

HONORS NEWSLETTER

Queensborough Community College, 222-05 56th Avenue Bayside, NY 11364 718-631-6262
WWW.QCC.CUNY.EDU

The Honors Program

By Dr. Paris Svoronos, Chemistry

The first CUNY-Pipeline conference that also included community colleges was held this past Friday February 19 at the Graduate Center. More than 120 posters and performances were held during the whole day and students had the opportunity to showcase their honors work and research findings

Our college's performance was outstanding as more than 40 percent of the TOTAL number of presentations involved our kids. In fact Queensborough's number was higher than the second, third and fourth institutions (all senior colleges) combined.

It is important to note that half of our departments contributed to this success. There were posters in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Electrical Technology, Nursing and Economics as well as exceptional performances by the theater and Fed Challenge teams. Topics involved among others research findings, internship experiences, service learning, and the clickers' effectiveness assessment. The quality of posters both physically and in content was outstanding. The kids were in their best clothing proud to explain their work and ably convincing the attendees. The outcome of the Honors classes and the satisfying result of the faculty's mentoring paid off in a glorious manner.

One of the two keynote speakers was our former graduate Dr. JaimeLee Iolani Rizzo who, is currently a full professor and deputy chair of the Sciences Department at Pace University. Her talk resonated with the students who saw in her a role model they ought to follow. Dr. Rizzo has agreed to serve as the keynote speaker at the QCC's 50th Anniversary event of the STEM Academy that will be held on Friday March 12, 3-5pm in M-136. I hope we see all of you there.

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Comments and feedback on this issue of the Newsletter may be sent to EHanssen@qcc.cuny.edu or GBurdi@qcc.cuny.edu



The Chemistry Department Honors group huddles before the beginning of the poster presentations

The first few Honors classes were offered for the first time during the Spring of 2000. Ten years later the program has bloomed mainly due to the faculty's commitment and interest in nurturing the students. The main compensation of these exceptional mentors is to see the fruits of their labor in events such as this. The support of the administration is very significant. In particular our President Dr. Marti attended the event and spent most of his time standing in front of the posters and listening to the students' explanations. One can only imagine the pride and the "wow" feelings the students displayed with this experience.

The CUNY Pipeline steering committee involved two Queensborough representatives, one of them being Dean Michele Cuomo. Her most valuable and fundamental input in collecting the abstracts and setting the program was assisted by the underrated contributions of the very able Carol Imandt.

There are still many more better days ahead of us at Queensborough.

The Honors Program Library Workshop

Students participating in the QCC Honors Program are required to take a Library Research Workshop. The Workshop enhances existing skills and offers options in developing new research methods.

The Workshop provides students with a forum to discuss their research techniques, share research strategies with other participants, learn new methods in selecting and evaluating sources, along with learning about the research support network available to them at the QCC Library.

Library Workshop components include:

- Evaluating Internet Websites
- Legal and Ethical Use of Sources
- Online Database Searching
- Primary versus Secondary Sources
- Use of CUNY+PLUS Online Catalog

A recent survey was conducted about The Honors Program Library Workshop and the Top Ten comments from the QCC Honors Student completing the workshop are:

- I did not know I could access *The New York Times* from 1851.
- Did not know about the online databases and that they were full-text...online newspapers and journals.
- I learned what a Boolean search is.
- I learned what periodicals are.
- Navigation of available resources from the CUNY library.
- That we have databases available to us and we can borrow books from other CUNY libraries.
- How to do an advanced search in GOOGLE and select a specific domain.
- The difference between HTML and PDF files.
- How important the source is that we use for our research.
- I did not know there are more resources than GOOGLE or Wikipedia.

The Student Honors Library Program workshop will not only help the Honors Student while in attendance at QCC, but will serve as a tremendous resource during the student's academic research experience.

Honors English EN445

By Dr. Sheena Gillespie

In my honors section of EN445 we discussed several texts by writers from different cultures including Kate Chopin, Franz Kafka, Federico Garcia Lorca, Albert Camus, and Toni Morrison. The students quoted below were never absent, always prepared, offered insightful comments, and wrote excellent critical analyses of the authors they chose for their research project. I feel privileged to have spent the semester enriched by their wisdom.

Bevon Lewis "enjoyed being able to write about

topics as I saw fit. The discussions were intelligent, thought-provoking, and allowed students to express their honest opinions. Roland Hanak wrote that "this class doesn't teach you, it teaches you to think."

Samantha Panisse "enjoyed the brilliance of my fellow students, learned a lot, and exercised my mind more than I would have in a standard class."

Febia B. Jackson wrote that "Dr. Gillespie challenged our minds and pushed us to think outside the box which was more rewarding for our personal outlook towards life, rather than just our grade for the semester. Truly a rewarding experience which placed a strong emphasis on individuality and yet never left anyone feeling disconnected."

My Association with the Honors Classes in Chemistry Department: First the Teaching; Now the Research

By Soraya Svoronos, Ph.D. Adjunct Associate Professor Chemistry Department

I have been associated with Honors classes in the Chemistry Department since their inception in 2000. It is certainly a great experience to see the academic development of our Queensborough students via this program. I have witnessed this during the first four Annual QCC Honors Conferences where my students made power point presentations. At the beginning these students have absolutely no interest in chemistry. At the end of the semester these same individuals are ready to stand for 15 minutes and talk about a specific topic they have picked out of the course syllabus.

In January 2009 I was involved in a research project with a student in the chemistry department in which we measured the quantitative determination of the antioxidant gallic acid in tea beverages. The student, Rana Said, presented her findings first at the 5th

Annual Honors QCC Conference in April and at the 57th Undergraduate Research Symposium of the American Chemical Society– NY section on May 2 at Pace University both in power point form. Rana also presented her work as a poster, at the 238th National American Chemical Society Meeting in Washington DC in August.

Over the years I have taught as an adjunct in at least four different senior colleges and have never detected the interest in mentoring by basically all full time faculty that is evident in Queensborough's Chemistry Department. The students have extensive research and internship opportunities through the Honors Program that solidify their perception of the true scientific world they will encounter as professionals upon graduation.

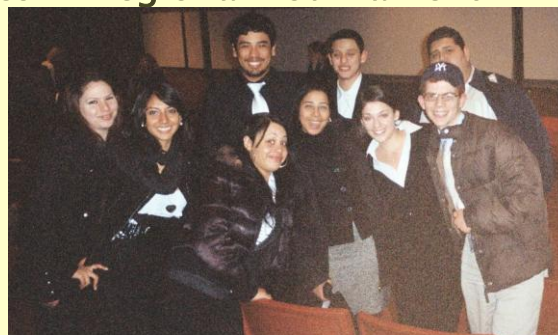
Queensborough Mock Trial Team Competes in Regional Tournament

By Prof. Ted Rosen

At the 2010 Atlantic Regional Tournament of the American Mock Trial Association, held at St. John's University from February 26th through February 28th, the Queensborough Community College Mock Trial Team competed against the 27 teams from 16 colleges in the tournament.

