2015 PARTNERS FOR PROGRESS

GALA

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The Queensborough Community College Bookstore

Is proud to support the outstanding achievements of the

Queensborough Community College Fund, Inc.

on the occasion of

The Partners for Progress Gala 2015

Honoring
Vicki Kasomenakis, CPA, ‘81
Francis W. Korzekwinski
Liren Wei

Congratulations to this year’s honorees
6:00 – 7:30  **COCKTAIL RECEPTION**  
Crystal Suite

7:30 – 8:15  **PROGRAM**  
Grand Ballroom

**WELCOME**  
Kyle Chin How  
Executive Vice President, Student Government Association

**REMARKS**  
Tony Jackson & Tia Wright  
Business Technology Early College High School (BTECH) students  
(Read about BTECH in the Honoree section of the Gala Journal.)

**GREETINGS**  
Dr. Diane B. Call  
President, Queensborough Community College

**PRESENTATION TO HONOREES**  
*Corporate Partner of the Year*  
**Francis W. Korzekwinski**  
SEVP & Chief Real Estate Lending Officer  
**Flushing Bank**  
Introduction by Kyle Chin How

*Art Gallery Partner of the Year*  
**Liren Wei**  
Managing Partner of Wei, Wei & Co., LLP  
Introduction by Soha Farooqui

*Alumni Partner of the Year*  
**Memorial Tribute**  
**Vicki Kasomenakis, C.P.A., ‘81**  
Associate Professor of Accounting  
Introduction by Souha Ltifi

8:15 – 9:15  **DINNER**

9:15 – 11:00  **DANCING**

Music throughout the evening provided by The Times Square Orchestra
Dr. Diane B. Call  
President of Queensborough Community College

Dear Friends,

Tonight presents a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Queensborough’s many achievements and to look forward to the work yet to be done.

On this occasion we applaud our distinguished Honorees and generous donors, and express our deep gratitude for their strong support. We also wish to acknowledge the continued support of our faculty, students, staff, alumni and retirees, and our elected officials, business associates and friends from the surrounding Queens community.

Our Honorees complement Queensborough’s strong tradition of cultivating relationships between the college, its students and the broader community.

The Honorees for 2015 are Corporate Partner of the Year, Frank Korzekwinski, Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Real Estate Lending Officer at Flushing Bank; Art Gallery Partner of the Year, Liren Wei, Managing Partner of Wei, Wei & Co., LLP and the late Vicki Kasomenakis, C.P.A., Class of 1981, Alumni Partner of the Year, who was an Associate Professor of Accounting at Queensborough Community College.

Numerous accomplished students who have benefitted from Queensborough’s outstanding faculty mentorship and guidance are participating in this year’s Gala. They include Souha Ltifi, President of the Business Society; Kyle Chin How, a member of the Mock Trial Team and Vice President of the Student Government Association for evening students and Soha Farooqui, a QCC Art Gallery intern and an Asian Social Justice Student Intern at the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives. I encourage you to connect with them and learn firsthand their inspiring stories.

Opportunities for academic mentorship, guidance and enrichment are also part of the broader mission behind the Business Technology Early College High School (BTECH), a new six-year initiative developed through the partnership of Queensborough; CUNY; SAP, a multinational technology software corporation; and the New York City Department of Education.

Continued on next page
BTECH’s mission is to combine academic excellence and technical proficiency, thus empowering students to be successful in our modern, information-based global economy and community. BTECH opened last fall with 110 students in the first cohort—two of whom, Tony Jackson and Tia Wright—are here with us tonight. BTECH students are enrolled in a full course load of high school classes including introductions to business and technology, algebra, English and U.S. History. Many faculty members at Queensborough have been instrumental in developing the high school curriculum at BTECH—Professor Stu Asser and Dr. Belle Birchfield, Engineering Technology; Professors Leslie Francis and Kathy Villani and Dr. Jonas Falik, Business Academy—and over a dozen colleagues from the Departments of English; Speech and Theatre; Mathematics and Academic Literacy.

I take great pride in Queensborough’s role as a leading institution of academic excellence. Its essential value in the community is demonstrated time and time again through the support of all those who continue to participate in and affirm its success.

Enjoy,
It is my privilege to serve as the 2015 Chair of Partners for Progress—a yearly fundraising gala that offers us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Queensborough’s extraordinary achievements and show our appreciation for the generosity of its community partners.

