

Student

Tren Qu is seen here in his formal portrait for the cover of the April 16 USA Today.



Qu Knows No Limitations

Zichuan “Tren” Qu, 22, Overland Park, has spent three of his four years in the United States attending classes at JCCC. In May, Qu,

will receive an associate of art degree with 108 credit hours and, as of this writing, a grade point of 4.0.

Qu was named to the All-USA Academic First Team Community and Junior Colleges in a national competition sponsored by USA Today, the American Association of Community Colleges and Phi Theta Kappa. The JCCC student will be presented with a medallion and \$2,500 check at the AACC’s convention April 16 in Tampa and featured in a full-page article of the April 16 USA Today.

Qu is also a New Century Scholar, the top scholar in Kansas in a state-level competition, earning him \$2,000 from the Coca-Cola Foundation, and a 2006 Congressional Award Gold Medalist.

At JCCC, Qu is Student Senate president, Phi Theta Kappa vice president and a Civic Honors graduate. He has earned an Emergency Medical Technician certificate, and is one of the first JCCC students to matriculate from JCCC’s honors program to the University of Kansas honors program as part of a new agreement. Qu’s plans are to earn a bachelor of arts degree in biology and bachelor of science degree in chemistry/pre-med and then continue to medical school.

While Qu is a stellar scholar, his spirit of volunteerism is equally impressive. He has volunteered at Shawnee Mission Medical Center and KU Medical Center. Wanting to hone his hands-on medical skills, Qu volunteers for the American Red Cross Greater Kansas City Chapter as a disaster responder and first aid care

provider. He has responded to 16 fires to date and helped Katrina victims during spring break 2006. As vice president of Phi Theta Kappa, he helped raise \$1,200 and collect nonperishable foods for Katrina victims. As part of sociology class honors contract, Qu lived incognito five days in the City Union Mission’s men shelter and completed a 7,000-word paper on his field research presented at the Kansas Sociological Society annual meeting in October 2006.

“This community has given me a second chance in life,” Qu said. “This community has taught me how to smile, and I want to put a smile again on other people by helping to relieve their suffering.”

Because of his interest in teaching first aid, Qu became an assistant Scout master for Boy Scout Troop 186, Lenexa. Then in January 2006, he started volunteering as a Dream Manager for the Dream Factory of Greater Kansas City and has helped three children with life-altering illnesses to complete their dreams.

“Whether I’m paid or not, people count on me as a professional,” Qu said of his volunteer activities.

The Student Senate president has taken a leadership role in engaging other students in philanthropic endeavors. But Qu believes the Senate is more than philanthropic; it’s also governmental. The Senate is leading an effort to present a comprehensive smoking policy on campus.

While a JCCC 2006 Men’s Athletic Academic Champion, Qu has a self-deprecating assessment of his athletic prowess in cross country and track: “In practice, I always finished last; however, I always aimed to finish.” He has applied the same model to academic and volunteer work.

“After increasing my running distance from 20 miles per week in high school to 60-70 miles per week on JCCC Cross Country Team in less than four months, I’ve learned that people’s real limitations are not as great as their perceived ones,” he said. “When I have so much on my plate, perseverance gets me through.”

**Qu was the JCCC 2006 Men's
Athletic Academic Champion.**