The Queensborough Community College, the only community college in the tournament, competed in the Atlantic Regional for the third straight year, finishing with 3 wins, 4 losses and 1 tie. The Queensborough Community College team defeated City College of New York as well as Stonybrook University, and distinguished itself by being very competitive in all of its matches. In preparation for the tournament the team participated in nine scrimmages during the months preceding the event.

Each of the teams competing in the tournament conducted the trial of the same case, twice from



the plaintiff's side and twice from the defendant's side. The students on the teams participated as attorneys, presenting opening and closing statements and engaging in direct and cross-examination of witnesses, and as one of nine possible witnesses involved in the case.

All students who are interested in participating in future Mock Trial events should contact Professor Ted Rosen in the Business Department at (718) 281-5488, or at trosen@qcc.cuny.edu.

Honors Contracts in Psychology: A Different Experience at Queensborough!

By Dr. Jeffrey Jankowski

Mentoring students who are conducting honors contracts is a rewarding experience. An honors contract offers students the opportunity to research an idea guided closely by a faculty member. In my case, the student many times intends to pursue a baccalaureate and a graduate degree in psychology. As such, the contract can be molded around the student's interest as well as the course content to further knowledge into the area.

In addition, the student gains experience reporting the findings of their work at the QCC Honors Conference. For many students, this is the first opportunity to conduct independent study working closely with a faculty member. Not only does the experience allow students to explore interests but also to consider more carefully future education and career plans.

Can QCC Calculus II Honors Students Make Mathematical Theorems Dance and Talk?

By Cristina Abreu-Suzuki, Ph.D., Mathematics

I first taught a Calculus II honors class at QCC in Spring 2008. In the very beginning of the course I realized that the students were well prepared and intellectually curious. The learning environment that an honors course provides allowed me to expose my enthusiasm and passion for teaching mathematics while I decided to experiment with different techniques by using computer laboratory material. Calculus II students must learn and use the software MAPLE which has a wide variety of applications in many areas of knowledge including Physics and Engineering. When I first proposed the students to produce original results using the same MAPLE that they were studying in the lab and to present their creation at the QCC Honors Conference, they were a bit skeptical...but their hunger for challenging experiences were louder than any reluctant tendencies that would cross their minds.

The students executed two big projects: "Explaining how MAPLE was used to graphically simulate an earthquake and the effect of wind load hitting skyscrapers in two works of Thomas Stoll and Klaus

students grew more and more enthusiastic about their final project. They adapted the original work creating animations of their own which were successfully presented at the Honors Conference.

In the Spring 2009 I found myself experimenting once more, this time with students who wanted to complete Honors Contracts in a standard Calculus II class. Those students executed one big project explaining how MAPLE was used to create sounds in the work Creating Sound Sample Files using Maple 6 by Paul Goossens. In that Spring 2009 Calculus II class I detected the same reaction of the Spring 2008 honors students: from skeptical to eager users of MAPLE. Needless to say that the students created their own original sounds.

At the Honors Conference they successfully presented their analysis of the original work and they masterfully ended their presentation playing the sounds that they created. Finally, as for the answer to the title question: yes, QCC Calculus II honors students can make mathematical theorems dance and talk, They just need to be contaminated with passion and enthusiasm for mathematics.

2009–2010 Fed Challenge Team

By Ed Hanssen

Congratulations to the 2009 QCC Fed Challenge Team for having won the community college competition for the New York District regional and third place in the national community college competition.

The Fed Challenge is a nationwide intercollegiate competition sponsored by the regional Federal Reserve offices, with the winner of each region competing in a national final competition held in Washington D.C. in December. This is the seventh year of the college competition, and the third year that two year schools compete in their own division.

The New York regional competition was held at the Federal Reserve building in downtown NYC. The list of twenty three area colleges competing included Rutgers, Princeton, Baruch, and West Point.

The objective of the competition is to promote understanding of our Federal Reserve System among college students, and while our team members did not qualify for the next round of the competition they certainly achieved this objective.



Left to Right: Teresa Brunetti, Josh Voltaire, Sandeep Singh, and Lorik Jakupi.

The 2009 team is special because of who they are and how they came together as team. All team members are working students. All of them came from different backgrounds and through hard work and working together became a team with each person supporting one another. We are proud of what they accomplished and who they became in the process.

The team is sponsored by the Business Department and the QCC Honors Committee. Faculty advisors are Assistant Professors Christine Mooney (CMooney@qcc.cuny.edu), Ed Hanssen (EHanssen@qcc.cuny.edu) and Linda Meltzer (LMeltzer@qcc.cuny.edu).

Queensborough Community College

Presents the

Sixth Annual Honors Conference

Celebrating Student Research and Academic Life

Friday, April 23, 2010

8:30AM to 12 Noon

Medical Arts Building – First Floor and Basement

www.qcc.cuny.edu

Research Opportunity of Honors Class Students

By Dr. Jun H. Shin, Associate Professor, Chemistry

When I mention the students' undergraduate research in Queensborough's chemistry department to four year college faculty members, I am usually stared upon with curiosity. However when I continue to say that our undergraduate students regularly participate at national and regional conferences where they present their research results, their eyes open wide with unexpected surprise. Yes, undergraduate research at a community college is rare and uncommon. Presenting research findings at a national conference as a main author? "Priceless!"

When I joined the chemistry department at QCC five and a half years ago, it was very difficult for me to find a student who wanted to conduct research because it was extra work for them to do without course credit. Now I have to find a nice and polite way to say "I have no more room for extra students." Many of our honors class students are involved in research every year because taking an honors class may be a good pathway to join a research group. As research students, they are exposed to modern technology such as FT-NMR, FT-IR, UV-Vis, SEM, HPLC, MS-GC and x-ray fluorescence as a first-hand user which is, of course, unheard of to any first or second year undergraduate students (www.qcc.cuny.edu/Chemistry/instrument.asp).



Every year the research student and his/her mentor in our department go to professional conferences. Twenty five (25) students had poster presentations at the National American Chemical Society Meeting, the largest chemistry conference in the world, at Washington DC last summer (www.qcc.cuny.edu/Chemistry/ACS_2009.asp). A research presentation is a good thing to add in a resume, but more important it benefits the building of confidence through experimentation and presentation. Many students look nervous and even scared before their first conference, but later I see them enjoying their achievement. Also some of them have an opportunity to publish their research results in a professional journal (www.qcc.cuny.edu/Chemistry/publications.asp). In an honors class, a student will find the opportunity and experience never expected otherwise.