Tonight’s distinguished honorees represent the diverse industries, talents, interests and accomplishments of our many community leaders. Their participation in our gala serves as an inspiration to the college as it continues to provide a meaningful education for students and opportunities for the ongoing pursuit of academic excellence by faculty members.

Your generous contributions are a vital part of helping many students prepare for professional careers by giving them access to a college education and a college degree—a chance they might not otherwise have had. Your contributions, whether through the Annual Fund, our Alumni Association, planned giving and corporate/foundation grants or sponsorships go toward supporting student success through textbooks, lab supplies, study abroad opportunities, high impact learning activities such as undergraduate research or service learning, scholarships and awards. Moreover, your contributions provide funding for faculty research and professional development to encourage academic excellence.

Your contributions also allow the Kupferberg Holocaust Resource Center and Archives (KHRCA), the QCC Art Gallery and the Queensborough Performing Arts Center (QPAC) to continue providing community enrichment through world-class exhibits and entertainment. In addition, naming opportunities that recognize, honor, or memorialize donors and others are available at these three prized cultural centers as well as throughout the campus.

While Partners is our most public annual fundraiser, support for other college initiatives is enhanced through activities such as Walk to Aspire, in which our current students raise money for scholarships so that others have the same opportunity to access a college education as they have had.

As Chair of the Partners for Progress Gala, I welcome you and thank you for being part of this exceptional evening. I look forward to sharing our plans and ideas as we move forward.
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ABOUT
THE HONOUREES

QUEENSBOROUGH
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Francis W. Korzekwinski is Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Real Estate Lending Officer at Flushing Bank, a New York State-chartered commercial bank and subsidiary of Flushing Financial Corporation in Lake Success, New York. In 1993 he was named Assistant Vice President and Loan Officer of Flushing Bank, a position that launched his distinguished career in finance and real estate services. As Assistant Vice President, he initiated a commercial real estate lending business that has led Flushing Bank from a local, mutually owned savings bank with $600 million in assets, to a publicly owned commercial bank with $5 billion in assets.

Mr. Korzekwinski is responsible for the Bank’s real estate lending operations, which includes new business development for commercial and real estate lending, loan servicing, loan workouts and portfolio management. Under his direction the bank manages a 3.3 billion dollar real estate portfolio which provides services for investors in the metropolitan area to develop and maintain multi-family residential housing. During the 2008 recession Mr. Korzekwinski helped lead Flushing Bank through the crisis which affected the banking industry as well as our nation’s economy. Recently, the Bank was named as one of the “Top 100 Most Trustworthy Companies” in the nation by Forbes magazine.

Mr. Korzekwinski grew up in Queens and attended Holy Cross High School in Bayside. Like so many Americans, Frank began his college career at a community college, which he described as “an opportunity for self-reflection; it allowed me to learn more about myself and to think about my choices from an educational and professional standpoint.”

Mr. Korzekwinski continued his studies at Long Island University, C.W. Post campus, where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration, primarily focusing on Finance and Economics.
Mr. Korzekwinski came to know Queensborough Community College through its faculty when he joined its Business Advisory Council four years ago. Since then he has had the opportunity to speak with groups of students about what employers are seeking when hiring potential employees. One of these student groups is the Fed Challenge Team which further sparked Mr. Korzekwinski’s interest in Queensborough and has inspired him to provide generous financial support through Flushing Bank. He added that, “The partnership with Queensborough has been mutually rewarding and I am pleased that Queensborough students have successfully applied for internships and position openings within Flushing Bank.”

In addition to his prominent career in banking, Mr. Korzekwinski has remained active in various community groups and professional associations, including the Board of Realtors, the Real Estate Board of New York’s Finance Committee and the Advisory Board of New York Real Estate TV.

Mr. Korzekwinski is an avid sportsman and were it not for a series of unfortunate injuries, he may have ended up on a different career path - playing professional football.

He and his wife live on Long Island, New York. Their daughter is a sophomore at Kellenberg Memorial High School, and their son is a sophomore at the University of South Carolina.
"The QCC Art Gallery holds a special place in my heart as an integral and vital part of the fabric of the Queens community. Public support of the Gallery is critical in order to continue to provide unique, outstanding art to its students and the local community."

