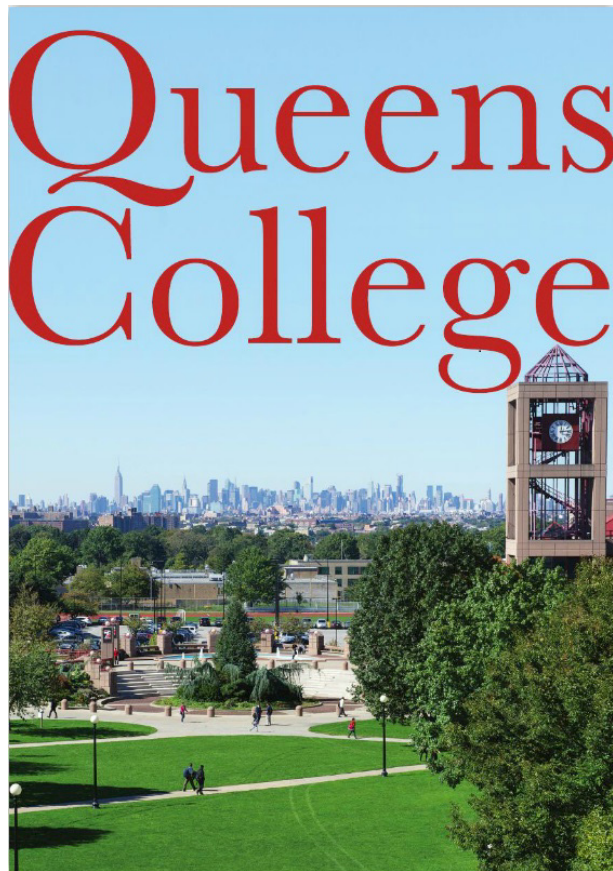


**Toyohashi University of Technology,
Institute for Global Network Innovation in
Technology Education**

News from QC

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■ Reports

If winter comes in Queens...

Fumitake Kato, National Institute of Technology, Ibaraki College

Introduction Winter has come in Queens, finally. When I was writing this script, the temperature outside was 41 °F (still in the beginning of November!). By the way, on July 4th the day we GFD members arrived in JFK airport, it was about 77°F. Literally the temperature dropped 36°F, while we have been spending three seasons in New York. Let us look back the days in New York.

1) Summer semester (ELI Class)

We eagerly studied English at English Language Institute (ELI) of Queens College, from morning to evening. The classes were divided into writing, listening, reading, and speaking. Each class was quite tough for me, especially writing class was very “impressive”. Once in a week, we had to write an essay about a specified topic, such as working mother, education, jobs, and other social topics. The evaluations’ criteria were strict, and it was very difficult to take “A”. Every time I submitted it, Professor Debbie Horowitz gave me comments and advices in grammar, vocabulary, and the structure. Her class and advices were very strong and strict, but they were very significant and had strong impact to me. I felt her teaching style was traditional but intrinsic. It was quite a fresh air for me to think about teaching style in the future.

2) Fall semester (Regular Class)

From the end of August, fall semester has started. Using the English skills we learned in the summer semester, we have been attending classes we chose. “Unexpectedly” I had to take Electromagnetism and now I have been

studying again as a student. I’m really impressed the style and approach of teaching it. I think it might be quite different from Japanese style. But every class was very informative and inspiring.

3) Queens the city of films (extra story)

After the arrival in Queens College, I realized Queens often appears in films. For example, Men in Black (1997) is famous one of them. As shown in the photo below, Flushing Meadow Corona Park might remind you the scene of a UFO crashed in the middle of the park. Another one is "Spider Man: Homecoming". Watching the film, some scenes reminded me the downtown in Queens Borough.



Photo: Flushing Meadow Corona Park

In addition, the campus of Queens College is often used for the filming for several movies. I am not sure what film they are taking, but I saw filming crews were working. Unfortunately I could not see the actors.

Summary We have about 40 days left to finish our training in New York. From the summer to winter, thanks to the many supports

by professors and staff in QC and TUT, we could keep training well and learn many things in English language, American lifestyle, education, science, and technology. If winter

comes in Queens, can Training in Malaysia be far behind? We always appreciate everybody and do our best.

Classes in fall at Queens College

Tamio Iida, National Institute of Technology, Gifu College

1. Introduction

Almost four months have passed since we came to New York. Our faculty development program has less than half the time remaining. When we arrived here, I felt that the day was very long because it was bright outside from around 5 am until 9 pm. However, recently the day has gotten shorter. I feel the cycle of the seasons is the same as in Japan.

There were many record-scale natural disasters in the US this summer. I often heard news about hurricanes, floods, wildfire and so on during the summer, and I just hope that extreme weather such as a deep freeze or heavy snow will not continue in the fall and winter.

2. Classes in fall semester

I have taken four classes so far since the fall semester began. One of them is an English communication skills class credit. In every class, the students prepare a summary of newspaper articles and contents of TV program, and discuss about them. Also, the students will make presentations. Especially, it is emphasized to identify issues and to have opinions and critical thinking in this class. Therefore, the teacher repeatedly asks the students, "What is the problem?" and "Why do you think so?" A class which focuses on discussion was not familiar to me, so I've learnt a lot.

Moreover, I observed Electromagnetics and Optics as my special subjects. These classes

were traditional style using white boards and power points, but I felt a big difference from classes in Japan because there were a lot of questions from the students during the class, and the teacher answered them quickly and accurately. I also wanted to take classes other than my special subjects. Therefore, I attended psycholinguistics classes taught by Prof. Eva Fernandez, who is one of the coordinators of our program. Of course, since special subjects are different, there are a lot of words and contents which I heard for the first time. However, her classes are structured very clearly, because she prepares a lot of examples, pictures, diagrams, sounds, and movies. From the viewpoint of doing classes which are easy to understand, these classes were a very meaningful opportunity for me.



A psycholinguistics class by Prof. Eva

On the whole, in my case, it has still been difficult to listen and understand in detail what the teacher said, but I am enjoying the classes

with the feeling of returning as a college student.

3. **TiE and ALS**

We are taking two special classes which are called Teaching in English(TiE) and Academic Language Support Course(ALS) apart from classes of QC. In the TiE class, we discuss problems and solutions about case study of various students when teachers give the class. Topics in this class make me think very much about not only English, but also student education and learning styles. In addition, we mainly learn the pronunciation of technical terms and grammar in the ALS class.

4. **ELI evening classes**

From the weekday evening, I have ELI evening classes which are Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking as well as in the summer program. In the evening classes, the age group is high, and the text is also for adults if anything. Therefore, I enjoy the class with fresh feelings since the atmosphere of the classes are very different from summer classes.

5. **Daily life**

The people of New York are lively and excited at every season event. Now, the whole NY is in full Halloween mode. In the Dunkin

Donut shop, very uncanny color donuts are sold for Halloween version. Of course, there are a lot of Halloween decorations in the Summit and the QC campus as well. The QC campus is full of pumpkins. In the Summit, many events for decorating and drawing pictures of Halloween were held, and I feel that it is a very cheerful atmosphere.



A lot of pumpkins on QC campus

6. **Summary**

I think that acts of collecting my own thoughts using different languages and acts of reviewing my own thoughts objectively is common, in a sense. Furthermore, there is no doubt that it would be an important skill when I want to explain clearly the course material to students in the class or write academic papers. I only have two months remaining, I would like to learn that skill as much as I can.

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