Members of the Honors Committee

Christina Abreu-Suzuki
Aithne Bialo-Padín
Glenn Burdi
Michele Cuomo
Karen Gapper

Ed Hanssen
Andrew Levy
Susan Sciammarella
Regina Sullivan
Paris Svoronos
Eileen White

The 238th National American Chemical Society Meeting: An Enlightening Experience for our Students

By Paris Svoronos

The 238th NATIONAL American Chemical Society Meeting was held in Washington DC August 16–20 2009. August 17, was the day scheduled for the undergraduate research poster session. This event highlighted the students standing in front of their posters and defending their research findings and interpretations to visiting participants of the conference.

There were exactly 200 undergraduate posters accepted for presentation. The Chemistry Department had 25 posters (12.5% of the total) – the highest number among any participating college or university. Queensborough was also the only community college that had students in this event. This was an exceptionally gratifying experience that I consider the pinnacle of teaching, learning and modifying the students' lives. I was proud to see our freshmen and sophomores stand in their best attire displaying the maturity, behavior and knowledge in a manner no different than that of any junior or senior in a four-year college.

First Annual Business Academy Ethics Essay Contest Winners Announced

The winners of the 2010 Business Academy Essay Contest are:

- First Place: Tasia Lawrence (Environmental)
- Second Place: Teresa Brunetti Lihach
(Whistleblowing)
- Third Place: Yiu Bun Benny, Mok
(Workplace Discrimination)

They will be presenting their research and papers on March 18th (2–6 in M136) at the 50th Anniversary Event for the Business Academy called "Students Voice their Values on Ethics".

The effort involved the collaborative work of all nine chemistry full timers (Drs. Sasan Karimi, Irina Rutenburg, Moni Chauhan, Sharon Lall–Ramnarine, David Sarno, Jun Shin, Mihaela Bojin, Tirandai Hemraj–Benny and myself) and three CLTs (Pedro Irigoyen, Bruce Montalbano and Andrew Xu). It also included four adjuncts (Drs. Gopal Subramaniam, Soraya Svoronos, Luis Vargas and Jordan Verdis). And for the first time there was a joined work of a Biologist (Dr. Mangala Tawde) and a chemist (Dr. Moni Chauhan). The research findings were obtained during the intersession and spring break.

The faculty transformed students who were unsure of their academic future and their potential into future scientists who can compete at a comparable senior level. These faculty are not lecturers– they are teachers and mentors. Who says that Queensborough cannot make Honors students?

Monday August 17, 2009 was a good day for Queensborough. There are better days ahead of us.



Gurpreet Singh (left) and Kenny Wong (third from left) with their mentor Chemistry's Dr Tirandai Hemraj-Benny (second from left)

Changing from a Quick Transfer to Graduation: How the Honors Program Changed my Mind

By Eunchul Kim

When I first came to Queensborough Community College, I really wanted to transfer to a four-year engineering school the following semester. At that time, my motivation was dying out and all I wanted was to get out and go through some change. I thought the only way to achieve that was to transfer to a four-year institution as soon as possible.

At first, I talked to Dr. Paris Svoronos to register for a regular General Chemistry course just because it was a transferrable part of my pre-engineering curriculum. He looked at my records and started talking about Honors General Chemistry, conducting research under the guidance of a faculty mentor, and how those experiences can change my college life. I became excited and instantly decided to take the challenge. It turned out that I went through the change that would never go away right here in the Chemistry Department. Now I can tell you that the day was one of the major turning points in my life and every single experience I have had in the department up until now contributed to changing me to my present status.

From the first semester of Honors General Chemistry I, I started getting trained for research on the Synthesis of TTPI (3-trimethoxysilylpropyl isocyanurate) stabilized transition metal nanoclusters under the guidance of Dr. Moni Chauhan. I should mention that the experience of conducting research as an undergraduate is an exceptional opportunity and having it in a community college is almost unknown to all other institutions. Having a faculty mentor who always welcomes you when you knock on the door and cares about your personal development is a very special opportunity. I worked in a very nice newly equipped research lab which made me look and feel professional, learned to carry out reactions and to use various spectroscopic instruments to analyze the experimental results. I was able to become an active part of an original research project, discuss the results with my mentor and learned to think analytically and scientifically. It was hard and time-consuming to prepare presentations and posters for meetings and conferences, but those were the times that I learned the most about my research. I also have to mention that the travels to

conferences and meetings with fellow students and faculty members as well as communicating with the scientific community were extraordinary experiences that made me feel very professional and enthusiastic. All these add to extra nice "records" that would make my resume stand out from the crowd too. You must believe that these are the things that I did not think I would be able to do before I met Dr. Svoronos.

I have personally presented my own research findings in six different American Chemical Society (ACS) meetings including two National Meetings in Philadelphia and Washington DC, as well as two QCC Honors Conferences. I was also featured at the official ACS periodical (Chemical and Engineering News) in a photo. I must also talk about the classroom experience from the Honors Chemistry courses. In the classroom, I was constantly motivated and challenged with assignments and frequent tests. These requirements were not easy at all, but the rewards you get from achieving the goals and meeting expectations more than compensate for the hard work. Dr. Svoronos makes extra efforts to make his students work harder, be responsible, and stay motivated. He works passionately to offer his students chances to realize their potentials. I really needed to get rid of my lazy habits and had to force myself to work hard, and in the process I realized that I could do more than I ever thought. At the end of each challenging semester, I found myself growing confident to face even worse challenges. Becoming a part of an inner community of enthusiastic and motivated students that receives special attention from faculty members is a privilege that only Honors Chemistry students can enjoy. Now I want to say confidently that every single semester that I have spent in the chemistry department has helped me to set out my long term goal and prepare a solid foundation for it. It is certainly a life-changing experience.

How the Honors Program has Changed my Life

By Darryl Williams

The Honors Program at Queensborough Community College had a tremendous effect on my entire career path. The program pushes you beyond what you initially thought was your uppermost limits to find out that there is really no limit. The Honors Program taught me amazing discipline and opened my eyes to a vast world of possibilities. With the program I was able to take part in a rewarding Biology research project under Dr. Raji Suramaniam and present my findings at various national conferences. Moreover, I was fortunate to gain an internship with the Department of Environmental Protection

for the summer of 2009 where I learned about various sampling and research techniques on water treatment. Within the program I gained a new and very large family in which I can turn to for just about anything. I view Queensborough's Honors Program as an academic boot camp. Once you are through with it the possibilities around you are incredible so you better hold on. I can feel the impact in my current studies at Queens College where I am currently a junior.

Working on Organic Synthesis Research as Part of the Honors Program

By Renzo A. Samame, B.A in Chemistry

The Honors and Research Program at Queensborough was an exciting and rewarding experience as an undergraduate student. During that time I was assigned to work under Dr. Luis Vargas in the synthesis and design of an anticancer alkylating agent. Over the course of two semesters, I synthesized a compound that combined two properties, an anticancer alkylating agent and the inclusion of a bisphosphonate group, known for its ability to inhibit osteoclastic (i.e., bone) resorption.