Liren Wei first learned about Queensborough Community College several years ago when he attended the opening of a major African art exhibit at the QCC Art Gallery. The high caliber of the show left a powerful impression on him, as did the Gallery’s acclaimed permanent African Art collection, which encompasses the full range of ceremonial and practical objects produced on the African continent. Holland Cotter, art critic for The New York Times wrote, “Queensborough Community College has quietly assembled an impressive collection of African Art…with luck, other university galleries around the country will emulate it.”

Over the years, as Mr. Wei became a frequent visitor to Queensborough, he observed that, “The gallery is an extension of the classroom, where students are free to learn hands-on; exploring various artistic forms and cultures. I strongly believe that such enrichment translates into improved academic performance, and increased retention and graduation rates.”

Mr. Wei grew up in Queens and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Baruch College of The City University of New York with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. Today, he is the managing partner of Wei, Wei & Co., LLP, a full-service accounting firm with six partners and 80 employees. He founded the company with his father in 1995. The company is the largest Chinese owned Certified Public Accounting firm in the United States with offices in New York and Los Angels, as well as in Beijing. Mr. Wei, a Certified Public Accountant, advises clients on a variety of audit and tax issues. His portfolio includes a wide range of businesses and industries, from banking and finance, construction, distribution, government, health care, import and export, to insurance, manufacturing, not-for-profit, real estate, retailing and transportation.
Apart from his accounting acumen, fine art has always been Mr. Wei’s passion. Indeed, Mr. Wei is well regarded by gallery curators and professional artists in New York City for his expertise in African art as well as contemporary and traditional Chinese art. He is also a patron to the arts and a major contributor to the QCC Art Gallery.

“The QCC Art Gallery holds a special place in my heart as an integral and vital part of the fabric of the Queens community. Public support of the Gallery is critical in order to continue to provide unique, outstanding art to its students and the local community.”

Mr. Wei reaches out to the community through his role as partner in charge of the company's assurance practice. He is responsible for overseeing services provided on audits of various multi-national corporations, charitable organizations, health and welfare organizations, schools, and financial and compliance audit engagements with the New York City Housing Authority, Department for the Aging, Department of Youth and Community Development, Department of Homeless Services, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Human Resource Administration.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA), as President of the Chinese American Society of CPAs and Vice President of the Taiwanese American CPA Association. He currently serves as an independent director and chairman of China Integrated Energy, Inc., (CBEH) a U.S. publically traded company that is a leading energy company in China (non-state owned).

Mr. Wei resides with his family in Westchester, New York.
Professor Kasomenakis was a successful accountant, financial planner and accounting professor at Queensborough Community College for nearly two decades. She was held in the highest regard by the entire college community and by her peers throughout the Greater New York City region.

Professor Kasomenakis was also an alumna who returned to Queensborough and gave back to the academic institution that provided the groundwork for her many outstanding achievements. She had often said “Queensborough inspired me to be what I am today.”

Professor Kasomenakis began her academic career at Queensborough where she received her associate degree in accounting in 1981. With encouragement from her professor and mentor, Laurence Cohen, she continued her education at Queens College and Long Island University. Between 1987 and 1992, Professor Kasomenakis pursued studies in various aspects of accounting, finance and business administration, setting the stage for a highly diversified career. Upon receiving her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Accounting, she earned additional designations, including Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and Certified Senior Advisor (CSA).

In 1995, Professor Kasomenakis secured a position as a Financial Planner with Scifo Legacy Planning, LLC, where she provided financial advisory and management services to clients in and around the Greater New York City region for nearly twenty years.

Professor Kasomenakis returned to Queensborough in the spring of 1996 as an adjunct lecturer in the Business Department. She was appointed as an assistant professor in the Business Department in 2005 and was promoted to associate professor in 2011.

During her tenure at Queensborough, Professor Kasomenakis taught courses in accounting; served as an academic advisor; performed as Chair of the Ceremonial Occasions Committee and coordinated the student-run Business Society. In her role as faculty coordinator for the Business Society, Professor Kasomenakis brought guest speakers to campus—considered to be top in their fields of business, banking and accounting—so that students were exposed to all aspects of the business world. Just as she was encouraged as a student at Queensborough, Professor Kasomenakis shared her enthusiasm and attentiveness with students she both mentored and taught, including

Continued on next page
students in Queensborough’s Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP), designed to help students graduate in a timely manner.

