us while celebrating our wonderful differences.

I still have so much to learn about our rich history, traditions, and people but I can already tell that my family has found these all too elusive qualities among the faculty, staff, students, friends, and alumni of Queens University. We have found our home.

Great university communities don't just happen. They are purposefully built, passionately nurtured and protected, strategically invested in and reinvented, and carefully passed on to new generations who stand on the shoulders of their predecessors. I am inspired by our faculty and staff who care so greatly for this place and our students. I am humbled by the commitment of our trustees, alumni, parents, and members of the Charlotte community who have aligned their personal values and resources powerfully with the mission of our University. And, finally, I am overwhelmingly grateful to my predecessor, Dr. Pamela Davies, for the extraordinary work she's done over the last 17 years to lead our great community. Queens would not be where it is today without her. Pamela is quick to praise others for the achievements of her tenure, but it's evident to me that her passion for excellence has been at the core.

Thank you for all of the warmth and kindness that my family and I have experienced during our arrival at Queens. I look forward to meeting many of you soon.

Daniel G. Lugo

Daniel G. Lugo
President

Did You Know?

HAYES RESIDENCE HALL



It is difficult to imagine Queens' vibrant campus as rolling farmland devoid of the Georgian buildings that distinguish 1900 Selwyn today. In 1914, Queens College vacated its location uptown to move to its current Myers Park campus where five buildings stood as its original footprint in the stark landscape. Tuition, including room and board, was a little less than \$400 per year and about 75 women made up the student population.

Designed as one of the original five buildings by architect C.C. Hook, Hayes (formerly known as North and then Long Residence Hall) was one of two dormitories. The layout—two rooms with a shared bathroom in between—was considered modern for its time. As noted in the 1914-1915 Queens catalog, "The bathrooms render washstands and crockery unnecessary." 2019 marks its 105th year, making it one of North Carolina's oldest continuous-use residence halls. And with more than a century of residents, you can be sure it holds special memories for many. One alumna who now teaches at Queens says her first week in Hayes consisted of learning how to "mattress surf" down its staircases. For decades, the suite-style dorm was a coveted position of status, housing mostly juniors and seniors. These days it holds another special distinction—being home to students in the Preyer Honors Program. It is still one of the most desired residence halls on campus.

—Danielle Phillips '13, MS '18

On My Nightstand

BY TIMOTHY J. BROWN, Ph.D



One of my late mother's prized possessions was an old and tattered piece of paper. On it was my response to a third-grade writing assignment: "What did you learn over the summer?" I responded in capital letters, "NOT ONE THING!" Yet, in the years that followed, I grew and matured into a young man who later completed three degrees in communication. At each milestone, my mom would pull out that piece of paper and marvel. Her youngest son, the one who avoided books, would become a first-generation college student who would go on to become a college professor, then department chair, and now academic dean.

Over the years, the books I came to value were the ones that spoke to me as an African American man—addressing various topics of culture, identity, and communication. Authors such as Cornell West, Geneva Smitherman, John Hope Franklin, Todd Boyd, and Thomas Kochman illuminated the historical, cultural, and political contexts that shaped my understanding of my identity, my experiences, and my interactions with others.

Therefore, there are three "go-to" books that I like to revisit; each

time I read them they yield new and profound insights into how to make a way out of no way. *The Other Wes Moore: One Name Two Fates* highlights how pivotal moments of personal decisions, serendipitous encounters, and inescapable circumstances determine the diametrically opposed destinies of two African American men from the same neighborhood. *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother* by James McBride recounts how his Jewish mother, despite prejudice and racism, worked tirelessly to protect and advocate for her 12 children. *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* chronicles Douglass' life as a slave and his escape. As an abolitionist, orator, and informal advisor to Lincoln, Douglass' work addresses topics that are still relevant today.

These are a few of the noteworthy reads that I find uplifting and motivating.



—Brown is dean of the Knight School of Communication and professor of media and communication. He holds a doctorate in rhetoric and public address from Ohio University.

Remember When

A BARN FOR A GYM



Photo courtesy of Everett Library, Queens University Archives

Imagine going to a barn for physical education classes. In the late 1920s, when the Queens gym was needed for chemistry and biology labs, President William Henry Frazer recruited his men's Bible class at church to build a new one—after all, you couldn't belong to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools without some type of gymnasium. Completed in 1930, "the Barn" served Queens for 24 years.

The rustic gym included various practice areas; Goldie Barron Stribling '49 and Joanne Cauthen Macaulay '49 remember playing half-court basketball there. In 1954 the old Barn was demolished to make way for a new gym, Owens Athletic Center. Affectionately known as "the Oven," it was razed to make way for the Levine Center for Wellness and Recreation that opened in 2013, giving sports teams an impressive hub.

Much has changed in the 90 years since President Frazer's class came to the rescue during the first year of the Depression—today there are 32 sports for women and men. But some things remain the same, including a women's basketball team that's not deterred by a challenge.

—Adelaide Anderson Davis '61

FRONT ROW EXCITEMENT



When Queens' staff member Natalie Stevens (far left) read on QNews, Queens' internal newsletter, that free tickets were available to the NBA All-Star game, she quickly signed up. "Little did I know that I would be seated on the court," she says. Stevens, who works in the accounting office, was chosen as a "seat filler" for celebrities. Since her celebrity never showed, she kept her seat for the whole game, which was right next to hip hop power couple Keyshia Ka'oir and Gucci Mane. Keyshia Ka'oir (to Stevens' left) oversees an eponymous cosmetics empire and Mane (to Ka'oir's left) is a rapper. "Shaq and Spike Lee stopped by, too," Stevens said. The game was played in the Spectrum Center on February 17 and drew approximately 150,000 fans to the Queen City.

Office Hours

WITH HALEY HIBBERT FREY '01

Greenhouse Operations Manager

The year Haley Hibbert Frey '01 transferred to Queens as a junior biology major in 1998, the greenhouse was torn down. “I told them that if they ever built a new one, I’d take care of it, and here I am,” she says with a smile. After graduating from Queens, she earned the master of science in forestry and horticulture at North Carolina State University and gained experience in educational settings, including maintaining the rainforest at Discovery Place. When the Rogers Science and Health Building opened in 2013, Frey was soon hired to oversee the beautiful rooftop greenhouse.

The misty sanctum houses 13 botanical families, epiphytes, orchids, and what Frey calls “weird cousins and plants sent for spa treatment” by the Queens community. Her creative improvisations have transformed the greenhouse into a unique classroom.

1. BLUE FERN

Bid a warm welcome to our guest from Thailand. The *Microsorium thailandicum* or metallic blue fern was one of the first greenhouse residents. Ferns and orchids are Frey’s passion, and the Star Wars fan sheepishly admits, “I would feel most at home on Endor,” the lush, forested home of the Ewoks.

2. CH-CH-CH-CHIA

Take the bust of Kent Rhodes sporting a chia hairstyle. Rhodes, Frey’s biology professor, was honored with the bust made by ceramics professor Denny Gerwin as part of a museum exhibit when he retired. There were no plans for the terra cotta sculpture, but Frey thought it would be perfect in the greenhouse. His story now lives on with new generations of students.

3. FLOWER BOMBS

Check out the seed bombs while you can. If all goes well, these small combinations of clay, compost, and native seeds will transform the Queen City into a flowering wonderland, compliments of Queens students. According to Frey, the goal is to “graffiti the city with flowers like Banksy does with art.”



4. PRAYING MANTIDS

Watch your step around Frey’s “junkyard dogs.” These Chinese and Egyptian mantids are part of an ongoing science study conducted by Professor Jeff Thomas and his students. The slow-moving insects love the temperature, humidity, and wingless fruit flies Frey breeds specifically for them. Once the study is over, however, they will be put to work as friendly predators.

5. HUMAN ART

Look at the murals on the wall. At face value, they represent the movement of wind and flowers. But their purpose goes much deeper. They are a symbol of the partnership between science and art. All of the green spaces and exterior gardens incorporate art by students and faculty, including professors Mike Wirth, Denny Gerwin, and Bill Furman, to evoke the tight-knit school spirit Frey cherishes.

CHAIN REACTION

An invisible chain links the Queens campus to Fort Mill, South Carolina, up the East Coast to Washington, DC, and across the country to Berkeley, California. It is a molecular chain known as lignin.

And if Aaron Socha, Queens' assistant professor in the department of environmental science and chemistry, is successful, lignin will become a superstar among biomaterials.

Lignin is found in the cell walls of all terrestrial plants, helping them stand upright. Socha's goal is to transform the complex substance into ionic liquids, known as "designer solvents," with uses ranging from pharmaceuticals and solar cells to waste recycling.

Socha's passion has served as a catalyst, advancing Queens' partnership with Domtar, a global paper manufacturer headquartered in Fort Mill. The company produces lignin in the pulping process and employs Queens graduates for research. A new grant, in conjunction with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the US Department of Energy, will fund Queens' first post-doctoral researcher this fall. Undergraduates will continue to study ionic liquids and biomaterials chemistry, experiencing cutting-edge research firsthand.

BUSINESSWOMAN OF THE YEAR



At the recent luncheon honoring Carol Lovin as 2018 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year, she received a small brass turtle. "It serves as a reminder that you get nowhere unless you stick your neck out," said keynote speaker Nancy Howell Agee, president and chief executive officer of Carilion Clinic.

Taking calculated risks is something Lovin, Atrium Health's executive vice president and system chief of staff, has succeeded at throughout her career. The award also represents the power of a goal she set to survive and thrive when her children were three, five and eight years old; she was a stay-at-home mom and unexpectedly became a single parent.

Two decades later, Lovin's adult children are thriving, she has survived cancer, and she embodies the term "servant leader," said Atrium Health Chief Executive Officer Eugene A. Woods. She lives by the advice she offers aspiring leaders, "Never think you have arrived. Think of every moment as a shaping moment. And remember, we can always do more."



6. GENERATIONAL WEALTH

Risk a double take. That green wall might look familiar. Many of the plants here are offshoots of Rogers' original double-helix green wall installation. In fact, additional relatives spawned by Frey now grace a planter gifted to Pamela Davies when she retired. Nothing goes to waste if Frey is involved. "If I am going to be a consumer of resources, then I need to give back to the planet," she says.

7. FAMILIAR FACES

Go ahead and laugh out loud. Those faces peaking out from the pots and sporting the green-frond hairdos might look familiar. They are the creation of retired ceramics professor Rick Crown. His face, Crown's beloved wife Pam, and Frey are just a few of the people you might find if you look closely.

—Dorothy Lineberger

ROYAL *spotlight*

Paralympic Athletes

SWIMMING FOR NATIONALS

By Michelle Boudin

Hannah Aspden does not mind standing out.

The 18-year-old from Raleigh was born without a left leg and wore a prosthetic until the fifth grade. That is when she decided using crutches gave her more freedom, even though it made her condition more obvious. She also realized that of all the sports she had tried, she felt the most free swimming.

It helped that she was pretty good in the pool. “It felt like a level playing field, and that was very empowering,” she says. She made the U.S. Paralympics national team at just 13, and now at 18, she has already broken seven records as a freshman on the Queens swim team.

“Being new on the team, I had some worries... what are people going to think? But I was welcomed with open arms. I’ve never been on a team that is this supportive,” she says.

Carson Sanocki, a sophomore who is legally blind, says the Royals definitely act like a family, and his teammates treat him as one of the guys. The 20-year-old Porter B. Byrum Scholar specializes in the breast stroke and broke three records of his own this year.

Sanocki says, “It helps that all of your teammates have your back. Everyone wants you to do well; it’s great to have that kind of atmosphere. We all hold each other accountable—and push each other.”

Aspden and Sanocki both swim in regular season and Paralympics meets. This spring, both were named to the 2019 U.S. Paralympics Swimming National Team.

Coach Jeff Dugdale says he recruited them because he knew they would be powerful competitors. “They have an exceptional mindset,” he says, “and are not satisfied with anything but the best.” One of the challenges he faces is convincing them to enjoy the victories of the moment. “I have to get them to celebrate the little wins because they want more and more,” he says.

It is that powerful connection to the coaches and the rest of the team that Aspden was hoping for when she joined the Royals. “Since coming here, it feels like I’m exactly where I need to be,” she says.



Hannah Aspden '22



Carson Sonacki '21



THE ULTIMATE POOL

Swimmers require plenty of oxygen, and unless a pool is outside, air quality can be a problem. “Breathing is crucial in swimming,” says Carson Sanocki. “If it’s hard to breathe, you can’t go as fast as you’d like.” With consistently good air, he and his teammates can focus on training.

The science of air quality defines Queens’ 33-meter NCAA-competition pool. Head Coach Jeff Dugdale explains, “We boast leading-edge technology, using a combination of three things to bring the benefits of an outdoor pool indoors: a source capture, enzymes that break down chlorine, and oxygen added to the water.” Located in the Levine Center for Wellness and Recreation, the six-year-old pool is a key factor in recruitment. “It’s one-of-a-kind, and it helps us attract high-level athletes because we can help them meet their goals,” Dugdale says. The air quality is also good news for athletes with asthma. “Asthma is a prevalent factor for many athletes, so they need the best conditions for training,” he adds.