This opportunity not only provided bench work exposure but certainly created a bridge from the regular class setting to where science really takes place (the laboratory). In addition to the technical

lessons I learned, coupled with the challenges of, at times, discouraging results, I realized that the beauty of chemistry research is not only to prove theoretical or applied analysis but to make us aware of our capabilities. As I transferred to a four college, such experience helped me gain a seat in a medicinal chemistry laboratory and my subsequent eligibility for a Bachelors degree with Chemistry Honors.

Queensborough Chemistry Research is for the curious, motivated and hard working students who are fortunate to have a unique and caring faculty. As a unique experience I had the opportunity of meeting and taking a photo with Elias James Corey (E.J. Corey) the 1990 Nobel laureate in Chemistry.

Attending the Seminars and Lectures of Scientists: An Impact Way for Improving my Abilities

By Sahara Refua

The Chemistry Honors program gives you the chance to go and listen to seminars given by scientists invited by the department to address faculty and students. These seminars give you information about the field that you have no idea about. This experience helps you find out what kind of career you are interested in. During my three semester career at Queensborough I have a minimum of twelve seminars that include

everything from Environmental Forensics to the Determination of the Age of Sushi in restaurants to the theoretical way of calculating distances and angles of molecules. I had the opportunity to also work on theoretical chemistry research with Dr. Jordan Verdis and presented my findings at the 238th National meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington DC last August.

A Summer Internship at the Division of Environmental Protection (D.E.P)

By Katie Lee

I first joined the Honors program at Queensborough last Spring and registered for Honors General Chemistry I. Through this experience I was able to be named for an ATE Internship at the D.E.P. (Department of Environmental Protection) for the summer of 2009. The work was done at the Owl's Head Lab for the Waste Water Treatment facility. So far this has been one of my most rewarding experiences. I had the privilege to work inside a chemistry lab where I have performed various chemistry related tasks, such as measuring the pH and the chloride concentrations of water. I also prepared

samples and performed argentometric titrimetric measurements.

This opportunity has given me the chance to work with other professional chemists and gain more knowledge about hands-on, every-day related chemistry. It also taught me how our waste water is processed and the different experiments involved before it can be available to the public. I now know and feel safe that the water quality in New York City is of primary quality.

Being Involved in Honors Experiences with the Chemistry Department

By Ti-Ya Chang

I took Honors General Chemistry 151 in the Spring 2008, which was expected to be a very challenging course. The professor of this class was Dr. Paris Svoronos, and I am sure he expected all of us to achieve an A in this course. During the lecture class, the professor shared his knowledge with students, and students shared what they knew with each other after the class. I received absolute cooperation and great participation from this class.

In the summer of 2008, Dr. Svoronos encouraged students to serve as interns at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which was a very interesting and useful experience. First of all, I was required to learn the process of analyzing water, and then I learned to analyze the data of the samples from each water factory and the various laboratories. Additionally, I assisted several chemists in their tasks. I had to type the data and categorize the samples. I thought that the chemists were very serious, quiet and wore dull glasses. However, the situation was very

different. The scientists actually loved to share their experience when they were students, they were really friendly and patient when they taught and explained to me the details of the various analyses. From various conversations with them, I could see the passion of being a chemist, and this experience also helped me reassure my life goal. I did not regret spending my summer at DEP, because I did learn and I did enjoy it.

Of course, it is not easy to get an A in an Honors class. It requires students not only to thoroughly concentrate on studying but also to completely enjoy the moment of gaining knowledge. Studying is fun! Furthermore, seminars which are held every month by the Chemistry Department are really interesting because they give you the chance to know what is going on outside the textbook, and they also provide the opportunities to realize how to apply what we learned in our daily lives! I truly appreciate that I got the chance to be a student in honors classes now that I am a QCC alumnus and a current John Jay student.

Taking Honors Classes at Queensborough: How this Experience Expands the Student's Academic Horizon

By Eva Maria Santos Tejada

The honors courses at Queensborough consist of small size classes. Even though one may initially feel scared, this experience provides individuals with an excellent opportunity to directly interact with the instructors. This program is challenging because it engages the student's commitment and dedication. In my experience, honors courses had challenged me academically and personally, since the classes are more intense than any other regular section. However, the results are extraordinarily worthy.

First this section academically allows students to expand their horizons when pursuing their fields. Second, the interaction with the instructors creates a strong bond of friendship, respect and trust between the faculty and the student. It also helps students to develop critical thinking in the area the course is related. For instance, honors students

in the chemistry department are required to attend certain seminars during the semester, where they have to write a summary of the talk. Although this is challenging because some topics are way beyond the student's knowledge and background, this experience still allows the student to think as a scientist. Finally, I encourage all students who want to take this challenge to try and make a difference in their own lives. The benefits acquired through the experience of this program will lead to successful graduates who will have more opportunities in their lives on and off campus in the future.

As a graduate of Queensborough and a junior in Forensics at John Jay College I truly appreciate my Honors opportunities at Queensborough.

Starting a second career at Queensborough through the Honors Courses

By Ernest Choi

General Chemistry 151 Honors was the first class I took at QCC. It was difficult for me to grasp how the honors classes were different from the traditional classes offered. I did not have much experience in the sciences as my academic career primarily revolved around business and finance. However, as the semester progressed, two experiences lead me to conclude that the honors chemistry course at QCC offers a significant advantage over some of the non honors level courses.

The first experience was tutoring some of the introductory level chemistry courses. I had little to no experience in chemistry and any experience in it would date back to the mid 90's when I was attending high school. However, through the knowledge I gained in the CH151 honors class, I was able to successfully tutor students

who were having trouble in their classes. In fact, there are a number of CH151 students who come to my tutoring sessions and who have been able to receive the help they needed. Of course, there were some topics that had not yet been discussed in the CH 151 honors course that required attention. However, through the strong base of knowledge acquired in this honors course, I was able to use key concepts to work out problems with the students. Second, as I have been reviewing some study guides for the DATs and MCATs, I realize that the practical application of chemistry theory and concepts learned in the CH 151 honors class will provide me with the building blocks required to take these standardized exams and perform well.

How the Honors Program in Chemistry Helped me Get an Internship at Brookhaven Labs this Past Summer

By Parsa Sharifi

With the help of a STEM grant whose PI is Dr. Paris Svoronos, the Chair of the Chemistry Department at Queensborough, I was able to experience researching with actual research scientists at Brookhaven National Labs. This was a tremendously amazing experience. I researched with Dr. Lars Ehm on the synthesis of water splitting oxynitrides to produce hydrogen gas with the intention to use it as a clean fuel. We spent ten weeks at Brookhaven this past summer synthesizing this unique material. At the end we were able to only obtain a small sample and

run only a few tests. The tests did not confirm whether we made the oxynitride we intended to synthesize but it did show us that we prepared a new material. Even though there is more work to be done, I was able to put the concepts that I was taught in my Honors General Chemistry classes to aid in my research. Of course without the help of the Honors program, this experience would not have been possible nor would any of the potential doors be opened for me if I was not offered such an amazing opportunity.

