

Eva Fernandez

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To: Eva Fernandez
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Saludos - August 2018

Saludos

Notes from the President



President Félix V. Matos
Rodríguez

Welcome, one and all, whether you are new to Queens College or returning to our campus after the summer break. I finished school decades ago, but I have never forgotten the excitement I felt at the beginning of each academic year, knowing that new discoveries and new challenges awaited me. I trust that you feel this way, too.

The college remained active through the end of the summer. We saw a significant gain in summer session enrollment over last year. There were many well-attended course offerings. One example of a valuable partnership drew our attention. In a first for QC, 26 competitively selected incoming freshmen spent three weeks in **Google's Computer Science**

Summer Institute Extension program on campus.



Front row: 1. Joceline Garcia (Moosic) 2. Shara Nafiz (FortFinder) 3. Laiba Farhan (Comparify) 4. Nazia Asmaul Husna (Moosic)
Back row: 1. Ensar Dogrusoz (Money Mappers) 2. Madelyn Greene (Shpiel) 3. Lamiae Hairane (Reminder App)

In addition to learning the basics of software and programming, the students interacted with Google engineers and computer science executives from Bloomberg L.P. and Magistek, Inc., a software training and consulting firm.



In another exciting new collaboration, the California-based **Cornerstone Theater Company** set up its first out-of-state summer residence on our campus from July 12 through August 12. Cornerstone worked with local people—including QC students—to write, cast, and present *The Cardinal*, based on research conducted in the general Queens community. Performed three times, the play explored one character's questions about her family. I was thrilled to see so much talent on display, including shadow puppetry and original music composed for the occasion. You can read more [here](#).



Cast members of Cornerstone Theater's "The Cardinal." (Photo by Michael Wilson)

I recently appointed a new Website Advisory Committee, co-chaired by Vice President for Communications and Marketing and Senior Advisor to the President Jay Hershenson and Assistant Vice President for Technology and Chief Information Officer Thomas Hull. Together with broad representation from the administration, faculty and students, the advisory committee held its first meeting on August 1. The purpose of the committee is to advise and provide input as we work on the design and implementation process for a new QC website, consistent with the college's strategic plan. The one thing everyone agrees on is that, while we have made important improvements in recent years, a comprehensive redesign is needed. The committee leadership will be reaching out throughout the campus and will keep you posted on our progress.

As usual, I have wonderful news to share about QC students, faculty, and staff. Members of the CUNY Service Corps participated in recovery work on Puerto Rico; it was a privilege to visit the island and observe so many volunteers in action. Governor Andrew Cuomo visited, too. Graduate student Kasey Doherty used materials from the Queens Central Library branch in Jamaica to curate an on-site art exhibit about the New Deal on August 2-11; Kasey and Kara Schlichting, a history professor, gave presentations at the library on August 9.



Uri Cohen, executive director of QC Hillel for seven years, has just started his new job as executive director of the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale. Jenna Citron has been tapped to serve as interim director at Hillel. The QC community joins me in bidding both of them shalom, which conveniently means both hello and goodbye.



Congratulations are due Shige Song (Sociology), who was cited in Scientific American, and Steven Markowitz (Barry Commoner Center for Health and the Environment), who won reappointment to his seat as chair of the national Advisory Board on Toxic Substance and Worker Health. At my request, QC has joined an impressive roster of major national corporations and educational

institutions in endorsing the [CEO Action for Diversity & Inclusion](#), reflecting values we put in place every day. This is a valuable resource for best practices and for communication of our initiatives.



On the subject of values, I can't resist bragging about the fact that QC has been included in Princeton Review's *Best Colleges* for the 27th consecutive year; we've appeared in every edition since the [guidebook debuted in 1992](#). *Money* magazine lists QC in its latest "Best Colleges for

Your Money" rankings; *Forbes* listed QC as a "Best Value College" earlier this year. In the latest development, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* ranked QC in the top one percent of all colleges, public and private, for upward social and economic mobility. Here's the [story](#).

Maybe these rankings explain why our students look so happy in these photos from Summit Move-in Day and Welcome Day.





Another ritual at the start of the fall semester is auditions for the **Queens College Choral Society**. The choral society has been performing choral masterpieces for more than seven decades. The featured work in this December's concert will be Handel's *Messiah*, accompanied by a full orchestra. No prior choral experience is required; if you enjoy singing, consider scheduling a tryout.

Experience is necessary for running the Louis Armstrong House Museum, which is looking for a new director. To learn more about this important position, [click here](#). We are delighted that the honoree at this year's Armstrong House gala will be the celebrated trumpet player Herb Alpert.



Like all CUNY schools, QC is involved with programs to assist immigrants. The members of the campus's UndocuALLY training committee—Norka Blackman-Richards, director of SEEK; Dwayne Jones, director of Student Development and Leadership; and Jorge Alguera, director of Project ExCEL—will be holding an UndocuALLY training session on September 5, 12-2 pm, in the James Muyskens Conference Room of the Summit Apartments. [Up to 70 staff and faculty members can participate.](#)



Now's a good time to mark your calendars for Homecoming. Events start on October 11, Spirit Day—and QC's 81st anniversary. The weekend will include receptions, tours, an exhibition of QC memorabilia and a beer and wine tasting. For complete details, [click here](#).

The QView has been on hiatus for the summer; this informative newsletter will resume publication next week. Let me conclude by wishing you an enjoyable Labor Day weekend and a most productive and enjoyable semester.

Saludos,

Felo



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