“The air is so much clearer; it’s like being outside for the most part,” says Hannah Aspden. Since the pool can be converted to different lengths, it is suitable for international competitions. That is a plus for Aspden, who hopes to swim in the Olympics. “It’s especially great to have access to that in an underground pool on campus.”

A Journey of Inspiration

NILOFAR “LILY” HALSTED WINS 2019 HUNTER HAMILTON AWARD

By Dorothy Lineberger



“The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires.” This quote by William Arthur Ward embodies the criteria of the Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching award, Queens University of Charlotte’s most prestigious teaching honor. Students and faculty agree that the criteria have been met and exceeded by the 2019 award winner, Nilofar “Lily” Halsted, Ph.D.

Halsted joined the university as an adjunct professor of psychology in 1999. Two decades later, the tenured professor chairs

Queens’ psychology department and is renowned for her gifted teaching and ability to make complex topics clear and understandable.

Hunter-Hamilton award winners are selected by a committee of peers, based on nominations by faculty, staff, students and alumni. As one alumnus said, “Dr. Halsted exemplifies the motto of Queens University of Charlotte. She is a true servant who has a real drive to make sure her students succeed in what they wish to accomplish. She has had a profound effect on my life and my decision to pursue a career in higher education.”

A faculty peer agrees saying, “Lily is one of the hardest working faculty on campus. She volunteers to chair committees and runs them efficiently and collegially. When she says she will do something, you can bet it will be done. She leads by example.”

But Halsted’s strength as a teacher can be seen best in the words of her students. One said, “Dr. Halsted influences the life of every student who takes her classes. I, as well as many other students, find her classes to be the most memorable, the most inspirational, and to have the biggest long-term impact on our lives. I cannot think of a person more deserving of this award than Dr. Halsted. She is the absolute pinnacle of what a professor should be.”

A window into her classroom is shared by a student who said, “Dr. Halsted teaches psychology in a way that is full of excitement and knowledge. When she tells us that there are more neural connections in our brains than there are atoms in the universe, she tells us with wonder in her face and awe in her voice.”

Yet many perceive Halsted’s unique ability to help students recognize their own potential as her greatest gift. One student said, “She inspires and expects great work from us as students. It is as if she sees the best and highest vision of who we can be, and she mirrors that possibility for us so that we can see our own potential through her eyes. It is a priceless gift and we are so grateful for her influence on our lives.”

CAN WE TALK?

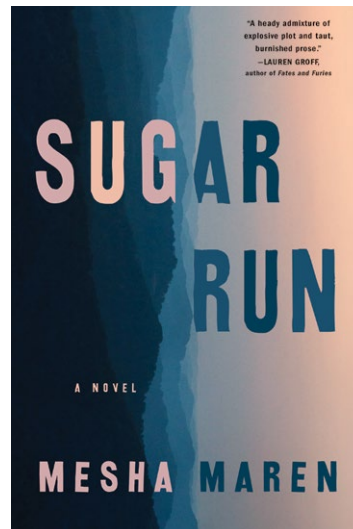
Conflict and anger are good. The problem is contempt. Why? Just ask the nearly 500 Charlotteans who attended “Can We Talk,” a forum co-hosted by Queens University and the North Carolina Humanities Council.

Amanda Ripley, best-selling author and journalist, led the two-day community event in preparation for the Queen City’s role as 2020 National Republican Convention host. The cross-section of citizens, politicians, religious leaders, students, and faculty members learned how to bridge divides through Ripley’s research, an expert panel discussion, and workshops.

Conflict can be addressed in three vital ways, said Ripley. First, offer proof of listening: inquire about something and check your understanding of the response. Second, keep the conversation going by asking better questions; for example, how has this conflict impacted you personally? And third, invest in infographics: show, do not tell, your rationale.

“Currently, we see the same events differently. To make progress, we have to understand the language the other side speaks,” she said.





(Left to Right) Fall events include the *Arte Latino* exhibition, best-selling author Michelle Alexander, the watercolor exhibition of Ivan Depeña, and Mesha Maren's reading of her debut novel.

Happening Here

FALL 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

All events are open to the public and, unless otherwise noted, free of charge. For updates and additional events, please visit www.queens.edu/calendar.

LECTURES

An Evening with Michelle Alexander

November 19, 7 p.m., Belk Theatre

The Learning Society presents an evening lecture by Michelle Alexander, author of the acclaimed *New York Times* best-seller *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, which peels back the curtain on systemic racism in the American prison system. *Tickets at carolinatix.org*

Leaders in Action: Carol Lovin

September 19, 5:30 p.m., Duke Energy Auditorium

Lovin is executive vice president, chief integration officer, and system chief of staff at Atrium Health, and the 2018 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year.

Leaders in Action: Stephen De May MBA '94

October 24, 5:30 p.m., Duke Energy Auditorium

De May is the North Carolina president of Duke Energy.

LITERARY EVENTS

Mesha Maren MFA '14

September 12, 7 p.m., Ketner Auditorium, Sykes Learning Center
Arts at Queens presents Mesha Maren who will read from her widely praised debut novel, *Sugar Run*. Maren is a National Endowment of the Arts Writing Fellow and recipient of the Thomas Wolfe Fiction Prize.

THEATER

Actor's Theatre of Charlotte: *Silence! The Musical*

August 15 – September 7, times vary, Hadley Theater

A laugh-out-loud naughty satire of the Oscar Award-winning film, *The Silence of the Lambs*. Music and lyrics by Jon Kaplan and Al Kaplan; book by Hunter Bell. *Tickets at atcharlotte.org*

FACULTY

An Evening with Arts Faculty

September 21, 6 – 7 p.m., Max L Jackson Gallery

September 21, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m., Burwell Hall

The evening kicks off in the gallery with a comprehensive exhibition of faculty art works. Appetizers will be served, and faculty will read from original works. The program then moves to Burwell Hall for musical performances and a dessert reception. The art exhibit runs daily September 16 – October 20; hours vary.

MUSIC

Bechtler Ensemble

October 20, 6 p.m., Burwell Hall

The musical performance will feature guitarist and Queens professor Bob Teixeira, violinist Lenora Leggatt, and cellist Tanja Bechtler, founder and director. Short and educational, these enchanting concerts are fun for all ages.

Fall Choral Concert

November 7, 7 p.m., Belk Chapel

The Chamber Singers and Chorale student ensembles perform works by major composers from the Renaissance through the contemporary periods of choral literature. Some works will feature student soloists and instrumentalists.

ART EXHIBITS

ARTE LATINO NOW 2019

October 30, 5 – 7 p.m., Max L. Jackson Gallery

A reception opens the popular exhibit of works by Latino artists selected by national competition. The exhibition is open daily October 28 – November 24, times vary.



Lines That Divide Us

The fence stretches up as far as the eye can see – four times the height of Andre the Giant – and divides dry, dusty land. On one side is Puerto de Anapra, the impoverished border village west of Juarez, Mexico. On the other is Sunland Park, N.M. In May, a 13-person team from Queens University of Charlotte stood beside the towering barrier, initially shocked speechless. The border immersion experience, part of the Encuentro Project, was the culmination of their spring class. Through the fence, they could see small children playing. Soon they began talking to the children, petting their dogs and then meeting their parents. Olivia Arnold '19 took this photo and described it saying, “It was powerful to directly hear the stories from people on the other side of the border. It was also difficult to look through the slats of the wall into another country with different rights, economics and history.”



Strengthening QUEENS



A Transformative Investment

ASSISTING PROMISING CHANGE AGENTS

Navigating and leading change is an investment. Just ask the typical MSOD student: a full-time worker in his or her late 30s who has more than a decade of work experience. These individuals' jobs range from sales coach to compliance manager and chief quality/safety officer. Their goal: learning how to lead change at a systemic level. Their challenge: managing the degree's cost.

Helping these students fulfill their aspirations and goals is the purpose of the Kurt Lewin Scholarship Fund. The fund's namesake, Lewin, was the founder of the field of social psychology and a pioneer in group dynamics. John Bennett, professor of business and behavioral science and director of graduate programs at

the McColl School of Business, said, "It is fitting that a fund that makes the transformative experience of an MSOD accessible is named for Lewin. He saw the human impact of change, the power of organizational development and the beauty of social justice."

The scholarship fund's goal is \$400,000. "I ask people to give until it feels good and then to give a little more," said Bennett.

Learn how you can assist promising change agents and better the community through the Kurt Lewin Scholarship Fund. Contact Elizabeth Kiser, associate vice president of advancement, 704.337.2273 or kisere@queens.edu.



Equipping Agents of Change

NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF ORGANIZATIONS FAIL AT IMPLEMENTING CHANGE. A GROWING NUMBER ARE LOOKING TO QUEENS' PROVEN MSOD STUDENTS TO REVERSE THAT TREND.

By Dorothy Lineberger

There is a better way to do it. Find it. This was the motto of Thomas Edison, one of our nation's greatest innovators, and it is a quest taken up daily by Queens students earning a Master of Science in Organization Development (MSOD).

Nearly two-thirds of organizations—public and private—fail at implementing change, according to the *Harvard Business Review*. A growing number are looking for skilled navigators who can lead transformation and deliver effective outcomes. Many of those companies and nonprofits turn to Queens because of its proven MSOD student performance.

The Queens degree is differentiated by its behavioral foundation. Students focus on leading systems change, group dynamics, and organizational diagnosis and analysis. The MSOD curriculum emphasizes the impact of executive coaching on change management.

"Over the past decade, there has been a growing awareness in organizations of the human impact of change and the direct correlation it has on business outcomes," says Will Sparks, professor of business and behavioral science and the Dennis Thompson chair of leadership studies in the McColl School of Business.

This need was the catalyst for the Queens program, which got its start in 2008. Sparks, the program's founder, and John Bennett, professor of business and behavioral science and director of graduate programs at the McColl School of Business, say launching during a recession could have appeared risky to some, but the economic downturn did not hamper the program's success.

The professors credit two factors for the positive outcome. First, Queens has an ongoing partnership with the local and regional business community that gives it unique insights into real-time marketplace needs. Second, the university's size makes rapid adaptation possible.

Bennett says, "One of the best aspects of the Queens OD program is that we are intentionally nimble. We are continually refining our offerings based on the needs of our students and the marketplace. Our goal is to be an innovator of experiential and applied learning."

Carson Tate, a Queens MSOD '11 graduate and member of the MSOD Board of Advisors, says the program's real-world foundation offers distinct advantages to its students. "One of Queens' key differentiators is its proven circle of relationships. There are so many exceptional leaders who invest in the students as guest faculty, mentors, and as research connections. They add a vital level of practicality and depth," she says.

Bennett says that alumni like Tate are helping each other in the marketplace. "The McColl alumni association represents one of the most well-connected business schools in the region. We grow and cultivate these relationships continually, and the MSOD students are plugged into that network from the beginning. These are relationships that grow and flourish before and after graduation, so students can ask questions and determine real needs."

Contacts like these and the targeted MSOD skills-based curriculum will continue to be vital, both short- and

long-term. Research shows organizations that want to thrive in 2019 and beyond must learn to lead multiple generations from different cultural and economic backgrounds; welcome diverse

leadership; deliver results at an even faster pace; hold their teams accountable; and pivot and adapt when disruption occurs.

An organization's marginal performance in any of these areas is simply not acceptable. Recent history shows that of US companies in existence during the economic recessions of the '70s, '80s, '90s, and 2008, an average of 60 percent survived, 30 percent died, and 10 percent became breakthrough performers. What made the difference? Experts say it was leaders who possessed the versatility taught in the MSOD program.

Tate, a productivity consultant whose expertise has been cited nationally, from *Forbes* and *The New York Times* to *CBS Money Watch*, says MSOD students engage in an agile educational experience that enables them to effect change on a global stage. "This degree equips you to become an agent of change in and for the world," she says.

"We are continually refining our offerings based on the needs of our students and the marketplace."



THE 21st PRESIDENT

A CHAMPION OF THE LIBERAL ARTS EXPERIENCE
ASSUMES THE QUEENS HELM JULY 1

By Parke Puterbaugh

Daniel G. Lugo recalls his first impression of the Queens University campus with a single word: “Wow.”

Last year Lugo was in Charlotte for the semifinal round of interviews with various candidates to replace outgoing president Pamela Davies. The interviews were held in a downtown hotel for confidentiality’s sake, but Lugo ventured over to the Queens campus on his own to look around on a quiet Sunday afternoon.

“Queens is an incredibly gorgeous place,” he says. “It was eye-opening to see just what a gem it is. From my relatively experienced higher-education perspective, it is the type of place where any student would aspire to go, and thrive.”