How the Honors Experiences at Queensborough Helped me Survive the Stony Brook Challenge

By Rana Said

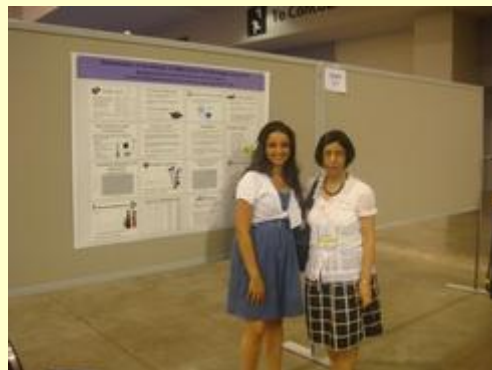
Being part of the honors program at QCC was a life changing experience. The environment of the honors classes includes smaller classrooms, faster covering of the course material, and more challenging exams helped me develop a higher work ethic and discipline. The academic challenges helped me realize how capable I am in conquering any difficulties that are encountered in the classroom by being dedicated to learning the material and putting 100% effort into what I do.

The honors program also provided me with many opportunities such as the Chemistry Research experience. By researching certain topics I was able to put theories into applications, test and prove my own data, and come up with my own conclusions. All the above helped me gain a greater knowledge about the researched topic and develop critical thinking.

The other major aspect of research is getting to present my final work at several national conferences. This gave me a great sense of accomplishment and self-confidence that I would not have developed without the assistance and support of my mentors and professors. These

include Professor Syamala Ranganathan with whom I measured the content of vitamin C in orange juices and Dr. Soraya Svoronos with whom I investigated the quantification of the antioxidant gallic acid in tea beverages.

Last summer I graduated from Queensborough Community College with an AS degree with honors, and transferred to Stony Brook to pursue my BS degree in Biomedical Engineering. I have become a highly motivated person, with science-oriented goals, that I am determined to achieve with all the tools and experience gained from the honors program at QCC.



Rana Said with her mentor Dr. Soraya Svoronos in front of their poster

Conducting Research on Organophosphorus Chemistry: A Route to Identify my Potential

By Jennifer Freire

Albert Einstein once said that “the important thing is not to stop questioning things”. This statement has become more than just a mere quote. It has become a way of life. By working on the synthesis of organophosphorus compounds with Dr. Luis Vargas, my mind has been encouraged and stimulated to learn out of the box. This opportunity for research has taught me that science does not only consist of the experiment one does or what one learns inside a classroom, but the amount of time and heart one puts into understanding the concepts of chemistry, thus life, outside of our natural niche called school. Throughout the years of my academic studies, I have been given numerous opportunities to do research and take higher level courses. However, many of those opportunities have been highly competitive and sometimes non-obtainable, which distinguishes the chemistry department at Queensborough from any other academic institutions. In my opinion Queensborough's



research program allows you to feel useful and is a constant reminder that everyone has far more potential than one would assume. Conducting research has taken me to a higher level of knowledge. Research along with organic chemistry has pushed me and reminded me that life is not about giving up. Life is about fighting until the end it is as the saying goes: if life gives you lemons make lemonade.

Conducting Research on Carbon Nanotubes: An Unusual Experience at a Community College

By Esther Ahn

The Chemistry Department of Q.C.C. offers a very unique academic opportunity for individuals to take the knowledge gained within the classroom and apply it into a practical setting of a laboratory. Gaining research experience as an undergraduate student is a privilege for many, especially when working under the mentorship of prolific and dedicated professors. This past semester, I had the privilege of starting research with Dr. Tirandai Hemraj-Benny in the research on efficient syntheses of carbon nanotubes. Although this semester was spent more on mastering the introduction of laboratory experimental processes as well as learning how to use the various instrumentation and computer software related to the research, the overall

experience has been very rewarding. I have much to look forward to this short winter semester that will be focused on conducting actual synthesis of carbon nanotubes (instead of patiently watching and assisting other students). What I appreciate about the research program at Q.C.C. is the open support and willingness of professors (or mentors) in working with undergraduate students. At other four year institutions, such privilege of working under professor's mentorship is often guarded for graduate students. At Q.C.C., the students have the resources and the opportunity to work at a graduate student level – but it will be up to the individual students to harness this opportunity to enhance and maximize their academic experience.

Conducting Research on Organophosphorus Chemistry:

A Route to Identify my Potential

By Eunchuk Kim

When I first came to Queensborough Community College, I really wanted to transfer to a four-year engineering school the following semester. At that time, my motivation was dying out and all I wanted was to get out and go through some change. I thought the only way to achieve that was to transfer to a four-year institution as soon as possible.

At first, I talked to Dr. Paris Svoronos to register for a regular General Chemistry course just because it was a transferrable part of my pre-engineering curriculum. He looked at my records and started talking about Honors General Chemistry, conducting research under the guidance of a faculty mentor, and how those experiences can change my college life. I became excited and instantly decided to take the challenge. It turned out that I went through the change that would never go away right here in the Chemistry Department. Now I can tell you that that day was one of the major turning points in my life and every single experience I have had in the department up until now contributed to changing me to my present status.

From the first semester of Honors General Chemistry I, I started getting trained for research on the Synthesis of TTPI (3-trimethoxysilylpropyl isocyanurate) stabilized transition metal nanoclusters under the guidance of Dr. Moni Chauhan. I should mention that the experience of conducting research as an undergraduate is an exceptional opportunity and having it in a community college is almost unknown to all other institutions. Having a faculty mentor who always welcomes you when you knock on the door and cares about your personal development is a very special opportunity. I worked in a very nice newly equipped research lab which made me look and feel professional, learned to carry out reactions and use various spectroscopic instruments to analyze the results from experiments. I was able to become an active part of an original research project, discuss the results with my mentor and learned to think analytically and scientifically. It was hard and time-consuming to prepare presentations and posters for meetings and

conferences, but those were the times that I learned the most about my research.

I also have to mention that the travels to conferences and meetings with fellow students and faculty members as well as communicating with the scientific community were extraordinary experiences that made me feel very professional and enthusiastic. All these add to extra nice "records" that would make my resume stand out from the crowd too. You must believe that these are the things that I did not think I would be able to do before I met Dr. Svoronos. I have personally presented my own research findings in six different American Chemical Society (ACS) meetings including two National Meetings in Philadelphia and Washington DC, as well as two QCC Honors Conferences. I was also featured at the official ACS periodical (Chemical and Engineering News) in a photo.