Professor Kasomenakis also authored numerous by-lined articles on personal finance, taxes and other topics for trade and mainstream publications, including The CPA Journal, Aspire NY and The Queens Courier. Additionally, Professor Kasomenakis was a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants; CW Post Tax Institute at Long Island University; The Financial Planning Association of Long Island and the Society of Certified Senior Advisors.

Professor Kasomenakis was married to Steve Kasomenakis and they had three children together: Constantine, Michael and Barbara. In honor of her contributions to Queensborough Community College and her support of business students, the Business Society will be renamed The Vicki Kasomenakis Business Society.
BTECH (Business Technology Early College High School), located in Queens Village, is an innovative new six-year education program that was developed through the partnership of Queensborough Community College, multinational technology software corporation SAP, the New York City Department of Education and City University of New York.

The initiative enables students to earn a high school diploma and an associate degree in either Computer Information Systems or Internet Technology. The BTECH program will provide applicable experience in the business technology field for students enrolled in the first BTECH cohort.

BTECH’s mission reflects President Obama’s remarks in the State of the Union Address, wherein he emphasized the importance of “connecting companies to community colleges that can help design training to fill specific student needs.”

The program’s goals are to combine academic excellence with technical aptitude, thus empowering students to be successful in the modern information-based global economy and community. Students are paired with SAP mentors who will help them stay focused on their education and understand what kinds of careers are available in International Technology. They will also have an opportunity to work with SAP technologies in areas of Cloud solutions and mobile applications. In the later years of the program students will have workplace opportunities at SAP through internships and job shadowing which will prepare them for future job placement opportunities.

A core academic curriculum—designed by faculty at Queensborough Community College—helps students develop a strong background in Liberal Arts & Sciences and Business Technology. BTECH students will take the same courses as other Queensborough students in Business CIS (Computer Information Systems) and Internet Technology as well as other programs. Queensborough instructors will teach these courses with the same level of academic rigor as all other courses.

The Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Academy at Queensborough is very strong. The college’s Engineering Science and Mathematics & Science majors are among top five curricula by enrollment. These areas of study, along with many other related programs, allow students to view potential careers.

Continued on next page
The promise of a STEM education is what drives the mission of the BTECH initiative. Employment in STEM occupations is projected to grow nearly two times faster than the average for most occupations over the next several years.

Queensborough and the teachers and principal of the high school are working together to ensure alignment of learning outcomes.
Congratulations to
Liren Wei

2015
Art Gallery Partner of the Year

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Art Gallery Partner of the Year

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The Kasomenakis Family
We are proud to join Queensborough Community College Fund, Inc. in honoring Francis W. Korzekwinski Corporate Partner of the Year Vicki Kasomenakis, C.P.A., ’81 Alumni Partner of the Year and Liren Wei Art Gallery Partner of the Year at its 2015 Partners for Progress Gala
The City University of New York

congratulates the

Queensborough Community College

and distinguished honorees

VICKI KASOMENAKIS, C.P.A., ’81
Alumni Partner of the Year
Memorial Tribute
Associate Professor of Accounting

FRANCIS W. KORZEKWINSKI
Corporate Partner of the Year
SEVP & Chief Real Estate Lending Officer
Flushing Bank

LIREN WEI
Art Gallery Partner of the Year
Managing Partner of Accounting firm
Wei, Wei & Co., LLP

on the occasion of the

2015 Partners for Progress Gala

APRIL 30, 2015

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APRIL 30, 2015

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We warmly congratulate the 2015 Partners of the Year

Francis W. Korzekwinski, Corporate Partner
Liren Wei, Art Gallery Partner
and pay memorial tribute to
Vicki Kasomenakis, ’81, Alumni Partner
Best Wishes
to our friends
at QCC

Congratulations to
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Alumni Partner of the Year
Memorial Tribute
Associate Professor of Accounting

FRANCIS W. KORZEKWINSKI
Corporate Partner of the Year
SEVP & Chief Real Estate Lending Officer
Flushing Bank

LIREN WEI
Art Gallery Partner of the Year
Managing Partner of Accounting firm
Wei, Wei & Co., LLP

All our best,

Ron and Julia Appel
The QCC Fund Board extends its appreciation to

Pat Tiffany
Flushing Bank

Thank you for serving as the Chair of the 2015 Partners Gala!
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Congratulations to the Partners for Progress 2015 honorees:

VICKI KASOMENAKIS, C.P.A., ’81  
Alumni Partner of the Year  
Memorial Tribute  
Associate Professor of Accounting