In January, the university’s board of trustees announced that Lugo would become Queens’ 21st president, effective July 1.

Michael Tarwater, the board’s chair, termed Lugo “the right choice at the right time for Queens.”

Lugo arrives in Charlotte after serving in various capacities at three northern liberal arts colleges: Carleton College, in Northfield, Minnesota; Franklin & Marshall, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania; and, most recently, Colby College, in Waterville, Maine.

His position as vice president for advancement at Colby found him undertaking a \$750 million fundraising campaign—the largest such initiative at any liberal arts college in history.

Lugo’s background in fundraising, admissions, financial aid, diversity, and outreach make him a broadly gifted and resourceful administrator. His personal backstory illuminates the combination of motivation, drive, and commitment he has brought to higher education.

You see, Dan Lugo is a first-generation college attendee and graduate. This fact uniquely positions him to appreciate the transformative power of higher education.

“My parents are two of the smartest people I know, but because of varying circumstances, they didn’t pursue college,” Lugo explains. “I’m the youngest of four and the only member of the sibling group who went to college.”



*“The right choice
at the right time
for Queens.”*

(Opposite Page) Lugo walked the Queens campus and said, “it was eye-opening to see what a gem it is.”

(Above) Lugo is a first-generation college graduate who believes in the transformative power of education.



He has earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Carleton College and his juris doctorate from the University of Minnesota.

Lugo, who will turn 50 in October, was born on Christiansted, St. Croix, in the U.S. Virgin Islands. His parents are native New Yorkers, and the family returned to the area when he was seven, settling in Amityville, Long Island, for the duration of his childhood.

"It was a good hometown and a great place to grow up," he recalls. "Amityville had a really diverse community and school system. It was a sweet spot where people were collaborative and able to get along."

With the adventurous, aspirational spirit that has defined his life, Lugo chose to attend Carleton College sight unseen, even though it was located 1,200 miles from his home. Being a first-generation college student, he grappled with such matters as picking an undergraduate major and then deciding what kind of professional degree to pursue after graduation.

"I didn't have many mentors with degrees," he allows, "so political science and law were really

a default. They were fine choices, but if I had been a student in today's era—at a University like Queens, with its sequence of undergraduate experiences—there definitely could've been a different outcome."

Nonetheless, he put his law degree to interesting use, working in New York City for nine years as an intellectual-property attorney in the entertainment and media business.

Despite success in the legal arena, Lugo's lingering attachment and attraction to higher education inspired him to change careers in 2004, embarking on a path that has ultimately led him to Queens. His experiences along the way have made him bullish about the intrinsic worth and practical value of a liberal arts education in today's world.

"It's never been more valuable," says Lugo. "Our world is changing so quickly that the biggest risk anyone can make is educating themselves too narrowly. Liberal arts train people to solve complex problems by taking in information and using a multidisciplinary, people-centered approach."



(Opposite Page) Lugo's wife TinaMarie, and their two children, Amanda and Michael, look on with pride as the newly-elected 21st president addresses the Queens community.

(Top Left) Lugo shakes Samuel Sanchez's hand. The new president thanked every service worker by name and introduced himself to faculty and staff members during his lunch in the dining hall.

(Top Right) The presidential announcement included an interview session with regional media outlets.

(Above) A spirit of partnership was evident during the question-and-answer session between Lugo and the following representatives (left to right): Oliver Carias '04, head men's soccer coach; Chioma Ngene '20, Dowd Presidential Scholar; Jennifer Hull MA '13, university relations program partner, Electrolux; and Will Sparks, professor of business and behavioral science and the Dennis Thompson chair of leadership studies in the McColl School of Business.



*“How can we grow?
How can we be different?”*

Pausing, perhaps to reflect on his own experience, he adds, “If you are being educated broadly in a rigorous fashion, it will serve you for a very long time.”

Lugo’s broad experiences in everything from college admissions and marketing to advancement and fundraising prepare him to address the challenges of the present and future at Queens.

“I think mission number one for me is to learn about the people of Queens: to learn about the school’s history, culture and traditions, and to learn quickly about the aspirations of the community,” he says.

“We have to challenge ourselves to ask, ‘How can we grow? How can we be different? In what areas can we be distinctively great? What broader audiences and resources can we attain?’ I think we’re going to have a fun time defining those opportunities and further developing the strategy.”

He builds upon the foundation left by Pamela Davies, the previous president, an expert in strategic development. “Great places thrive,” he notes. “Great places create a vision that is a magnet for resources because people want to do visionary things. Queens is a great place for those investments.”

Lugo moves here with his family, including his wife TinaMarie, and their son Michael, who is a rising high-schooler. They will be joined by older

daughter Amanda, who is returning from a doctoral program in American studies at the University of Minnesota.

“The move to Charlotte is exciting for all of us because it’s an opportunity to be reunited as a result of my daughter needing to work on her dissertation,” says Lugo. “There was zero chance we were going to convince her to move to Maine, but she’s personally very excited about the energy of Charlotte and the fact there’s a thriving young-career class of folks moving to the area.

“We’re excited for warmer weather,” Lugo adds with a chuckle.

His infectious enthusiasm makes him a good fit for Queens. “Lugo has that spark—the spark of leadership, the spark of ideas, and the spark of curiosity,” said Robert Whalen, Carolyn and Sam McMahan professor of history.

“Part of the reason I’ve thrived in higher education is that I wake up every morning knowing that what I do makes a difference,” Lugo says. “I wake up with a pep in my step and an excitement for what the day is going to bring because of the impact a great education makes on students, on furthering our society, and on improving a world fraught with challenges. We are the best solution for those challenges.” ■

*“Lugo has that spark—the spark
of leadership, the spark of ideas,
and the spark of curiosity.”*



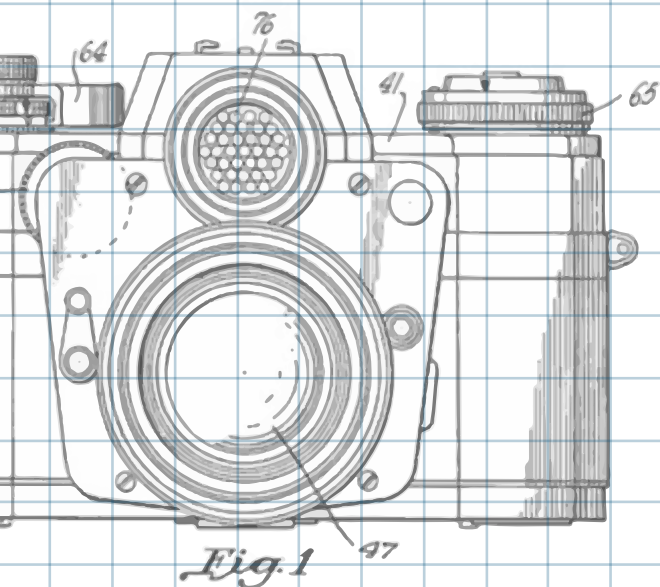
(Top) Michael Lugo, an avid Panthers fan, shows his father the Panthers jersey he received from Queens' Board Chair Michael Tarwater.

(Bottom) Lugo received deeper insights into what it means to be a Royal during a tailored admissions visit program.

the
SCIENCE
of art and images

UNDERGRADUATES STUDY A TOPIC
FROM MANY ANGLES

BY KELLEY FREUND





No. 1

This ghostlike image was created with a pinhole camera; a camera made with a “lens” the size of a pin.

Is it really necessary for a finance major to learn the chemistry behind a Polaroid or how to make a camera out of an old Cheez-It box?

If you ask Queens student Hendrik Faber '21, the answer is yes. Last fall, Faber enrolled in a Queens Learning Community (QLC) called *The Science of Art and Images*, which taught the chemistry involved in photography and how to apply that to produce images. How exactly does that help him in his finance classes?

“Having the ability to create was a new way of learning for me,” Faber says. “The culminative experience of learning communities, like The Science of Art and Images, allows students to see things from new angles. It provides a different way of learning that helps our other studies.”

Faber and other students participate in learning communities thanks to a revamp of Queens’ general education program. The changes started as a conversation among 10 faculty members who asked themselves what they wanted out of a new curriculum. They all emphasized wanting to collaborate more with their colleagues, and they wanted students to make connections between courses, understanding how knowledge translates across different disciplines.

Launched in 2015, the general education program now requires students to take three learning communities en route to graduation, selecting at least two courses within the same community. This past spring, 20 learning communities offered courses under such headings as Heroes and Villains, Sustainability, and Race. Students take classes in the humanities, social sciences, sciences, and math, but these are not just stand-alone courses.

“We built our general education curriculum around these really big, messy problems,” says Jeff Thomas, the William S. Lee professor of interdisciplinary studies, associate professor of biology, and director of general education. “Things like identity, things like happiness, things like race that really can’t be addressed by a single course. So what we ask students to do is to take multiple courses at the same time that think about and that address these topics from a lot of different perspectives.”

“HAVING THE
ABILITY TO
CREATE WAS
A NEW WAY
OF LEARNING
FOR ME.”



No.1

Paper mache, Clorox containers, pencils and duct tape are all basic household items used to create a multi-lens pinhole camera.



No.2

Pinhole photographs typically have long exposure times, resulting in motion blur around moving objects and the absence of objects that moved too fast.



No.3

Once the photo paper is taken into the dark room and developed through the chemical process, a negative image appears.

Thomas says learning communities have been shown to have positive effects on learning and the capabilities students take with them when they graduate. From problem solving to the ability to bring together information to working effectively on teams, these are the skills employers are looking for, and they're what the learning communities emphasize.

While many universities across the country have similar learning communities, they are not available to all students. Queens is one of only two institutions in the nation that opens its courses to all students, whether they are traditional, transfer, or post-traditional students.

For Professor Yvette Clifton, this commitment by Queens to its students and the collaboration among professors attracted her to the university in 2018. With a doctorate in physical chemistry from Tufts University and a depth of teaching experience, she welcomed the chance to teach a class for The Science of Art and Images. Last fall she collaborated with Michael O'Neill, an adjunct professor who owns a photography company in

"YOU HAVE TO APPLY SCIENCE
TO ALMOST ANYTHING YOU
WANT TO DO WELL, AND I
THINK THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY
TO SHOW STUDENTS THAT YOU
HAVE TO GET TECHNICAL IF YOU
WANT TO BE GOOD."

Charlotte. O'Neill's portion of the learning community, *The Art of Images*, looks at the history of photography, the different processes that were invented over time, and visual literacy. Clifton's class, *The Science of Images*, focuses on the chemistry behind the emergence of images in both instant photography (as in a Polaroid) and conventional film development using a darkroom.

"It gives meat to the skeleton as to what's the reason behind what I'm seeing," Clifton says. "Why is it happening? Once the students really get that, they can go in the darkroom and make more informed decisions about developing their photos because they've gotten the reasoning behind every single step."

Photography not only requires a knowledge of chemistry, but also of math. O'Neill says that subjects like these can be abstract for many without a reason to apply it, and the combination of the two classes provides students the chance to do just that.

"You have to apply science to almost anything you want to do well, and I think this is an opportunity to show students that you have to get technical if you want to be good," says O'Neill,



No.1

Pinhole cameras can be made from almost anything—from a refrigerator to an old cardboard box— the possibilities are almost endless.



No.2

The idea behind the pinhole camera is credited to Leonardo da Vinci. Today artists around the world appreciate images made from pinhole cameras because of their softer image quality.

who is a fine art photographer specializing in infrared, large format, and pinhole photography. He brings a wealth of experience to the classroom. “That’s what these learning communities are about—looking beyond the subject and seeing the application.”

Most of the students’ work is done with pinhole cameras that they build in O’Neill’s class. Their first camera is usually built from a found object, like a cereal box or Pringles can, while the final project incorporates community engagement, an aspect of all learning communities at Queens. Students work in groups to design a new camera and develop a guide for middle or high school teachers to use in their classrooms. The guide includes a materials list and a step-by-step guide on how to use the camera. Last year, cameras were made out of everything from Legos to hollow chicken eggs.

“In many classes, we study from a book or have our heads buried in words,” Hendrik Faber says. “But the work we did throughout this QLC was very hands on. Plus, the

focus on community engagement and being able to connect with people in new ways will surely help me after college.”

Clifton points out the learning communities are about more than helping students become professionally adept and excelling within a career. “That’s just one aspect,” she says. “They also simulate real-life situations regarding personal relationships. This concept works on every level—we’re building a whole person.”

That translates to a truly holistic education experience, whether students are learning about gender in society, creating PSAs for a local bone marrow organization, or building a camera with a Cheez-It box.