I must also talk about the classroom experience from the Honors Chemistry courses. In the classroom, I was constantly motivated and challenged with assignments and frequent tests. These requirements were not easy at all, but the rewards you get from achieving the goals and meeting expectations more than compensate for the hard work. Dr. Svoronos makes extra efforts to make his students work harder, be responsible, and stay motivated. He works passionately to offer his students chances to realize their potentials. I really needed to get rid of my lazy habits and had to force myself to work hard, and in the process I realized that I could do more than I ever thought. At the end of each challenging semester, I found myself growing confident to face even worse challenges. Becoming a part of an inner community of enthusiastic and motivated students that receives special attention from faculty members is a privilege that only Honors Chemistry students can enjoy. Now I want to say confidently that every single semester that I have spent in the chemistry department has helped me set out my long term goal and prepare a solid foundation for it, even beyond bachelor's degree. It is certainly a life-changing experience.

How PLTL Tutoring Has Helped me Develop as an Honors Student

By Christine Casas

During the last two semesters I had the challenge of taking a total of 13 credits hours of Honors classes in Chemistry. I also had the pleasure of serving as a PLTL tutor for the Chemistry Department at Queensborough Community College.

When the chairman Dr. Paris Svoronos asked me to participate in the Honors Program by becoming a tutor, I must admit I was nervous and afraid that I could not do it. However, the first time I heard a student tell me that she understood a problem that I explained on the blackboard, the fear subsided. Helping students understand chemistry has been a rewarding experience for me for two reasons. First, there is the satisfaction of helping your peers and hearing them say their grades have improved because of your help. Having struggled myself with certain

aspects of chemistry, I feel makes it even more rewarding when I can explain it to someone else and have them understand as well. Second, discussing and explaining chemistry further reinforces the ideas for me. As I teach someone how to work a problem out, I am also practicing and studying at the same time.

I truly believe that the tutoring program is extremely beneficial to all students including myself. I not only tutor other students, but I take advantage of the program myself. It has and continues to be an invaluable resource for me and my fellow students. I am proud and grateful to be a part of this program and hope to be for as long as I am student at Queensborough.

Conducting Organic Synthesis Research: An Enlightening Experience

By Prakash Prasad

Being part of the Honors program at Queensborough Community College has been a rewarding experience. My involvement with this program dealt with conducting research with faculty members, Dr. Sasan Karimi and Dr. Gopal Subramaniam. Working closely with them has enabled me to enhance my knowledge about various syntheses, as well as laboratory techniques to analyze experiments. Working with this program gave me the opportunity to be a part in the contribution of science to our society. Just this past year alone, not only did I present my research to the academic community at Queensborough, but I also presented my findings at the Regional American Chemical Society- Undergraduate Research Symposium, as well as the National American Chemical Society Meeting in Washington D.C.

Being able to participate at these monumental meetings also gave me the chance to network with professors and students from other colleges and universities, and has since been offered spots in graduate programs in at least one university. My current studies at Queens College are not easy but I know it would have been much more difficult should I have not gone through the discipline and hard work research involves.

I encourage anyone to be a part of the Honors program at Queensborough, the benefits and advantages you get are priceless, and the possibilities with this program are endless.

Editor's Note: Dr. Karimi reports that these findings have just been accepted in a submitted publication.

Biotechnology BI-453 Honors Class QCC

By Nidhi Gadura, Ph.D.

Given the community college setting, I was a bit reluctant when I first decided to teach a biotechnology honors course at Queensborough. However, the encouragement I received from some of my colleagues gave me the strength to pursue this challenge. Two semesters later, I still struggle with low enrolment, but now the success of my students is giving me strength. I see bright promising students who might not always

be sure about what they want, however they are willing to work hard when given the chance. It is my job as an educator to believe in them and give them a chance to shine! Over the last two semesters my honors students have given oral/poster presentations not only in-house but also at professional regional conferences where they have won awards. It not only boosts their confidence but also keeps me going. Here are comments from some of my students:

Biotechnology BI-453 Honors Student Fall 2009

By Rachel Hammer

Dr. Gadura's biotechnology class was extremely empowering. It helped me understand the prevalence of this important field through detailed

lectures and practical applications. It afforded me the opportunity to stand amongst undergraduate as well as graduate students and present my findings at the regional biology conference.

Biotechnology BI-453 Honors Student Fall 2009

By Athanasia Pavlou

Attending the biotechnology class with Dr. Gadura here at Queensborough made me realize that there is more to biology than just memorizing names of plants. I learned the genetic engineering of plants and used different plant genomes to look for

genetically modified food in the class. Biotechnology will be rising to help improve hunger in the world and help humans with gene therapy. The Biotechnology honors class made me change my views about biology.

Biotechnology BI-453 Honors Student Fall 2009

By Muhammad Awan

The honors conference for the Biotech class was a really good experience not only for me but also for the whole Biotech class. It gave me a chance to present my project in front of a group of people. It also it gave me an opportunity to share my

thoughts and experiences about Biotechnology with the rest of the students and faculty members. This class gave me a chance to research my project and actually do real life experiments, and show the results from the data that I collected by conducting these experiments.

Service Learning Honor's Project

By Lee Kon Chen

Students in health related fields are required to take Anatomy and Physiology offered by their schools. This is an intense course, which requires effort in understanding and strong memory skills. Through the Anatomy and Physiology's Honor's Service Learning Project, students like me, offer our time and knowledge to the QCC Student Learning Center. We tutor our classmates, who need extra help on the material in the curriculum. We learn the curriculum material ahead of time guided by our mentors, who are professors of

Anatomy and Physiology in the college. This prior learning equips us with the knowledge to assist others. In addition, we train at the Learning Center on how to be a good tutor and how to deal with learning issues. Through service learning, we learn as we tutor others while learning important social skills. Through tutoring and interacting with different students, we learn about diverse ethnic cultures and what issues these different students deal with. Most importantly, we acquire a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction in our lives.

BI-302 Honors/Service Learning Project

By Shazeeda Chintamani

Participating in the Honors/Service Learning program with children from Homes for the Homeless, a homeless shelter in Queens, was one of the most treasured experiences that I have had. The feeling you take away from the entire experience is its true value. I was involved in teaching children who were less fortunate, yet these children never let their lack of fortune define them. When they showed up every week they were happy and so excited to be here. My partner and I taught the kids about Anatomy and Physiology of the body and its individual systems. As the weeks progressed they became inspired to learn more. We came up with fun ways to teach them about the

body by creating activities, that show them that learning can be both informational and fun at the same time. One of the most memorable activities was a fetal pig dissection which allowed them to locate all the parts of the body we learned about. What was amazing to us as well was that by teaching children, we could learn the topic of Anatomy and Physiology to so much more depth. In order to prepare games and activities to teach the kids, we had to really understand the body and how it works. I can only hope that I have the opportunity to be a part of this program again in the coming semesters. I found that not only did we help to inspire them, but they inspired us as well.

Honors Biotechnology Program Experience

By Catherine Lizarraga

I am very happy to have been part in the honors biotechnology program. It was very interesting and exciting to learn all those techniques associated with the field. The most rewarding

experience of all for me was being at the MACUB conference and getting to hear from speakers that are currently involved with the biology field. Overall it was a very rewarding experience for me.

