



### **Photo Finish – Armstrong Lim Finds a New Calling at KCC**



*Armstrong Lim*

Since 1981, the My Turn Program has welcomed older adults to take courses at Kingsborough Community College tuition-free. The My Turn experience opens new doors and broadens the horizons of its participants, many of whom have lived long, fulfilled lives with careers and families yet may not have had the time or resources to fully pursue their academic interests.

Armstrong Lim, a My Turn Student and the founder of the *Armstrong and Dorothy Lim Scholarship Fund*, has enjoyed a particularly eye-opening experience here at Kingsborough. Inspired by his positive experience at the college, his scholarship is awarded annually to two outstanding photography students, each of whom has demonstrated both talent and initiative in their Kingsborough endeavors. “I started this fund so that students can have extra money to help them stay in college,” he says. “I see so many young, talented photographers who struggle financially, so I help them as much as I can.”

For most of his career, Armstrong had worked as a janitorial custodian, yet he had long harbored an interest in the arts. “It was very difficult to find time to learn about art, because I worked such long hours,” he says. Yet when his wife Dorothy began attending My Turn classes at Kingsborough, Armstrong was inspired to follow her lead.

For the past eight years, Armstrong has thrived as a My Turn student. While Dorothy has immersed herself in computer classes, Armstrong has taken courses in photography, ceramics and sculpture: “I always wanted to depict the natural world around me, and I have found incredible ways to do that through art.” Of all the media he tried, photography would emerge as his favorite:



Armstrong’s photography captures both the splendor and character of the Kingsborough campus and other natural settings. He is particularly proud of having his work featured in a Red Hook photography show, alongside the work of fellow standout photography students at Kingsborough. Armstrong also sees himself as a mentor to the younger students in his classes. “I tell them that art is a lifelong passion,” he says. “Art is something you should do every day, as much as you can.”

At 79 years of age, Armstrong Lim has a lot to be proud of, from his long career before Kingsborough to his artistic awakening as a My Turn student. And yet for all that he has accomplished, he shows no signs of slowing down: “I’m still taking photos, but I’m trying new things, too. I just started watercolor painting.”



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