“A Gen Ed program doesn’t have to be a checklist,” says Thomas. “At Queens we want this to be an integrative experience of bringing together different ways of learning. We want to inspire students to take that out into the world with them when they leave.” ■



DEFYING EXPECTATIONS

JAMES COMEY'S SEARCH FOR NEW MEANING IN LIFE

By Dorothy Lineberger

Certain people defy expectations. James Comey is one of them. Just ask one of the thousands of Queens University of Charlotte students, faculty, staff and greater Charlotte community representatives who heard him speak in the Belk Chapel and the sell-out Blumenthal Performing Arts Center in late spring.

Comey's sheer 6'8" inch height surpasses that of Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant. His self-deprecating candor disarms people of all political persuasions. And his insights resonate with teens and seniors alike. This was certainly the case during Comey's Charlotte visit – a visit that attracted a host of national media due to its timing.

The week prior to Comey's Queen City appearance, the Special Counsel's office had concluded its two-year counterintelligence and obstruction of justice investigation. Attorney General William Barr had created a widely-publicized four-page summary of the investigative findings for Congress. However, James Comey had not commented on any of these developments until he arrived in Charlotte.

Special Counsel Robert Mueller had decided that he would not charge or exonerate President Donald Trump on obstruction of justice. Many wondered how Comey

would react since the FBI Director's firing contributed to the appointment of Mueller as special counsel.

Interestingly, Comey only discussed the matter in reaction to direct questions. The majority of Comey's comments focused on leadership, ethics, faith, decision-making and the surprising lessons he has learned during his life's journey.

During the hourlong student forum on the Queens campus, the former deputy U.S. attorney general, shared how his life had been shaped by a violent experience during his senior year of high school. A gunman kicked in the front door of the family home and held Comey and his brother captive. After threatening to kill the teens repeatedly, they were able to escape from a locked bathroom. The attacker was never captured.

"I thought about what had happened every night for five years. It changed me in a lot of ways," he said. The incident also spurred his interest in justice and his desire to make the world better. The self-described "awkward white guy" also learned early on about the urgency of moving beyond personal biases. Comey said, "It is hard to hate up close ... witnessing struggles firsthand helps erase differences."

The second portion of the student forum included a question-and-answer session. One student prefaced her question by telling Comey that he was “taller and funnier in person,” then asked Comey about his biggest undergraduate challenge. The surprising answer was “the fight to open his own mind.”

Comey explained saying, “I was an overconfident kid and young man. But I had professors who challenged me and taught me to question my assumptions. You have to break out of the trap of ‘me-ness’ to grow and learn.”

The chemistry and religion major sees a strong need for interfaith communities and said, “We spend so much time trying to ensure God is in our box. God is in all of our boxes. So much blood has been spilled. We just need to remember that we are all struggling and not to surrender our faith.”

A graduating senior asked Comey how to stand by a decision in the face of extreme push-back. He paused before answering and then said in measured tones, “Do your best to make a quality decision. Consult the right people, do the right research. Then open the window to let in criticism and stay engaged. I always look to sources that are thoughtful to give me facts and feedback. The trouble is figuring out how wide you should open that window.”

The headline-maker said that when you are enduring the harshest criticism “you have to get out of the fetal position and remember the Serenity Prayer.” Also it is vital to remember your goals as an individual. Comey said, “I strive to be a person who is useful to others. A person of integrity. A good father and husband. The other stuff does not matter. That belief helps me push aside the noise.”

But would he do anything differently? The former law enforcement official, equally vilified by both Republicans and Democrats, said the 2016 election is “a nightmare I can’t wake up from. If there was a way to step off that playing field, I would. I wish I’d had the opportunity to explain to Congress why. If people understood the why then they would see that the situation was a lot harder than they thought,” he said.

The thread of this conversation continued when the students asked Comey for one final thought. He echoed the advice Clare Boothe Luce gave President John F. Kennedy saying, “Each of us should have a single sentence that captures who we are and who we want to be. It will serve as a great guidepost and motivator. This sentence will force you to raise your eyes and act as a north star.

“Life is fast so you should remember what motivates you. Money and fear are not it. The three things that really inspire people are autonomy which gives you some measure



“ I know I can be wrong, even when I am certain I am right. Listening to others who disagree with me and are willing to criticize me is essential to piercing the seduction of certainty. ”



(Left to Right) Mohammed Jibriel '19, Catherine Nason MBA '20, James Comey, Bryce Carter '19



CROSSING THE GREAT DIVIDE

Twelve days. Thousands of engaged participants. The common denominator among the seemingly unrelated national figures—two of whom occupy *Time*’s most influential people list—was Queens University of Charlotte.

This spring, campus guests ranged from investigative journalist Amanda Ripley to FBI Director James Comey. Some questioned the rationale. Yet in the end, each yielded a positive outcome.

From Ripley’s call to bridge the great political divide in *Can We Talk* to Comey’s focus on ethical leadership, each speaker caused the Queens and greater Charlotte communities to rethink preconceptions.

Inviting public speakers to campus is a time-honored university tradition that invites open discourse, engages students, and encourages community interaction. Queens University of Charlotte has honored this tradition for decades. That is why our university supported the decision to invite each speaker.

As a university, we strive to provide transformative educational experiences. The goal: nurturing intellectual curiosity, promoting global understanding, encouraging ethical living, and preparing Queens’ students for purposeful and fulfilling lives.

of control; mastery which allows you to get better at something; and purpose which gives your life meaning. Find the thing that offers you that recipe. And if you’re not there yet, keep driving towards that goal,” he said.

After concluding the student forum, Comey traveled to uptown Charlotte for a donor reception and presentation at the sold-out Belk Theater in the Blumenthal Performing Arts Center. There he spoke to a hushed audience about his new life’s work: ethical leadership.

“ The three things that really inspire people are autonomy which gives you some measure of control; mastery which allows you to get better at something; and purpose which gives your life meaning ”

Comey began by sharing his firing experience with the more than 2,000 men and women and then placing it into context. He admitted that his initial reaction to the dismissal after a three-decade career was crawling into bed and feeling a bit sorry for himself. His wife’s reminder of the loss of their child was the jump-start he needed to realize this situation could not compare.

“Yes, things are going to happen that we cannot explain. Our son died of a preventable bacterial infection nine days after birth. I have worked with and tried to comfort countless victims of horrific crimes. I stood in the pit of Ground Zero. But as a person of faith, I know that if we are to remain on this Earth, we can find meaning in the midst of pain,” said Comey.

The search for meaning led Comey to his focus on ethical leadership. He described why: “Management is an arthritic exercise. If that is all you do, it is soulless. A leader connects people to meaning in their work. A leader helps individuals achieve their potential. The best coaches, the best teachers, the best bosses never need to yell. They build an environment of mutual consideration with a blend of kindness and toughness.”

The father of six has watched this play out during his children’s athletic events. Often, he has witnessed parents who seem to be competing and living through their children’s endeavors. “The insecure person wants the spotlight. The best leaders are comfortable in their own skin. They have the confidence and humility to take joy in others’ achievements.”

He cited his earlier conversation with Queens’ students as proof positive that American values are alive and well. Comey said, “In today’s world there is so much shouting across distance. We have to get up close. Yes, there are differences in language and religion, but we share common values, so that is the place to start.” ■

The background image is a photograph of a refugee camp. It shows several tents made of light-colored fabric, some with holes or tears. In the foreground, there are children sitting on the ground. One child is looking towards the camera, while another is looking down. There are various items scattered around, including a large blue container, a metal bucket, and some debris. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent orange overlay. The title text is centered over the image.

PERSECUTION WAR VIOLENCE REFUGE(E)

During the past 60 seconds, 31 people have been forcibly displaced from their homes. They join the ranks of 68.5 million refugees around the world desperately searching for shelter and protection. More than half are children.

By Adam Rhew



Sarah Griffith likes to feel uncomfortable.

The associate professor of history wants her Queens students to feel that discomfort, too. It's in that space, she says, where the real magic of learning happens.

"As a teacher, I think it's good to disturb comfortable spaces," she says. "It's really fun to encourage students by saying, 'This semester, we're going to get out of our comfort zones, and we're going to do it together, and you might be a little afraid at first.'"

Fear is often the reaction she gets at the beginning of her course focused on refugee crises around the world and their impacts here in Charlotte. The course, which Griffith has been teaching and tweaking since the spring semester of 2014, is comprised of in-class lectures twice a week that cover public policy related to refugees and a weekly experiential service learning component in the community. Students pick a project at one of a small number of nonprofit partners that serve resettled refugees in Charlotte and spend weeks working with the organization and the families it serves.

Her hope is to get students to take an abstract idea—the notion of being in a situation so horrific that you leave your home—and make it real. "You don't feel connected to it. It happens somewhere else. You don't know the people," she says. "We are lucky that we don't know what it is like to be a refugee."

**"WE ARE GOING TO GET OUT OF
OUR COMFORT ZONES AND WE ARE
GOING TO DO IT TOGETHER."**

For Griffith's students, the course offers an introduction to people and communities they often find unfamiliar. "It was definitely a culture shock," says Kayla Barone '19 of her first visit to a refugee family's home in a working-class neighborhood in east Charlotte. "It's like, 'Wow, this is totally different from what I see every day.'"

Barone mentored a teenage Nepali girl named Khansang through Catholic Charities and had never met a refugee before enrolling in this course. The two young women still follow each other on social media nearly three years later.

Chase Currier '20 developed similarly powerful bonds with the elementary school students he served through Catholic

"LOOKING IN THEIR EYES IS VERY DIFFERENT."

Charities. On his first day volunteering with the organization's after-school program, he met a young boy whose family had fled ethnic violence in Burma at a tremendous cost: three relatives died along the journey. "It took me aback," Currier says. "I saw the tenacity and drive for that child and family to seek a better life. It was such an incredible bonding experience."

For a couple of hours twice a week, "Mr. Chase," as the children call him, helps with homework, practices English, and burns energy on the playground. "Looking in their eyes is very different," he says.

Working with nonprofit partners such as Refugee Support Services, ourBRIDGE for KIDS, and the International House, students help with a wide range of projects, from mentoring high school students to helping the elderly navigate health care challenges.

“By providing students with service experiences in the Charlotte community, Sarah is really helping students to embody the Queens motto, ‘Not to be served, but to serve,’” says Amy Hanna ’05, the volunteer coordinator for Refugee Support Services. Students from Griffith’s class work with the organization’s preschool program. “We try to provide support and programs that give refugees an opportunity to connect with the community and really make Charlotte home...Queens students play an integral part in developing these types of relationships with some of our youngest clients and their parents.”

Although often wary at first, both the students and the refugee families quickly warm up to one another, often forming meaningful friendships that extend past the course boundaries. “You’re seeing that immigrants and refugees are more than statistics,” Currier says. “They are kids whose lives are directly affected. That’s really moving and gives you something tangible as part of your learning.” He was so profoundly affected by his semester with Catholic Charities that he has continued to volunteer with the after-school

“YOU’RE SEEING THAT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES ARE MORE THAN STATISTICS.”

program, feeding off the kids’ energy when Mr. Chase walks in the room. “That excitement is what keeps me coming back every week,” he says.

Throughout the semester, Griffith’s students are required to work on a paper that ties the theoretical concepts they learn during lectures with the hands-on

experiences they have with their community partners.

“They often find that the system is designed to work one way, but on the ground, it either doesn’t function that way or there are these big gaps. It’s really interesting to see what they pick up on,” says Griffith, who serves on the board of the Carolinas Refugee Resettlement Agency.

By writing a paper, they grapple with the concepts they encounter.

“We have these timeless questions about who belongs here and who doesn’t,” Griffith explains, “It’s a political question, yes, but there’s this huge moral-ethical piece. Is it just policy or are there human lives in this story?”

Pondering those questions, especially after meeting and, often, befriending former refugees tends to disturb students’ comfortable spaces. Amy Hanna has watched this happen with Griffith’s students. “The people who have come here as refugees are amazingly diverse, resilient, and eager to be a part of the Charlotte community,” she says. “By offering friendship, English practice, consistency, and even something as simple as a smile, Queens students who volunteer with us are helping to create a welcoming environment where our new neighbors feel supported and empowered to thrive.”

Those feelings of support and empowerment go both ways. Griffith says that’s often what her students feel, too, after weeks of service. “A lot of these students feel empowered when they leave this class,” she says. “And I think that’s tremendous.”

Most importantly, by using the greater Charlotte community as a learning laboratory, Griffith creates opportunities “to slow down enough in life to dig deeply into something and realize how complicated it is,” she says.

“That’s a big piece of why I keep teaching.” ■



DR. SARAH GRIFFITH, PH.D.

Associate Professor,
History



CHASE CURRIER '20

Harriet & Bill Barnhardt
Scholar



KAYLA BARONE '19

Hugh L. McColl, Sr.
Scholar



Hindsight

We begin *Class Acts* with a mystery moment that takes place in a small coastal town. Where are these students? What are they doing? If you know or can guess, share your answer in the next issue of *Queens* magazine at editor@queens.edu.