My Summer Internship at the Division of Environmental Protection (DEP): An Experience that is Part of the Honors Chemistry Program

By Haimonti Paul

I took my first honors class at Queensborough in the Chemistry Department. The introductory chemistry honors course was taught by Dr. Jun Shin. Because of my performance in this class I was asked by the chair, Dr. Paris Svoronos, to apply for a summer internship at the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and was paid by an ATE grant that Dr. Svoronos was a co-PI for. I was assigned to work at the Brooklyn, Red Hook site of the New York City DEP. The duties of the

scientists working there was to clean all waste water before releasing it into the river. I was involved with the different processes as part of my work. I was asked to record the data obtained and made my observations on the computer. Although my experience was limited I learned how to apply the concepts I learned in my honors class. In addition, I realized how it is to be in the real world as an employee by knowing that I had to be on time, be serious in what I did and be able to evaluate data.

About the Honors 151 Class at Queensborough

By Colene Singh

The most obvious advantage of the Honors 151 class is that the class is smaller than regular classes. This allows more discussions, interaction among the students as well as closer contact with the professor. It is a very intense class but it provides the advantage of working with highly qualified and motivated students and encourages one to be actively studying in order to keep up with assignments and quizzes, tests and exams as well as the performance of other colleagues.

My math background has been enhanced by this course and it is helping me to prepare for the Math Honors program. I am happy to have had the opportunity to be in the Honors 151 class. There are many advantages of taking this class and I believe that employers, graduate schools and professional schools would value honors work quite highly and I would definitely recommend other students to take this class.

Doors the Chemistry Honors Program at QCC has opened for me

By Daniel Sangobanwo

My experience at the U.S Department of Energy's Science and Energy Research Challenge (SERCh) hosted at Oakridge National Laboratory (ORNL) in Tennessee is one that is both memorable and unforgettable. Being chosen as one of the few to compete in this event is something that I didn't expect but nonetheless took full advantage of. Out of a pool of applicants that participated in summer research internships in National Labs all over the country, just 95 were chosen. I happened to be one of 3 community college students chosen for this event. First of all, I have great gratitude for the Honors program because through it I was made aware of research opportunities in the department and secure the summer internship program at Brookhaven National Laboratory. I have also been able to attend various conferences including the prestigious ACS national conference, where I presented my work done with Dr. Mihaela Bojin. I was thrilled with my experience at Brookhaven National Laboratory because, I was able to incorporate everything being learned in class into my summer research project. The concept behind

the scientific method was deeply implemented into every aspect of the project and this invigorated my desire to learn more. I was a part of a Faculty and Student team (FaST) which included Dr. Seeogjoo Jang from Queens College, my mentor over the summer and Dr John Miller, who is a scientist at BNL. We worked on pulse radiolysis transient absorption spectroscopy of triplet exciton states in end-capped Polyfluorenes. This investigation was carried out to see how excitons, which are a means of transporting energy in silicon solar cells, migrate across organic polymers in an effort to increase the efficiency of organic solar cells which are much affordable in comparison to their silicon counterparts. I was glad to be chosen to present my findings from the work I did over the summer. At ORNL, I met so many people, students, professors and scientists from universities all over the country ranging from Stanford University to Columbia University. It also served as a great networking experience too. If asked to relive that experience, I would a million times over if given the opportunity to do so. I will always show appreciation for the opportunity presented to me by the Honors program at Queensborough Community College.

My experience in Biotechnology

By Avi Appleman

My experience in Biotechnology has made me aware of the power we have in genetics and how to utilize that power for the good. Whether it is for solving crimes, manufacturing desired proteins, exposing the true colors of a cell's genotype or

bringing our knowledge one step closer to understanding molecular life. Seeing the emerging path biology is taking, it is without a doubt that this course is the foundation of future biology.

My experiences at Queensborough have opened many doors for me

By Rosa Rosales

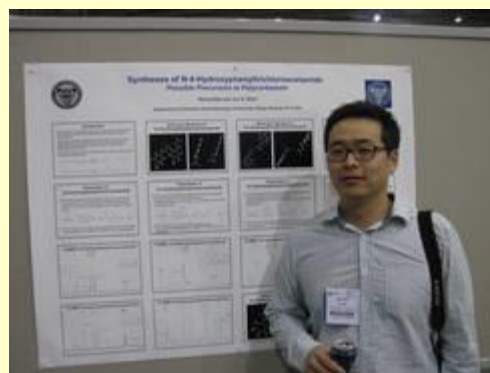
When I was a student in Queensborough Community College, I took advantage of any opportunity that was presented to me. I always want to succeed. My first step was to take a General Chemistry I Honors class with Dr. Paris Svoronos. When I started in that class I was shy, nervous and had poor English skills; however, I had confidence in myself. I believe the class and the mentoring of Dr. Svoronos directed me to a path of various beneficial experiences. I believe that taking honors classes is a privilege for any student because one has the opportunity for a more enhanced learning experience. The second step was to seek an environment where I can do scientific research. Thanks again to Dr. Svoronos, and Dr. Patricia Schneider of the Biology Department, I enjoyed the "Bridges to the Future" program at QCC and I was able to start doing research at York College during the summer of 2004. Being part of the RIMS program, I was able to participate in numerous conferences where I received awards, and also became aware of internship opportunities. From one conference I obtained all of the information necessary in order to apply to different internships for the next year.

After that conference I applied to different programs from which three of them accepted me. I decided to go to Cornell University and had full support from the faculty at QCC.

Another goal that was accomplished at QCC was to be involved in extracurricular activities. I consider this to be a success because of my achievements

volunteering at conferences, being part of the "President Council", and serving as the President of the Chemistry Club.

After I graduated from Queensborough, I transferred to SUNY at Buffalo where I began to fully appreciate the value of my experiences at QCC. After I graduated from SUNY at Buffalo, I started to look for a job but the search was difficult. However, I never lost contact with my professors at QCC. I returned and started working part time at QCC. After two months, I received a call from Pall Corporation, a private industrial pharmaceutical company, which offered me a position as a Lab Analyst in the Biochemistry department. All of my experience from QCC helped me earn the position. Currently, I work at Pall Corporation as a lab analyst, while working part time at QCC teaching a chemistry lab class. I still have big aspirations for myself as I am currently pursuing my Masters in Medical Biology at CW Post LIU.



