Linakis Leaders Scholarship

The John S. and Yorka C. Linakis Leaders Scholarship was created to honor the exceptional community service work of John S. and Yorka C. Linakis, long-time residents of Queens, NY. They were active in a multitude of community, civic, and interfaith organizations. In their honor, the Linakis Leaders Scholarship program has been established to provide yearly scholarships to Queens College students based on merit, commitment, and accomplishment in the betterment of their communities.

This spring, 16 Queens College students, with outstanding records of both service and academic performance, are each receiving an award in the amount of $1,000 in recognition of their exceptional achievements.

Acknowledgments

Olga Zaferatos Karras
Executor, Linakis Leaders Scholarship Fund

James Muyskens
President, Queens College

James Stellar
Provost, Queens College

Organizers

Emanuel Avila, Student Affairs
Yasemin Jones, Office of the Provost
Eva Fernández, Center for Teaching & Learning

“Leadership is not endowed by nature nor is it unique to certain individuals. It is not necessarily even the person who is at the helm of the ship, but is rather any individuals who offer help to a cause. They are leaders in this way because a leader is a person able to mobilize action, be it in himself or others.” (Moyagaye Bedward)
Meet the 2011 Linakis Leaders

Elizabeth Arestyl  
(English, Japanese)
Co-founded and formed volunteer ambulance service for an under-served community in Jackson Heights and Woodside, Queens, to make an impact on the education and quality of life in the area. Aspires to become a Goodwill Ambassador to Haiti, Vietnam, or Japan.

Angela C. Ariza  
(Psychology)
Through community service, helps underprivileged and low-income children achieve educational goals; active member of a non-profit organization called “Voces Latinas”, which aims to reduce the HIV transmission rates among immigrant Latinas by empowering, educating and providing leadership and advocacy training.

Moyagaye Bedward  
(Political Science, History, Arabic, Honors in the Humanities)
Raised student awareness about the genocides in Darfur, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); engaged students on issues of displaced peoples around the world; initiated Green Basket food drive; began Students for Students foundation, raising significant funds to educate students in DRC.

Christina Calixte  
(Urban Studies, Student Services and Counseling, Honors in Business and Liberal Arts)
Serves as project manager and team leader for NY Cares, including a recent event painting murals in elementary schools; volunteered for Midnight Run, providing clothing and food for homeless people in New York City; volunteered with Habitat for Humanity in New Orleans.

Alexandra Crisafi  
(Italian, Anthropology)
Student fellow of the Ernesto Malawe Leadership Academy; volunteered in a battered women’s shelter and worked with cerebral palsy patients to express selves through music therapy; volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. Seeks to cause positive change through activism, education, and good will.

Derek Hanson  
(Nutrition and Exercise Science, Psychology)
Volunteers in a biomechanics laboratory, processing computerized data for an intervention project that seeks treatments to improve functional aspects of daily life for handicapped children; an ACSM certified personal trainer with CPR/AED certification, offers weekly group exercise classes to help motivate seniors in the community.

Hanchun Hou  
(Accounting, Economics)
Volunteered with IRS (VITA) program designed to help low- and moderate-income taxpayers complete their annual tax returns at no cost; focuses on leadership in professional finance and accounting. Recognizes that teamwork is the key element to success.

Sarina Katanov  
(Communication Sciences and Disorders, Psychology, Dance)
Volunteers at the Queens Jewish Community Council, delivering food to needy families; as member of the Bukharian Club, has raised money for local autism groups in Queens; volunteered as a Russian and Hebrew interpreter at the Rusk Institute and Bellevue Hospital.

Paulina Kulesza  
(Communication Sciences and Disorders, Spanish, Psychology)
Organized monthly programs to create a community at Queens College Summit for the residents; invited NY Cares representatives to conduct sessions for students; volunteered on a NY Cares project to paint murals and organize the library at a local elementary school; organized aphasia awareness training at Queens College; volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Sooji Lim  
(Sociology)
Volunteered weekly at the Flushing Manor Care Center, talking with senior residents and playing board games with them; volunteered for Women for Afghan Women, in Fresh Meadows; mentored a homeless child at the Jamaica Family Residence through QC’s Big Buddy program.

Cheryl A. McCullagh  
(Music Education)
Volunteers at Public School 229, as assistant to the musical director; volunteered at MDP Family Services/Little House DC day care; privately teaches children music and voice.

Robert Moore  
(Physical Education)
Teacher at the GO Project in Union Square, where he assists underprivileged students with learning challenges; volunteers as a mentor to elementary school students.

Goretti G. Roiss  
(Political Science, Business and Liberal Arts)
Served as project coordinator for large-scale volunteering projects at QC, including with the Queens Botanical Garden; assisted with Time Banks NY at the Pomonok Houses Community Center, where he helped seniors with various projects; read to children at the QC Childhood Development Center; organized fund-raising for causes like the Cystic Fibrosis walk and the March of Dimes.

Angad S. Thakuri  
(Bachelor of Fine Arts)
Volunteered as a mentor in a for the “Encourage Your Kids” event, at the Tamang Society of America, a nonprofit organization that preserves the culture and heritage of Tamangs, indigenous people of the Himalayan region.

David Weintraub  
(Urban Studies and Political Science, Business and Liberal Arts)
Served as advisor for children, teens, and adults at the National Jewish Council for Disabilities; conducted sensitivity training seminars where volunteers mirror certain disabilities, so others can understand what it is like to have a disability; interned at the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregation Institute for Public Affairs.

Jamar Whaley  
(Psychology and Neuroscience, Media Studies)
Member of Project Excellence (ProjectExCEL), a peer-to-peer mentoring program that attempts to increase support and educational success of under-represented groups in higher education and challenges confronting education reform; student facilitator for the Center for Ethnic, Racial, and Religious Understanding.