OUR WINTER HINDSIGHT

Davidson and Queens students have a long history of courtship and marriage. According to Danielle Phillips '13, MS '18, who manages alumni communications and campaigns at Queens, "the oldest we have on record is the marriage of Mildred Massenburg Pharr '36 and Lester 'Hunter' Pharr '36." The office has records of 300 couples who have married since then, including this photo from 1953.



Photos courtesy of Everett Library, Queens University Archives

Class ACTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH QUEENS ALUMNI? READ ALL ABOUT IT IN THE MOST POPULAR SECTION OF *QUEENS MAGAZINE*.

The stories in these pages help the Queens community stay close. Don't be shy! Your classmates and friends want to hear about your work, your family, your transitions and plans—and of course, your visits with Royal classmates and friends. Send the latest to www.queens.edu/classnotes. Please contact Alumni Relations at 704-337-2334 or alumni@queens.edu if you have questions or comments.

1948

The class expresses sympathy to **Geraldine Munn Fadel** on the death of her husband, Albert S. Fadel, who passed away on January 4.

1954

The class expresses sympathy to **Peggy Phillips Baird** on the death of her husband, Calvin B. "Bun" Baird, Jr., who passed away on January 28.

The class expresses sympathy to **Jane Anderson McLaney** on the death of her husband, Joseph W. McLaney, Jr., who passed away on October 20, 2018. Joseph was also the brother of **Mary McLaney Mohr '55**.

1955

The class extends sympathy to **Florence Pearson Edwards** upon the deaths of her brother, Robert Alfred Pearson, on September 25, 2018, and her son, Irvin G. Edwards, III, on October 2, 2018. Flo has stayed busy writing grants for community concerts, coordinating the flower ministry at church, serving on the board of the Coordinating Council of Older Adults, playing bridge, and reading. She has long realized what a privilege it was to attend Queens and cherishes the memories. What a wonderful group of professors taught our classes!

The class expresses sympathy to **Jean Barnes Whipple** on the death of



Mary Lois Ridings Bynum '55 (middle) and her daughters, Lisa Bynum '91 (left) and Lesley Bynum Swartz '87 (right), cheer on the Queens Royals at a basketball game on campus in December 2018.

her husband, Nelson Whipple, who passed away on November 3, 2018.

1956

The class expresses sympathy to **Beth Lowdermilk Whitfield** on the death of her husband, Owen "Hampton" Whitfield, Sr., who passed away on February 28.

1957

Carolyn Cooper Copeland and Don still live in their home on Lake Norman, where they have been for 38 years. All of their children and grandchildren, except one, live within 15 miles of them, so they have a lot of family time together. She stays in touch with **Sara Dukes Mills** and **Bobbie DeVore Jones** and sees them about twice a year.

1959

The class expresses sympathy to **Dottie McAulay Martin** on the death of her brother-in-law, Arthur M. Martin, who passed away on October 23, 2018.

1960

The class expresses sympathy to **Jane Oliver Deal** on the death

of her husband, Pinckney G. Deal III, who passed away on September 18, 2018.

Suzanne Davis Ross of Roanoke is curating *Figuratively Speaking*, a May exhibition at Westlake Library, Hardy & Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia. She is a founder of an association of portraitists called the Soup Group who eat and discuss ways to elevate humanity by varied art approaches and displays. Thirty-two artists are presenting a portrait each. They hope this show will travel and uplift the viewer.

1961

2018 was a fun year for **Marianna Christian Broaddus**. She attended Adelaide Davis' retirement party, visited Alaska with her husband and Lexington, Kentucky, with her woman's club, and also visited her children. They have a granddaughter who is attending Liberty University. The two are headed to France this year for a riverboat cruise. Marianna enjoys seeing her Queens friends in Richmond and her Chi Omega friends. She is looking forward to 1961's 60th anniversary.



Gail Carter Nichols's '61 daughter, Dr. Christy Shaughnessy (right), attended Gail's 2018 exhibit in Richmond, Virginia, in December 2018.



Charley Carlock '70 (left) and her wife Kerry Glaus at the Dayton Gay Men's Chorus in Dayton, Ohio in April 2018. Charley and Kerry have been together 43 years and were officially married in 2014.

Adelaide Anderson Davis will have a second grandson at Queens this fall. **Hagan Brooks '23** will be on the lacrosse team and joins his brother, **Davis Brooks '21**, who is on the soccer team.

Judith Burke Duncan and Wayne enjoy traveling and seeing their combined five children and 10 grandchildren. They live in different areas of the United States and Canada, so visits do not occur often.

Gail Carter Nichols retired to live in a small river town near Richmond, Virginia, and serves on the West Point Town Council. She had two one-person art exhibits in 2018. In April she will teach two fluid acrylic workshops for Arts Alive. Gail is looking forward to a trip to Germany with her daughter, Christy Shaughnessy, in July.

Jackie Shaw O'Neill recently relocated to a large retirement village near Laguna Beach, California. She plays piano for charity events and musical productions within the community. Jackie feels blessed that

her daughters and their families live in nearby areas. Her grandchildren inherited an ability for music, so she takes pleasure in nourishing their talents. Jackie entertains in adult day care centers, where the adage "music washes away the dust of everyday life" is proven true.

The class expresses sympathy to **Anne McCutchen Wilson** on the death of her brother, James McCutchen, Jr., who passed away on March 7.

1962

Linda Cashwell Jewell and Rob enjoyed traveling to Hawaii and spending Christmas in Utah with the family, including five grandchildren. She enjoys lake life on Lake Wylie, visits with college friends, and athletic events with younger grandkids. She is proud of Queens' academics and sports achievements.

The class expresses sympathy to **Geoffrey Jordan Schott** on the death of her husband, John E. Schott, who passed away on March 2, 2019.

The class expresses sympathy to **Linda Hite Sweum** on the death of her husband, Alfred E. Sweum, who passed away on December 4, 2018.

1965

Linka Oelsner Lewis is thrilled to report that she and Chip finally sold their Vermont house last December and have relocated to a rental in coastal Georgia (PO Box 24496, St. Simons Island, GA 31522). She's thrilled to have given up shoveling snow for planting pots of pansies, snapdragons, and Spanish moss and playing pickleball and mah-jongg between working very part-time at Thrive Senior Living. Chip is working part-time at the new WWII museum and loving it! If there are any classmates nearby, please email me and come visit! Linkalewis@gmail.com.

The class expresses sympathy to **Sylvia Alexander Snyder** on the death of her husband, Glenn H. Snyder, who passed away on March 2.

Eleanor Judd Tucker's husband of 47 years, George Thomas "Tommy" Tucker, passed away on January 1. **Fran Sours Turner**, her Queens roommate, spoke at the Celebration of Life service, and **Mary Tyler Stover** was also with her. Tommy always attended Queens reunions with Eleanor and loved being a part of the group.

1967

Last October marked **Connie Gill Rogers'** three-year anniversary in Charlotte. She and her husband couldn't be happier about their decision to move here from Vermont. They love it so much that Connie's sister also moved here from Sonoma, California, after listening to all of Connie's enthusiastic stories. And in April, their youngest nephew and his wife, who live in the Bay Area, came to visit Charlotte to see if it was for them. Connie and her husband just returned from a visit to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture. Fabulous—do not miss it!

1969

Theckla Donsbach Sterrett retired last May. Her daughter and a key employee have become co-owners of Saturday Brand Communications, an advertising agency. Theckla stays busy on two boards and helping out at the agency. Theckla and Tate attended **Ruth Anne Vagt** and Bobby Vagt's 50th wedding anniversary in Charlottesville in December. It was such a fun event and brought back many memories from their years of close friendship.

Betty Wishart received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime



Robin Reeve Allen '73 (seated) and her husband, Rick, love spending time with their 13 grandchildren at their home in Augusta, Georgia.

Achievement Award in February. That same month her "Oracles" for flute and piano was released on Phasma-Music's CD, *HE*.

1970

Charley Carlock is finally retired as of April 1, and it is not an April Fools' Day joke! She plans to use her time to travel (Crete, Italy, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos in 2019), learn to play the Native American flute, and explore other interests. But first, she heads to Edisto Beach, South Carolina, with **Carolyn Coberly Hall**, **Margaret Hackett Murphy**, **Molly Marvin Schroeder**, and **Ginger Calloway '69**.

Mary Broman Wyton just retired from many years as a middle school counselor in Ridgefield, Connecticut. She is loving retirement and especially her new grandchild, Alec Wyton, named after her husband.

Martha Rowan Osborne moved to Tucson, Arizona, and is enjoying life in the beautiful southwestern desert. She and husband Paul decided to downsize and have an adventure in a part of the United States where they have enjoyed visiting their youngest daughter, Sarah. They don't miss Atlanta traffic, humidity, or the threat of hurricanes and tornadoes! Thankfully, Delta has great flights (only four hours) to visit family and friends back East.

1972

Wendy Crawford Galleher has loved reconnecting with classmates since reunion. She, along with **Jody Hill**, **Pat Holton**, **Lynn Stultz**, and **Sherrill Altman Whetsell**, met **JoAnna Huffstetler Bright** in Greensboro for a mini-reunion.

1973

Robin Reeve Allen and Rick Allen welcomed the arrival of their 13th grandchild, Richard

Wayne Allen II (born on Rick's birthday, November 7, 2018, to Andy and Betsy Allen in Arlington, Virginia). Rick was elected to his third term in the US Congress, and he and Robin divide their time between Augusta, Georgia, Washington, DC, and Cashiers, North Carolina, where Robin and **Ruth Lee Hill Hair '71** enjoy getting together.

The class expresses sympathy to **Donna Jones Dean** on the death of her father, Donald H. Jones, who passed away on February 7.

1975

The class expresses sympathy to **Victoria Hampton Blaine** on the death of her father, Varge A. Hampton, who passed away on March 13.



(Left to right) *Caroline Matthews '19*, Ms. Betty, and *Caroline FitzSimons Matthews '78* stop for a quick picture during a visit to Queens.



Genie Richards '19 with her grandmother *Lemie Dickson Richards '58* at Homecoming in February.

PASSING THE CROWN

One Queens family celebrated a royal occasion on Feb. 9. On that day, **Genie Richards '19**, a double major in Human Services and Interfaith Studies, was crowned homecoming queen during halftime of the men's basketball game. In the crowd of cheering fans was Genie's grandmother, **Lemie Dickson Richards '58**, who entered Queens her freshman year 65 years ago in 1954. Despite the time gap, the two share a unique kind of royalty. During Lemie's senior year, she was crowned May Queen. When asked how she felt about sharing the "regal" experience with her grandmother, Genie said, "My grandmother, I call her Lee Lee, is one of my role models and just in general favorite people. She has been a pillar in my life as someone I can lean on or ask for advice because she is so strong and level headed. Being able to share Homecoming Queen with her is really special for me."

Connie Malone enjoys her three granddaughters. Three sons live nearby in the Atlanta area, and her fourth son lives in Berkeley, California. Forty-eight years after Queens put **Anne Poole** and Connie together as freshman roommates, they still maintain a strong friendship. **Carole Harris Mitchell** and Connie support one another. Sister **Cathie Malone Brown '69** visits Georgia often. In 2016, Connie reconnected with the freshman who matched her shoes at the Queens and Davidson mixer in the fall of 1971. After so many years, they marvel that they found each other again.

1977

The class expresses sympathy to **Jan Perry Bolubasz** on the death of her mother, Julianne M. Perry, who passed away on September 12, 2018.

The class expresses sympathy to **Moiria Quinn Klein** on the death of her father-in-law, Walter Klein, who passed away on January 15.

1978

Caroline Salley Matthews '19, daughter of **Caroline FitzSimons**

Matthews, graduated in May from Queens. Caroline and her husband, Steve, have served on the Parents' Council for the last four years.

1980

The class expresses sympathy to **Elizabeth Crist Bellew** on the death of her mother, Suzanne Crist Botts, who passed away on December 19, 2018.

The class expresses sympathy to **Susan Vance Johnson** upon the passing of her mother, Carol A. Vance, on August 14, 2018.

1982

Cindy Cline Reid is the attorney for the Town of Davidson. She has been married to Richard for 28 years, and they have three children. She recently returned from a two-week trip to Africa to see her daughter, who is in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia.

1984

In January, **Laura Daly Ryan** joined SunTrust Bank as senior

vice president and managing director. She is assisting with the expansion of SunTrust's Private Wealth Management Group into the north Texas market. Her office is in Dallas.

Helen Williams is retiring from Lake Norman High School with 33 years of teaching under her belt. She spent 15 years traveling all over Iredell County before becoming an original member of Lake Norman's faculty when the school opened in 2002. Her official retirement date is July 1.



Anne Jones Dantzler's '80 grandson, Aiden Dantzler, shows off his Queens onesie in January.



Cindy Cline Reid '82 (right) and her daughter, Annie, enjoy time together at Robben Island in Capetown, South Africa, in January.



PRESIDENT LUGO IS JOINING US ON THE ROAD.