Kenny Bae mentored by Dr. Jun Shin's QCC Chemistry's Honors Program in front of his poster

Taking Honors Chemistry Classes at Queensborough: An Acquaintance with the Research Work of a Nobel Laureate

By Bhawanie Persaud

As this semester comes to an end so does my final semester in Honors General Chemistry. Throughout the past months I have come to realize that taking part of science honors courses has had a major effect on both my academic and social life. The purpose of science is to stimulate knowledge and to learn about new and interesting topic in our everyday life. As an honors student some of the things that I like the most are: the one-on-one interaction with the professors, the small classes where I get to interact with my classmates and my professors and being given the opportunity to solve problems on the board etc. In addition the thing that I like the most is the dedication of the professors, who sees my

potential and my passion for success and who give me advice that will be beneficial in my studies. This semester I had the opportunity to start my research work with Dr. David Sarno who is actively involved with the synthesis of conducting polymers. This work is related to the work of the late 2000 Nobel laureate Professor Alan MacDiarmid with whom Dr. Sarno worked as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. This is particularly exciting as the concept of the project is or has particular significance in the real world. My findings will be presented both as a power point and a poster in at least four conferences in the next few months including the National American Chemical Society Meeting in Boston MA in August 2010.

Conducting PLTL Tutoring as Part of my Honors Program Participation

By Andre Smithson

The honors program in the Chemistry department at Queensborough Community College has been extremely beneficial to me. Being in the honors program drives me to excellence in all areas of my academic life. I see failure as not an option and anything below a 100 as no good. Because I am in the honors program, I was given the opportunity to tutor.

Tutoring has been superb. Since I am striving for excellence, I try to

pass my drive on to the students I tutor who really appreciate my help. In addition, being in the honors program, has allowed me to be involved with research. In this project, we are identifying heavy metals in substances using X-ray fluorescence. These opportunities would not have been known to me unless I was involved with the Honors Program. In conclusion, I believe the honors program at Queensborough is quite beneficial and all students who seek to excel in life should apply for it.

Biotechnology Student Experience

By Elana Santos

Biotechnology gave me the chance to learn techniques in science and to use these techniques in a hands-on research project. It was such a wonderful experience to present this research

at my first conference. We got to share what we have learned and what we plan to do in the future. It really is great to be in an environment with other students who share a passion for science.

BI-301 Honors/Service Learning Contract

By Inessa Murdakhayeva

Anatomy and Physiology Honors as a Service Learning project is an amazing educational experience. Honors/Service Learning opens one's eyes to more than what is available in books; it provides an opportunity to experience the nature of the subject, and in that manner, to learn course material in a much deeper way. Being one of the

participants in this enlightening curriculum I had a chance to explore nature and interact with animals at the Alley Pond Environmental Center while teaching children topics that included the anatomy and physiology of our local wildlife. The Honors/Service Learning Project transformed mundane learning material into an interactive and exciting venture.

Conducting Research with the department of Biological Sciences and Geology

By Verona Young

I was given an incredible opportunity by Queensborough Community College to engage in Biology research as part of the Bridges Program that is coordinated by Dr. Patricia Schneider. Not only has this experience expanded my knowledge about biology, it familiarized me with working in a lab setting. Working in the lab allowed me to work independently and in groups when necessary. It improved my critical analysis skills,

introduced me to different research methods, and made me think in different, more innovative ways. Research also boosted my confidence. The conferences that I've attended helped build my presentation skills and increase my level of comfort dramatically. The skills that I have developed will help me to further pursue my career. Doing research opened my eyes to several opportunities available in the science field while also solidifying my dreams of becoming a M.D

From Queensborough to John Jay College: How the Honors Program Helped this Transition

By Eva Maria Santos Tejada

As an exchange student at Queensborough Community College, being part of the Honors Program has allowed me to develop certain abilities that I would not be able to discover if I was back home, in the Dominican Republic. This program provided me with a wide variety of opportunities such as small and challenging classes, where the instructor had a more direct and personal communication with the students. Furthermore, the honors program permitted me to perform research under Dr. David Sarno, during the winter and spring semester of 2009. This was a more intimate setting with individuals that were working on specific projects that were focused on a relevant topic that is chemistry related. As a

result, the research experience granted me the opportunity to present my work at the 57th Undergraduate Research Symposium at Pace University in May 2009 as a power point presentation and the 238th National American Chemical Society Meeting in Washington DC in August 2009 as a poster. During these two events, the presentation is done with other students at the national level, mostly juniors and seniors. Simply, The Honors Program is a great investment for students who wish to succeed by challenging their personal and individual capacity. It is an experience that goes one's intellect. Now at John Jay College I can handle the tough forensics program because of the discipline I acquired by taking Honors Chemistry classes.

Honors Courses: A transition from A to Z.

By Ji Suh

In 2005, I was admitted to the chemical engineering program at The Cooper Union (NY) as a transfer student from QCC. I graduated in 2008 and currently in the Masters Program, just a few steps away from receiving my degree. Who would think that it would be possible to go from a community college to a school like Cooper Union? I did not think so either. As a matter of fact, there are not that many students who transfer from community colleges, probably less than 2%. Moreover, if you say that you are from a community college, people tend to think that you

would not be able to survive at Cooper Union, but drop out in a year or so. Indeed, I now think that I would not be able to receive a degree from Cooper Union if it was not for the QCC honors classes. They were highly beneficial in developing problem-solving skills and research techniques. As an honors student, through the guidance of Prof. Svoronos, chair of the Chemistry Department at QCC, I was given an opportunity to conduct organic chemistry research at St. Johns which I think was the most significant factor that made the transition from QCC to Cooper Union possible.

Getting Involved with the Chemistry Honors Program: A reflection on the Class and the PLTL Tutoring Opportunity

By Julet Baltonado

The Chemistry 151 Honors class is a good opportunity for students to benefit from the close intellectual contact with faculty and fellow honors students. Being in this program helped me develop initiative in my academic goals and broaden my knowledge about a range of interesting scientific studies, through the several seminars offered to the honors students throughout the semester. As part of this program, we were expected to do a lot of extra-curricular activities compared to students in non-honors chemistry classes. It allowed me to be more responsible and adapt, and has also helped

me as a tutor. In my PLTL tutoring sessions with fellow students taking general chemistry courses, I was able to use these skills to my advantage. It was very rewarding to be able to impart my own knowledge of the subject matter, and help other students as well, who are just as willing and driven to learn. Tutoring has helped me develop and strengthen my ability in being a leader. I became more confident in myself as a student as well. Overall, I am pleased that I have decided to take the honors class and I will not hesitate to take more because I know this is a good start to distinguish myself from other students.

THE HONORS PROGRAM at Queensborough Community College is a comprehensive academic program that provides an enriched classroom and overall intellectual experience to students who have demonstrated high academic achievement. Honors scholars have an opportunity to expand their knowledge in areas of particular interest, to distinguish themselves among their peers, and to make an acknowledged contribution to the intellectual and cultural life of Queensborough. In this way, honors scholars develop the strong academic and leadership skills required in the pursuit of advanced degrees and challenging careers in New York City and beyond. Honors scholars take a combination of honors and non-honors classes, and may earn honors credits through honors contacts. To graduate as an honors scholar, students are required to complete successfully a minimum of 12 honors credits and have earned an overall 3.40 GPA. Transfer credits are not included. No special or extra fees or costs are required to register for honors classes.