FRANCIS W. KORZEKWINSKI  
Corporate Partner of the Year  
SEVP & Chief Real Estate Lending Officer Flushing Bank

LIREN WEI  
Art Gallery Partner of the Year  
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Memorial Tribute
Associate Professor of Accounting

Francis W. Korzekwinski
Corporate Partner of the Year
SEVP & Chief Real Estate Lending Officer
Flushing Bank

and

Liren Wei
Art Gallery Partner of the Year
Managing Partner of Accounting firm
Wei, Wei & Co., LLP

AS OUR
2015 PARTNERS OF THE YEAR.
President Jennifer J. Raab and the Hunter College community extend best wishes for an outstanding and successful *Partners for Progress Gala*

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Salutes 2015

Corporate Partner of the Year
Francis W. Korzekwinski
SEVP & Chief Real Estate Lending Officer
Flushing Bank

Art Gallery Partner of the Year
Liren Wei
Managing Partner
Wei, Wei & Co., LLP

Alumni Partner of the Year – Memorial Tribute
Vicki Kasomenakis, CPA, ‘81
Associate Professor of Accounting – Queensborough

A Special Thank You
to our President

Dr. Diane B. Call
for Making Queensborough Community College
a Special Place where Students Learn and Flourish.

The Cabinet of the QCC Alumni Association

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Christine Porter, RN,’10, Secretary
Daniel Armstrong,’04,’09
Jorge D. Fanjul,’04
Cheryle W. Levine,’75

Michael Kalkin,’62, Vice President
Lissa M. Benton,’88, Treasurer
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Roger Mischel,’03

Barry Pulchin, CPA, CFE,’66
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• To foster commercial and economic development
• To facilitate a profitable business environment in order to promote activities of culture, art, welfare of the local community, education, and local business consultation.
• To serve the needs of members and local Community.
• To promote harmony among ethnic groups.
• To serve as the bridge between the local Community and government agencies.
• To enhance political awareness and economic strength in the local and Chinese Communities, and through the combination of both, join the activities of the mainstream society.

The Flushing Chinese Business Association, a.k.a. FCBA, is a non-political, non-religious and non-profit organization incorporated in the state of New York, our bylaws showing FCBA is a not-for-profit corporation follow by 501(c)(3) rules and regulations. All of its activities are carried out in compliance with the bylaws of the land. All actions taken by its President, Executive Director, and Board members are subject to the approval of its Board and the scrutiny of its membership.

Since its formation in 1982, FCBA has actively and successfully carried out the purpose for which it was formed. The success stems from the support of its membership as well as the efforts and dedication of all current and former members of its Board of Directors and advisers. Its accomplishments have been widely recognized.

The Chinese New Year Parade led by FCBA becomes more and more spectacular year after year. Under our utmost strive and supported by civic officials, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed Chinese New Year as school holiday at the end of 2014.

FCBA began to sponsor Joyful Mothers celebration since 2010. Each mother gets a citation from congress member, state senator, assembly member, city council member and FCBA. We also print beautiful album for them as everlasting memory.
Congratulations to
Art Gallery Partner of the year
Liren Wei and all
Queensborough Community College
Partners for Progress.

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OF

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Congratulations to

**2015 Corporate Partner of the Year**
Francis W. Korzekwinski
SEVP & Chief Real Estate Lending Officer
Flushing Bank

**2015 Art Gallery Partner of the Year**
Liren Wei
Managing Partner
Wei, Wei & Co., LLP

**2015 Alumni Partner of the Year**
Memorial Tribute
Vicki Kasomenakis, C.P.A., ’81
Associate Professor of Accounting
Queensborough, Business Department

and

Thank you to all our friends and donors for supporting the students and faculty at Queensborough Community College.

**Dr. Diane B. Call**
President
Queensborough Community College
The Business Department at Queensborough Community College Salutes

Francis W. Korzekwinski
Corporate Partner of the Year
Senior Executive Vice President & Chief Real Estate Lending Officer
Flushing Savings Bank

We congratulate Frank, our partner in the Fed Challenge and a member of Queensborough Community College’s Business Advisory Council!

Thank you for your continuing support.
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FRANK KORZEKWINSKI

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Salute

VICKI KASOMENAKIS, C.P.A., '81
Alumni Partner of the Year
Memorial Tribute
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Congratulations, Liren,
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