We are gearing up for our 2019–20 Alumni & Friends events and want to make sure you stay in the know!

If you have recently moved, have a new email or want to check your contact information visit connect.queens.edu/login or email us at alumni@queens.edu



In January, 1983 classmates (left to right) Amanda Palmer Cherry, Jan Geiger O'Neill, Paula Greer Yorke, Kimberly Long Killebrew, Wendy Wood French, and Lisa Pectol Clayton embarked on the Lucy Ferguson from Fernandina Beach, Florida, to Cumberland Island for a wonderful weekend at the Greyfield Inn. They cherish their Queens friendships and still get together as often as possible.

1985

The class expresses sympathy to **Beth Batts Gordon** on the death of her father, J. Larry Batts, who passed away on February 26.

Kate Howard recorded her debut album live with an audience in April 2018. Her band is Jeff Plankenhorn, Scrappy Jud Newcomb, Kate, Steve Schwelling, Noëlle Hampton, and Ben Jones. The album features all original material and will be released in the coming year. Visit katehowardmusic.com for updates.

1986

After living in Texas for 22 years, **Copper Allen Comita** and John are moving to Thomasville, Georgia. They are looking forward to being near Copper's mom and to the burial ground of their son Reid who passed away in 2017. Copper plans to get a job nursing and John is happily exploring options after working for BNSF Railroad. Their daughter, Reynolds (21), is studying teaching at Boston University and loves Tri Delta!

1987

Elisa Camara-Thompson's book tour in Michigan was a huge success! She is teaching patriotism one elementary school at a time. Also, she was a guest lecturer at

Ferris State University. Elisa was a freshman at Queens when she received the news her brother was killed in Beirut. She has turned this tragedy of losing her only brother in the 1983 Beirut bombing into a blessing by creating the Patriot Pup children's book series in which her brother, USMC Sgt. Mecot Camara, is the main character.

Carolyn Jenkins Carter has a crazy life right now. Her older son, Brennan, and his wife, Tracy-Faith, are in the Army National Guard Reserve. They are presently at Fort Hood in Texas and will be deployed to northern Poland at the end of April. They will be there until March 2020. Carolyn plans to visit them while they are there. Her younger son, Grant, and his wife, Courtney, are making Carolyn a grandmother in April. The baby is supposedly a girl, and she is excited for all the pink, especially since she had two sons. She is still working full-time as a NICU nurse.

1990

Queens Alumni **Mary Jereza Fink**, **Julie Ferguson Gardner '89**, **Cathy Mitchell**, and **Julie Moseley** had fun reminiscing and escaping the Charlotte cold and rain in Fort Lauderdale in February. #SpringBreakAt50

1991

Lancey Boros Cowan and **Shelley Britt Belk '94** have an impromptu Queens/Kappa Delta meetup at the Hyatt Regency in Bethesda, Maryland, each February. Shelley is the event director at the hotel and Lancey's employer, the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology in Rockville, Maryland, holds an annual meeting at the Hyatt. Lancey and Shelley discovered this Queens "small world" four years ago.

Derek Sessions' younger son, Ed, is a freshman at Queens studying business and leadership as a McColl Scholar. He is also a member of the track team. Derek and his wife, Julie, serve on the Parents' Council. Their other son, AJ, is graduating from

Rhodes College in Memphis and will begin law school at the University of South Carolina in August.

The class expresses sympathy to **Crystal Ahrens Turney** on the death of her son, Ryan Turney, who passed away on September 23, 2018.

1992

Former Queens tennis coach and alumnus **Scott Handback** has been selected to be the director of the Professional Tennis Management Program at Methodist University and will work with the United States Tennis Association on developing the new education and certification program for aspiring tennis professionals. Scott is also the owner of Deer Valley Athletic Club in Boone, North Carolina, which has over 400 members and offers a variety of golf, tennis, and athletic facilities.

Connie Weber continues to practice law in Charleston, West Virginia, but recently changed law firms. She now works for Littler Mendelson practicing solely employment defense. Her family recently visited their oldest son, Jack, who is in his second year at the University of Denver. They took the opportunity to hit the slopes in Vail for a few days. While in Denver, the family visited Queens' own **Jennifer Garner** who works for the university and is the surrogate parent for Jack while he attends college far from home.



(Left to right) Lancey Boros Cowan '91 and Shelley Britt Belk '94 got together for their annual Queens and Kappa Delta meetup in Bethesda, Maryland, in February.

REUNION 2019

Campus was abuzz with alumni celebrating milestone reunions over April 26-27. The Class of 1969, celebrating their 50th Reunion showed up in a big way – with 66 classmates in tow! Alumni from 1959 to 2014 enjoyed reconnecting with familiar faces at Friday night's Decades Party in Burwell



and on Hall Brown Terrace. Saturday brought student-led tours of newly renovated buildings, the President's Luncheon where alumni awards were presented and a continuation of celebrations at Saturday night's class parties.



ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS



From left to right: Award winners Carl Schlotman IV '14, Constance Fraser Gray '69, Dr. Pamela Davies, Betty Cobb Gurnell '69 and Marcus Sims '94 at the President's Luncheon.

Carl Schlotman IV '14

The G.O.L.D. Award recognizes a graduate of the past decade who has distinguished him/herself in career, community or service to the university.

Betty Cobb Gurnell '69

The Alumni Service Award is presented to an alumna or alumnus who best embodies Queens' motto, "Not to be served, but to serve."

Dr. Marcus Sims '94

The Outstanding Alumni Award is given to an alumna or alumnus who has made significant achievements or gained prominence in his or her professional life.

Constance Fraser Gray '69

Created in 2007, the Sed Ministrare Award honors an alumna or alumnus who has provided outstanding service to his or her community.

Dr. Pamela Davies

The Honorary Alumni Award is presented to individuals who are not alumni, in recognition of devoted service and in appreciation of their unique relationship with the Queens community.



Friends of the Library READING LIST

Compiled by Phyllis Mahoney '76 and Julie Walton '91

The works below were written by Friends of the Library and Learning Society guest speakers, Queens faculty, and MFA graduates. There is something for everyone to read this summer. Please visit our website for membership information and upcoming events: library.queens.edu/fol. Enjoy, and happy reading!

Marie Benedict

The Only Woman in the Room
The Other Einstein

Tim Johnston

The Descent
The Current

Bryn Chancellor

Sycamore

Tommy Tomlinson

The Elephant in the Room

Judy Goldman

Together: A Memoir of a Marriage and a Medical Mishap

James Comey

A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies and Leadership

Philippa Gregory

The Last Tudor

Matt Lee and Ted Lee

Charleston Kitchen
Southern Cookbook

Doris Kearns Goodwin

Leadership: In Turbulent Times
The Fitzgeralds and The Kennedys
An American Saga

Rabbi Judith Schindler

Recharging Judaism: How Civic Engagement is Good for Synagogues, Jews and America

1993

The R.E.B. Awards for Distinguished Educational Leadership honor central Virginia principals who go beyond day-to-day demands to create an exceptional educational environment for students and staff. The 2019 winner was **Dr. Lisa Rainey Hill**. She was named Outstanding Principal at Hopkins Elementary from Chesterfield County Public Schools.

1995

Michael Murphy and his partner of 15 years, Brent Becnel, are moving from New Orleans to Charlotte this year. Michael is opening M Squared Design, an interior design firm with an emphasis on home accents. His partner, Brent, holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice and has accepted a position with Go Health Urgent Cares. Both are very excited to be moving to Charlotte.



Michael Murphy '95 (left) and Brent Becnel (right) in March of 2018 at their home in New Orleans.

1997

Kris Lindemann Seek published her first novel, *The Hashtag Hunt*, in December 2018. The story takes place in Charlotte, and a few scenes occur at a fictitious college based on the Queens campus. The novel is available at Amazon.

2000

Travis Bobb and **Nicole Van Every Bobb '04** enjoy spending time with their son, Brayden, and relaxing near the beach. Nicole has found her niche in the solar industry as Travis continues to manage his private practice as a psychotherapist. He is an adjunct teacher at Queens and UNC Charlotte.

2001

The class expresses sympathy to **Haley Hibbert Frey** on the

death of her father, William Walter Hibbert III, who passed away on February 9.

The class expresses sympathy to **Christy Claypool Majors** on the death of her sister, Tammy Radford, who passed away on December 3, 2018.

Christy Claypool Majors recently got a new job as vice president of finance at McLeod Addictive Disease Center in Charlotte. She will miss Queens, but is excited for this new chapter.

2002

Jill Brumer and her husband have opened their second cocktail bar in Houston, while she continues to head the theater department for Lone Star College-Tomball. Cheers!



Reconnecting for an annual ski trip are Queens soccer alumni (left to right) Jason Fennemore '02, Colin McGuire '01, James Burke '01, and Peter Schulz '01. The former teammates enjoyed catching up in Sun Valley, Idaho, during a brief time away from wives, children, and jobs in March.

Misha Heard continues to fall in love with the nation's Capital, and all it has to offer. She's been put in charge of the testing program for the towing, salvage, and rescue ship that her office is procuring for the US Navy. In hobby news, she did her first aerial silks performance in September 2018 at the Trapeze School of New York (DC locale) and is already planning her next act for later this year.

2003

Janice Gabriel is currently teaching theater and English at Newtown High School in Sandy Hook,

Connecticut, where she has been for the past eight years. She is also going for her second master's degree, this time for theater education, and will graduate in December. She still tries to find the time to do theater, but finds that her job consumes most of her time.

2004

Sarah Hennessy-Hurt has been working in the real estate industry for the past few years, both in property management and marketing. She is currently working on obtaining her Realtor license in the state of Georgia. She would



Misha Heard '02 completes her first aerial silks performance in September 2018 at the Trapeze School of New York in Washington, DC



(Left to right) Alison Kendrick '04, Christy Claypool Majors '01, Janice Gabriel '03, and Amanda Banks McGrath '06 visit with one another in Queens' Trexler Courtyard on a recent trip to Charlotte.

be happy to help with any of your real estate questions, if only to refer you to an agent in your area. She recently visited Charlotte and connected with some close friends and former Queens roommates.

2005

Samantha Dye Bart-Addison and her husband, Lawrence, welcomed their second boy, Alexander David, in November 2018.

Rebecca Sorenson was married in West St. Paul, Minnesota, on December 15, 2018. She and her husband, Samuel, reside in Eagan, Minnesota, with their

two daughters, Malia (14) and Cayleigh (12). **Kristin Reinhold '06** was maid of honor.

2018 was a big year of change for **Jacquelyn Kirshtein Succheralli**. She and her fiancé, Mark Succheralli, Jr., bought a house in Pittsburgh in March. Then on October 19 in Pittsburgh, Jacquelyn married Mark in front of family and friends, including friends from Queens.

The class expresses sympathy to **Lindsay Tice** on the death of her father, Michael Tice, who passed away on January 18.

*Announcing the Inauguration of
Queens University of Charlotte's 21st President*

DANIEL G. LUGO.

OCTOBER | CHARLOTTE, NC

Class ACTS

2007

Jason DeFreitas ASN '07 earned his MSN/MHA from the University of Phoenix in March 2018. He is teaching at Queens this summer in the ABSN program. He recently moved back to Charlotte and is working at Atrium Health-Main.

Evelyn Holmes has been working in the health field for 25 years now. She loves being a cardiac nurse and would like to thank Tracy, her instructor from years ago. Evelyn loves being a Queens alumna.

Joy Blackmon Patterson '07, MS '10 was recently recognized

for her professional and civic accomplishments as a member of the 2018 STANDOUT class, a program of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She also received the Hitchcock Humanitarian Award during the recognition ceremony for her efforts in spreading awareness of the disease. Joy and her husband, Kenny, continue to keep busy as the official taxi cab drivers for their toddlers, Alexandria and Robeson.

2008

Laura Neely Villarreal married Jonathon Villarreal in Corpus Christi, Texas, on March 2. **Susannah**

Netherland, Lindsey White, and Amanda Leggett were bridesmaids.

2009

Katie Walsh Gilbert is staying busy these days chasing around her toddler, Ava, whom Katie hopes will one day be a Queens student. Katie lives in Charlotte with her husband, Jon, Ava, and their dog, Sawyer. She works as a family law attorney for Rech Law, where she has been for three years.

2011

Classmates **Kaitlyn Blakey '12, Kathryn Sylvester '12 and Caitlin O'Rourke Barndt '11 MA '16**

found themselves in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the same time for a ski trip. The three met and traversed across the terrain at Snowbird Ski Resort for two days straight while repping their Queens gear!

Joey Haynes married Charlotte native, Liza Veilleux Haynes, in Queensferry, Scotland, on July 3, 2018. Joey felt lots of love from his Queens family as several alumni and faculty traveled for the celebration including **Eric Galdo and Ashley Van Osten Galdo '10, Natalie McLemore, Charlotte Davis '12, Michael Fleming '12, Emily**



*The Bart-Addison family is now a family of four. (Left to right) Lawrence, John, **Samantha '05**, and Alexander pose for a quick family picture at their home in Georgia in December.*



***Joy Blackmon Patterson '07 MS '10** with her husband, Kenny, and their two children, Robeson and Alexandria, in December in Charlotte.*



***Ashley Adams Nechay '05** and husband Evgeniy welcomed their first child, Nikolai Adam (above), on November 2, 2018. They are loving life with their sweet boy!*



*(Left to right) **Hewit Hawn Rome '12, Muziwakhe Simelane '08, Brittany Simelane, Michael Arbogast '08, Stephanie Arbogast, James Bryant '08, Andressa Bryant, Ray Warga '08, and Amelia Farmer Warga '12** enjoyed catching up over dinner in Charlotte in January.*



A Tip of the Crown: ROYAL KUDOS TO QUEENS ALUMNI



Shared via LinkedIn

Betty Wishart '69 received the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award in February.

Laura Ryan '84 recently joined SunTrust as a managing director and wealth advisor.

Cindy Vanderford Wolfe '88 has been promoted to chief banking officer at Bank OZK. She was previously the Charlotte-based Carolinas division president.

Dr. Lisa Rainey Hill '93 was named outstanding principal of the Chesterfield County Public School System.

Dr. Mary Jo Gilmer MBA '97 was recently selected by the March of Dimes as Research Nurse of the Year.

Ollie Chandhok '98 was named market president and publisher of the Dallas Business Journal.

Christy Majors '01 was named the vice president of finance at McLeod Addictive Disease Center.

Kati Everett MBA '08 was named one of the top women in public relations in 2019 by PR Week Magazine.

Joel Tomkinson '10 MS '14 started a new position as a leadership development specialist at Spectrum.

Kristin Diemer '15 and **Le'Asia Wright '14** earned MBAs from the University of Michigan in May.

Cheryl Gregory '17 earned her MALS from Duke University in May.

Caroline Condon '18 is the program coordinator at the USA Triathlon Foundation in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

—Compiled by *Laura Beth Ellis MS '11* and *Danielle Phillips '13, MS '18*



(Left to right) **Ellie Ramm '09**, **Thomas Wiesmann '08**, and **Elisabeth Podair Blum '09** enjoy a rooftop view in Bangkok, Thailand. Ellie and Elisabeth spent time with Thomas and his lovely girlfriend, **Joy Francken**, in January.



Carolyn Parsons Hoffner '09 married **Andrew Hoffner** on September 2, 2018, in Concord, just outside of Charlotte.

Jenkins Goodnight, **Wes Clarkson**, **Meaghan O'Reilly**, **Leslie Pitman Reynolds**, Dr. Diane Mowrey, and Dr. Maggie Commins. He is also excited to announce that he has been named the new chaplain at Queens.

The class expresses sympathy to **Kimberly Ernsberger White** on the death of her grandfather, Earl Robert "Bob" Ernsberger, who passed away on December 3, 2018.

2012

The class expresses sympathy to **Matt Gwilt** on the death of his



Caitlin O'Rourke Barndt '11, **Kathryn Sylvester '12**, and **Kaitlyn Blakey '12** met up in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah for a ski/snowboard trip in January. They proudly repped their Royals Athletics gear on the slopes and reminisced about competing at Queens.

mother, **Mary Ann Gwilt**, who passed away on December 3, 2018.

2013

On September 22, 2018, **Allison Rhodes Roof** and **Hunter Roof '10** were married at Running Hare Vineyard in Prince Frederick, Maryland. The venue was filled with many Queens alumni as they celebrated their special day!

Natalie Spencer became **Natalie Gonzalez** in September 2018 after marrying her sweetheart Miguel in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Present for the celebration were some dear Queens friends, setting the stage for a mini reunion.

2014

Amanda Sloan was selected as the 2018 Employee of the Year for Dentistry of the Carolinas where she has worked since 2017. In her role as team leader of DOC's SouthPark office, she was among 21 employees nominated for the award, which honors a staff person for: being productive and

committed to their job; taking initiative; being dependable and reliable; having a positive attitude; and providing excellent customer service and patient care.

2015

Jamille Vieira, a Queens graduate and international student from Brazil, married **Mathew Gehret** on September 22, 2018, in Pennsylvania. Jamille and Mathew met in Baltimore when Jamille moved there for a job at the World Trade Center Institute

Beyond *the* Gazebo

To honor its 50th anniversary back in 1978, the Queens Chi Omega chapter erected a gazebo on the exact spot of the first Chi O house. Relocated several times along the way, the gazebo now stands next to Belk Chapel.

Wherever it stood, the story goes like this: if you and your love share a kiss in the Chi Omega Gazebo, you two will be together always. And from the looks of these pictures from Queens couples, gazebo power applies not only to love and marriage, but also to the baby carriage!



1. Ashley Fletcher White '13 and Bryan White '11 were married on December 22, 2018, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

2. Courtney Duncan Murray '13 and Ian Murray '13 welcomed their first baby, Anna Lucille "Lucy" Murray, on February 20.

3. On September 22, 2018, Allison Rhodes Roof '13 and Hunter Roof '10 became "Mr. & Mrs." at Running Hare Vineyard in Prince Frederick, Maryland.

4. James Leo Scheaf was born on January 30 to Courtney Walker Scheaf '14 and David Scheaf '12.

5. Kenna Wick Lando '15 and Ben Lando '15 were married in Charlotte on September 15, 2018.



Joey Haynes '11 married Charlotte native, Liza Veilleux Haynes, in Queensferry, Scotland, on July 3, 2018.



Morgan Roberts Jordan '13 and Kevin Jordan welcomed their first son, Nolan Lee Jordan (above), on November 18, 2018. Nolan is the third grandchild of Ammie Lee Jordan '71.



In February, Amanda Sloan '14 was selected as the 2018 Employee of the Year for Dentistry of the Carolinas in Charlotte.



(Left to right) David Rice, Max Kaczynski '13, Megan Bates '13, Miguel Gonzalez, Natalie Spencer Gonzalez '13, Jacqueline Myers '13, Emmie Horadam '14, and Brennan Shearer '13 celebrated the wedding of Miguel and Natalie in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, in September 2018.



Tia Hudgins '16 graduated from Elon University School of Law with her Doctor of Jurisprudence in December 2018.



Megan Whisnant Rich '15 married Cory Rich on November 11, 2017, in Salisbury, North Carolina.

shortly after graduating from Queens. Mathew, an alumnus of Penn State, moved to Baltimore to go to Maryland Bible College and Seminary; the two met at church.

2016

Dylan Evans currently serves as the ticket operations coordinator for the Carolina Panthers. He began with the Panthers last fall for the 2018 football season after working with the Charlotte Knights the previous three seasons. Dylan's ticketing responsibilities cover all events at the stadium, including the ACC Football Championship, Belk Bowl, soccer matches, concerts, and beer festivals.

Tia Hudgins graduated from Elon University School of Law in December 2018. She sat for the February 2019 North Carolina Bar Exam and is excited about serving her home state. She hopes to one day become the first African-American female district court judge in her hometown.

DeVin S. Taylor serves as the development coordinator for the University of Georgia School of Social Work. Part of his role entails meeting with alumni and friends of the school to share how its mission is having an impact on lives and communities in Georgia and beyond, and securing



Mystique Ro '16 is a member of the USA Skeleton Team, a winter sport in which athletes slide down a mountain head first going between 70-90 mph! Here, she races at the final stop for the North American Cup circuit in Calgary, Canada, in January.

philanthropic investments to meet the school's \$1.9 million Commit to Georgia Campaign goal. Prior to this position, DeVin served as a development officer for the Division of Development and Alumni Relations for 11 months. He is excited to help further the School of Social Work's philanthropic efforts and the transformational impact it has on social workers, social welfare advocates, and nonprofit leaders.

2017

Congratulations to **Nick McCauslin '17** and **Mary Jasperse '15** on their coming nuptials. Nick and Mary met as students at Queens and have continued to build a beautiful relationship—the adventure of life continues together.

2018

Stephanie M. Kirkland has been accepted into the Masters in

Organizational Leadership program at Columbia College in South Carolina. She begins August 2019.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

The class expresses sympathy to **Maryann McGarity MBA '92** on the death of her mother, Maryde McGarity, who passed away on November 15, 2018.

In December 2018, CNN highlighted research completed at the Monroe Carrell Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt where **Dr. Mary Jo Gilmer MBA '97** is currently a professor and director of pediatric palliative care research. The study focused on the impact of animal-assisted interactions with children newly diagnosed with cancer and with their parents. Mary Jo was recently selected by the March of Dimes as Research Nurse of the Year. She lives in Nashville with her husband, Lyonel, and their therapy Teddy Bear Goldendoodle, Misha, and delights in her four sons and eight grandchildren.

Clifford Garstang's MFA '03 novel, *The Shaman of Turtle Valley*, debuts after great acclaim for his



Mary Jo Gilmer MBA '97 is a professor and director of pediatric palliative care research at the Monroe Carrell Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University.

short stories. The book explores culture and family conflict through the lens of Aiken Alexander, a man trying to keep his family together after bringing his Korean wife to America. Drawing on Korean beliefs in spirits and shamanism and his Virginia roots, Garstang explores the blending of cultures and the need for healing in light of conflict and abuse.

REFER A ROYAL

Alumni, do you know a student who would be perfect for Queens?
When you Refer a Royal, he or she receives an annual \$1,000 scholarship upon enrollment.



queens.edu/referaroyal

Kati Everett MBA '08 was named one of the top women in public relations in 2019 by *PRWeek* magazine. The PR Week Hall of Femme honors leaders in the communications industry who challenge the status quo, move the needle in business, and strive to make a difference. Everett has been a leader at Novant Health since 1997 and was recently promoted to senior vice president and chief communications officer.

Reena Arora-Sánchez MA '10 married Sebastián Sánchez of Pereira, Colombia, on December 29, 2018, in a sunset ceremony in Panama City, Panama. Their special day doubled as a mini-Queens reunion with Queens Chaplain **Joey Haynes '11** serving as the officiant!

At speaking engagements in March and April, **Barry Koplen MFA '12** announced completion of a sequel to *Kissology*, a mystery featuring 10-year-old Amanda, the main character. His new collection of poems, *American Pizza/Workers*, became available in May. *Why Won't They Believe Me?*, his book about four men who saw a flying saucer, has been purchased by the UFO Museum Gift Shop in Roswell, New Mexico; a presentation is scheduled for later this year. In addition, his prize-winning photos are on

exhibit at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts in Danville, Virginia.

Atlantic2Africa is defined as a symbiotic entrepreneurial exchange program that drives US skill-based social impact innovation to Africa. This startup was founded by **Helen Pattichides MBA '13** in 2014, after research revealed that only two percent of US firms export their goods. The idea evolved from a desire to help small to medium enterprises export and find partnerships to expand their business abroad. She encourages Queens alumni to register with TechSoup and share outside-the-box solutions via her social impact portal.

Amber Shockley MFA '13 was recently ratified as the inaugural poet laureate of Rock Hill, South Carolina. She also serves as an assistant poetry editor at *Atticus Review*.

Mesha Maren's MFA '14 novel, *Sugar Run*, was published by Algonquin Books to great acclaim, including a very favorable review in the *The New York Times Book Review* by Charles Frazier, who won the Pulitzer for his novel, *Cold Mountain*.

Nancy McClintock MSN '16 has accepted a position to work with the Transition to Community Living team.



(Left to right) Alva and Anita Pearson; **Reena Arora-Sánchez MA '10** and Sebastian; Reginald Walker, Jr.; **Joey Haynes '11** and his wife Liza, celebrate Reena and Sebastian's wedding in Panama in December.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

BOARD of DIRECTORS

2018 - 2019

Michelle Holl Manha '94
President

Jenkie Gardner Atkinson '90
Nikki Blaha '95
Elisabeth Podair Blum '09
Jenny Boone '87
Edith Woodcock Brady '96
Sallie Trippe Broach '71
Pablo Carvajal '09
Nick Cheek '01
Scott Clemente '06 MS '17
Margaret McEver Cobb '73
Vanessa Faura '06 MA '10
Linda Gerdes '89
Betty Cobb Gurnell '69
Monica Thomas Hamilton '93
Gay Henry '75
Jennifer Russell Higgins '89
Mary Coker Highsmith '70
Trish Vail Hobson '88
Kelly Cheek Johnson '89
Kathryn Keeton '08
Kelly King '92 MBA '09
Amanda Leggett '08
Yogi Leo '96

Kathryn Mahan '83
Phyllis Acree Mahoney '76
Flo Mercer Markland '84
Jenny Matz '99 MA '10
Michelle McIntire '91
Betty Pilcher Neal '71
Terrence Owens '13
Wes Pitts '07
Jane Hughes Redding '84
Bethany Richards '10
Vernette Thomas Rucker '94 MS '10
Emily Hanson Scofield '97
Juwaun Seegars '04
Eileene Whitaker Shake '02
Winston Sharpe '05
Dee Stancil '67
Bryan Stevens '02
Lynn Stultz '72
Nancy Swecker Swan '89
Lindsay Tice '05
Joel Tomkinson '10 MA '14
Kristin Wade '90
Teri Jimison Walker '69
Julie Thomas Walton '91
Michelle Wellmon '92

Andre Carlos Mumford MA '17 was hired as a freshman academy principal in 2017 at Lexington Senior High School after completing his master's degree in educational leadership.

Melodie J. Rodgers MFA '17 has published poetry and fiction in *G.R.I.T.S. - Girls Raised In the South: An Anthology of Southern Queer Womyns' Voices and Their Allies*, *The Eckleburg*

Review, Council on International Educational Exchange of Brazil, *The Tower*, *Labrys Atlanta Magazine*, *Stu Magazine Arizona*, and *The Underground*, among others. Her MFA was earned through the Latin American program. Melodie is a professor of creative writing and professional development at Oglethorpe University and serves as executive director for Indigo Pages Writing Retreat in Treasure Beach, Jamaica.

In Memory

Ruth Hoggard Pickard '39, 2/11/2019.
 Margaret Laney Smith '43, 11/21/2018.
 Mildred Phillips Bost '45, 12/6/2018.
 Elsa J. Culvern '45, 2/11/2019.
 Lois Todd '47, 12/11/2018.
 Margaret Peters Barooddy '48, 2/12/2019.
 Mary Lynn Haigler Jordan '48, 11/5/2018.
 Alys Martin Stegall '48, 10/18/2018.
 Nancy Blanton Brooks '49, 10/4/2018.
 Jean King Kennedy '49, 9/6/2018.
 Sue Keenan Paty '49, 9/26/2018.
 Mary MacPherson Spilman '49, 2/15/2019.
 Jean Marie Torrence '49, 10/24/2018.
 Judith Kinney Coutts '50, 2/12/2019.
 Louise Hobson Callaghan '55, 10/30/2018.
 Betty Nottingham Clark '55, 12/5/2018.
 Elizabeth Lucas Jones '55, 12/4/2018.
 Katharine Zeigler Jones '57, 2/11/2019.
 Mary Brooks Yarborough Zuccarelli '58, 2/8/2019.
 Barbara Bumgarner Cochrane '61, 1/1/2019.
 Lee Myers Norman '61, 1/4/2019.
 Mary Campbell Beshere '63, 3/4/2019.
 Meriam Kilner Harper '63, 1/22/2019.
 Emily Hargette Sneed '65, 3/7/2019.
 Alicia Clotfelter Willoughby '65, 10/22/2018.
 Carol Dorton Selvey '66, 2/2/2019.
 Linda Baxley Owens '69, 11/1/2018.
 Eden Persons Perkins '69, 11/15/2018.
 Marion Spann Spivey '69, 11/25/2018.
 Betty Waller Michel '72, 10/21/2018.
 Anne-Marie Aas-Salamenta '77, 10/29/2018.
 William D. Styron, Jr. MBA '81, 10/19/2018.
 Charlotte Pressley Benison '84, 12/7/2018.
 Dianne Webb Hull MBA '91, 2/8/2019.

QUEENS MAGAZINE SUMMER 2019

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Jen Johnson MS '14

EDITOR

Laurie Prince

ART DIRECTOR

Laura Lum '13

CONTRIBUTORS

Adelaide Anderson Davis '61
 Laura Beth Ellis MS '11
 Kelley Freund
 Julie Funderburk
 Dorothy Lineberger
 Phyllis Mahoney '76
 Cindy Manshach
 Sarah-Kate Pease
 Danielle Phillips '13 MS '18
 Laurie Prince

Parke Puterbaugh
 Adam Rhew
 Julie Walton '91

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Olivia Arnold '19
 Tricia Coyne
 Logan Cyrus
 Tyler Greene '17
 Laura Lum '13
 Andy McMillan
 Jane Wiley
 Thomas Wilson

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Jessie Laney

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019-2020

Michael C. Tarwater,
Chair
 Kathryn Winsman Black '93,
Vice Chair
 Jan Hall Brown '73, MBA '84,
Secretary

Howard Bissell III
 Tanya Blackmon MBA '00
 Jeff Brown MBA '03
 Deborah Butler Bryan '68
 Titi Cole
 Christine Louttit Crowder '82
 David C. Darnell
 Anthony Fox
 Christine M. Hunt '94, MSN '05
 Julie S. Janson
 David Jones
 Thomas L. Lewis, Jr., '97
 Sally Wheeler Maier '89
 Elizabeth W. Martin
 Susan L. McConnell '83, MS '13
 J. Michael McGuire
 Katie B. Morris
 Michael W. Murphy II '95
 Janet Preyer Nelson '77
 Bailey W. Patrick

Brandon D. Perry
 Elizabeth Hunter Persson '00
 Larry Polsky
 Michael P. Rizer
 Mary Anne Boldrick Rogers
 Robert H. Salvin
 Caroline Wannamaker Sink
 Cynthia Haldenby Tyson
 Fernando R. Ycaza '05, MBA '16
 Daniel G. Lugo, ex officio
 Jane Hughes Redding '84,
ex officio, Alumni Association President
 Taylor Robinson '20,
Student Liaison to the Board

Life Trustees
 ♦ Irwin Belk
 ♦ Elizabeth Rivers Curry '63, MBA '83
 ♦ Joseph W. Grier, Jr.
 ♦ Edwin L. Jones, Jr.
 Dorothy McAulay Martin '59
 Hugh L. McColl, Jr., Chair Emeritus
 John H. Sykes '57
 Virginia Gray Vance '49
 F. William Vandiver, Jr.

♦ deceased

ANSWERS TO JUMP IN

ANSWERS: 1. A 2. D 3. C 4. D 5. B



TOP THREE THINGS

the New Queens President Needs to Know

Dan Lugo has begun his first 100 days as Queens' 21st president. What are the top three things you, as an insider, think Lugo should know for a quick and successful acclimation to Queens and the greater Charlotte community? Post your comments on *Facebook* and *LinkedIn* then look for a summary in the winter edition of the Queens magazine.

Offline responses can be sent to
editor@queens.edu

PRINTING ON RECYCLED PAPER:

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

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

FSC® is not responsible for the saving calculations by using this paper.



Jump In:

QUEENS IN 1919

A lot has changed at Queens over the past 100 years. Test your knowledge (or make strategic guesses) about what life was like on campus in 1919. Answers can be found on page 46.

—Danielle Phillips '13, MS '18

1. BEFORE BEING PURCHASED FOR THE NEW SITE OF QUEENS COLLEGE, WHAT WAS THIS LAND USED FOR?

- A. Farmland
- B. Residential house
- C. Myers Park Elementary School
- D. Nothing—unused wooded area

2. HOW MANY CAMPUS BUILDINGS GRACED 1900 SELWYN AVENUE?

- A. 6
- B. 7
- C. 9
- D. 5

3. HOW MANY RESIDENTIAL STUDENTS WERE ENROLLED AT QUEENS?

- A. 44
- B. 70
- C. 100
- D. 180

4. WHICH OF THESE IS A REAL RULE FROM THE 1919 CAMPUS HANDBOOK?

- A. No student may speak to a young man in college without permission from the Dean
- B. Students attending off-campus parties must be in by 10pm
- C. Students are allowed to walk in groups of four on frequented roads in Myers Park
- D. All of the above

5. STUDENT LEADERS PETITIONED FOR THE CREATION OF WHAT GROUP ON CAMPUS?

- A. Women's Basketball
- B. Student Government
- C. Drama Club
- D. Glee Club

ONE *last* THING

Community

AT QUEENS, THE ROOTS ARE DEEP

By Laurie Prince

I came to Queens a little more than a decade ago to edit this magazine; you are holding my last issue. As my work shifts to personal projects (yes, a novel is involved), I want to comment on something extraordinary I've witnessed here: community.

I arrived as an outsider—a freelancer—and have known this place not from an office in Burwell, but from meetings, phone calls, submissions, interviews, emails, and conversations, occasionally over coffee or wine. As an editor, I've heard countless stories firsthand. Year after year, magazine after magazine, I came to understand what an exceptional place this is. An egalitarian atmosphere prevails. People respect each other, collaborate, and defer to one another. Service is highly valued.

In our age of cynicism, this is unusual. As someone who likes to know the roots of things, from words to families, I wondered about the roots of Queens. Just as the mammoth oak trees were once young, were seeds of these qualities in Queens' history? What were the people like who launched this school?

I reached out to Queens' archivist Hugh O'Connor to see if he had records from the day the campus opened in 1914. Maybe the speeches would give me a clue. Although the school was more than a half-century old at the time, a new generation charted its future by moving it to the Myers Park location.

Hugh was as curious as I was, and his research turned up a fascinating backstory. In an age of deep-seated prejudice against women, Charlotte leaders respected women's intellectual capabilities. They collaborated to build Queens, and believed that what was good for the women was good for the city.

The story begins with George Stephens, who was developing John Myers' farmland into a classy neighborhood south of town. Stephens wanted something special at the center of his development: an academic institution. You may have noticed that the streets surrounding Queens are named Wellesley, Radcliffe, and Stanford. He knew the Presbyterian College for Women was running out of room in its uptown location—could he persuade the school to relocate to Myers Park? He approached the board of trustees with a tantalizing proposal: he'd trade premium acreage in his development for the college's uptown property.

The board accepted the offer, though even the chairman had his doubts about whether this would work. It would require an investment of \$200,000 to build five grand Georgian buildings to anchor the new campus. To put that in context, a dollar—make that a silver dollar—would buy a week of lunches at a nice diner, and a new eight-room house on a double lot would run about \$3,000. Relocation would cost a lot of money.

To generate interest, the trustees changed the school's name to Queens College, a nod to the original Queens College established in Charlotte by the Colonial Assembly in 1770. (The Revolutionary War cut short its existence.) The city had been named for Queen Charlotte, so resurrecting the old college's name evoked pride and provenance.



Five Georgian buildings anchored the original Queens campus when it moved to Myers Park, a neighborhood described in the 1912 Charlotte Observer as “a suburb of surpassing elegance and attractiveness.”

Charlotteans got behind the idea. “Our young women need the best. We want them to have it,” stated the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, whose “case for a great institution for women” was reported in the November 29, 1913, issue of the Charlotte Observer. He argued that the school would be an asset to the city. Letters to the editor made it clear this was a citywide conversation.

When Queens opened on that fall day in 1914, a reporter from the Charlotte Observer took careful notes of the atmosphere and speeches. Despite antiquated language, the joy of that day is evident. As proud speakers mounted the platform, their eyes scanning a crowd of women shadowed under large hats and men tapping their canes in dry grass, they marveled at what had been accomplished. Speakers said the school was a credit to Charlotte and an example of how people of different denominations could work together. The chairman of the board of trustees confessed he hadn't believed it could be possible. Behind him, sun glinted on the windows of the monumental buildings. In the flat fields, spindly trees gave little hint of the towering oaks they would become.

An egalitarian spirit prevailed. Respect, deference, and good humor were noted by the Observer reporter. The leaders of the city had set out to give their women a first-class college, and they had done it.

In reading these articles, I had found the answer to my question. The community I've come to love began many, many years ago, seeded by men and women who loved their city and cared deeply about opportunity for the disenfranchised. Their friendships and generosity seeded the very soil of Queens, and as one friendship led to another, one student to another, five years passed, then 10, then a generation, and now a century.

I'm grateful I could help bring a decade of stories into this meaningful narrative. I celebrate you, Queens, and most especially, the community that defines you. Honor your history, for you are Royals, all.



Laurie Prince, a Duke University graduate, has had a diverse career working as a freelance and staff writer and editor not only for Queens but for Charlotte Magazine and Charlotte Home + Garden. The topics have ranged from education and real estate to interior design and gardens. In addition to writing and editing, Prince tutors and teaches.



From One Realm to Another...

Queens' President Emerita Pamela Davies is shown here at the beginning of the 2019 commencement ceremony with the "Cheeklets" – three of her grandchildren, Lydia Grace, Nicholas and Ada Lee Cheek. Looking on are five of the Queens Board of Trustees – Janet Nelson '77, Brandon Perry, T.J. Lewis '97, Larry Polsky and Michael Rizer. Davies' commencement address focused on what she

calls "the soul-stirring difference" between the handshake she gives freshmen when they sign the honor code and the one she gives each graduating senior. After her remarks, Davies was recognized for her outstanding contributions to Queens during her 17-year tenure. Her passion for the Queens community will continue. Davies returns to the classroom as a McColl School professor in 2020.

A NEW CLASS OF LEADERS IS READY TO TAKE ON THE WORLD.

On behalf of the graduates of 2019,
thank you for supporting student
scholarships.

