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# THE KNIGHT NEWS



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Breaking News & Video

Journalism in the Interest of the Queens College Community

# QUEENS COLLEGE WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT



President Felix Matos  
Rodriguez joins the  
Queens College family

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Photo courtesy of Edna Barth

Remembering 50 Years  
after Freedom Summer

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QC begins with the Year  
of South Africa

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# STAFF EDITORIAL

This past summer was the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer, where activists went to Mississippi to register blacks to vote. Amid the turmoil that resulted when such efforts started, major victories were achieved with one example being the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The act protected the right of blacks to register and to vote.

Queens College is a part of the rich history of Freedom Summer with some QC students going to assist in Mississippi. Most notably, however, is the death of James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner by members of the Ku Klux Klan. It is why the tower near the Rosenthal Library is called the Chaney-Goodman-Schwerner Clock Tower.

It should be noted that while there were gains that benefitted future generations, there are still serious setbacks. A prime example could be found in Ferguson, Mo., where Michael Brown, an unarmed black youth, was killed by Officer Darren Wilson, a white police officer. In what is chilling, Brown's

body was left in the street for four hours after the shooting.

Members in the Ferguson community became angered by what was happening and marched in the streets for justice. The spirit of Freedom Summer was not identical to what happened in the city, but the clamor for a voice and respect was still the same.

Frederick Douglass, a famous American activist and abolitionist in the 19th century, famously stated "if there is no struggle, there is no peace." What is happening today is a struggle to obtain the peace millions have wanted. It requires a change of the system with emphasis on the community and on tranquility.

Bernard LaFayette Jr., a civil rights activist who co-founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, wrote in his autobiography of activism in Selma, Ala., "the value of life lies not in longevity but in what people to give significance."

As it was then in Freedom Summer, it is now that members of not only Ferguson, Mo., but

those affected by systemic violence have the opportunity to bring change. What was accomplished by activists then and what activists in Ferguson are accomplishing now is significant. It is the spirit of change and correcting injustices that fuels such actions.

The memories of Freedom Summer, as told by some media outlets and activists who were around that time, provide a template for the future. This template is not definite as new problems arise. Yet, new activists can determine the narrative of what change they want for future generations just as people like Goodman wanted for us.

Every time the bell rings from the Clock Tower, it serves as a reminder for all of us that there is still a chance to "give significance" in someone's life. It starts with determination to achieve peace.

## MISSION STATEMENT:

**"We aim to serve the Queens College community through a tireless pursuit for truths that may be hidden, obstructed or otherwise unknown, to empower our readers with the information they need to inspire change."**

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# New president adjusts to life on campus

**BRANDON JORDAN**  
News Reporter

New Queens College President Felix Matos Rodriguez attempted to decorate his office in Queens Hall. However, he attended events throughout campus over the past few weeks since his appointment.

From welcoming incoming residents in The Summit to speaking with incoming faculty members, the number of events Rodriguez appeared at is still growing in order to familiarize himself with the campus.

Rodriguez called this “busy but very good busy.” He mentioned how important QC is as a community and was “eager to connect” with faculty, staff and students.

On June 30, 2014, the CUNY board of trustees unanimously voted to appoint Rodriguez as the new president of Queens College starting Aug. 28. He succeeded Interim President Evangelos Gizis, who was appointed after the departure of former President James Muyskens.

“It has been a hectic but really warm. People have been extremely friendly in both face-to-face encounters that I’ve had in meetings and events. I’ve got a nice group of emails, cards and letters wishing me well. It has been incredibly warm and I am hoping I can reciprocate the warmth



PHOTO BY BRANDON JORDAN

Queens College President Felix Matos Rodriguez adjusts to his new job in his temporary office in Queens Hall.

back,” Rodriguez said.

President Rodriguez was educated in the Ivy Leagues as he studied as an undergraduate at Yale University. He later received a Ph.D from Columbia University after studying history.

His previous position was president at Hostos Community College, located in the Bronx, where he held the post since 2009. As a result of the new position at QC, David Gomez replaced Rodriguez as Interim President of Hostos.

Current Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., who worked with Rodriguez in the past, praised the appointment of Rodriguez as QC president.

In a public statement, he stated Rodriguez “made a tremendous impact on the life of

countless students and residents in the Bronx during his five years serving as President of Eugenio Maria de Hostos Community College.”

“Felix has demonstrated a commitment to public service and to the success of all students. I, as well as the 1.4 million residents of the Bronx, thank Felix for his great leadership and a job well done and wish him continued success in his new position,” Diaz Jr. said.

President Rodriguez was born and raised in Puerto Rico before coming to the U.S. to attend college. In fact, prior to his position as the president of Hostos, he worked as Secretary of the Department of Family Affairs in the Puerto Rican government from 2006 to 2008.

The Department of Family

Affairs is one of 15 executive departments of the Puerto Rican government. It mainly deals with social aspects of the country and providing help to citizens.

Under his tenure, the commonwealth experienced, for example, a boost in literacy after free books were provided to children, an introduction of a new law to prevent child abuse and a health care program set up to provide medical insurance for foster care minors.

Rodriguez mentioned how it was more of a collective effort in the department for such achievements as he listened to what his staff recommended and follow-up on that. In fact, he stated it was the same for when he was president of Hostos.

In addition, he was once

a professor at Hunter College as well as holding other public and private sector posts. He currently holds positions in the Council of Foreign Relations, Bronx Chamber of Commerce and Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

Sara Just-Michael, secretary of the Student Association, stated President Rodriguez was a “fun-spirited man” in the few times the organization met with him.

“We are very excited by the appointment of President Rodriguez. We had a great relationship with Presidents Muyskens and Gizis and are looking forward to building the same kind of tight relationship with President Rodriguez,” Just-Michael said.

Rodriguez stated he enjoyed the student events he went to as it gave “hope and faith in the world” due to the diversity of the student body. However, before acting on any new policies or changes for QC, President Rodriguez stressed the importance of listening to people at the college.

“The most important idea so far is to listen and to learn. It is the most important thing for going forward,” Rodriguez said.

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## Queens College celebrates the Year of South Africa

**STEPHANIE CHUKWUMA**  
News Reporter

This year, as part of The Year of Country Program, Queens College chose to celebrate the Year of South Africa.

To show QC’s dedication to global education, each year QC focuses on the diverse contributions of a specific country. During the 2012-2013 academic year, QC focused on India. For the 2013-2014 academic year, QC learned more about Brazil. Now, for the 2014-2015 academic year, QC will be focusing on South Africa, the twenty-fifth largest country in the world by land area with a population of approximately 53 million.

“I think it’s great for the campus to focus on a different country or region each year,” Assistant Vice Provost, Eva Fernández, who helped supervise the project through the Center of Teaching and Learning said.

The Year of South Africa is a collaborative effort, involving

Project Director Dr. Marleen Kassel, members of the faculty and staff in the Advisory Committee and contributions from all around campus.

“The goal is to build upon existing strengths and ties in order to create new ones,” according to the Mission Statement for Provost’s Delegation of the Year of South Africa.

Ms. Marleen Kassel, Director of Asian Initiatives and International Programming is excited about the program and what it can offer to QC students.

“To me, The Year of Country is a very important program for the campus community,” Kassel said. “It is a way of bringing information—often late-breaking and news-making information—to campus in a less formal format than semester-long classes.”

The Year of Country Initiative is a way to celebrate South Africa’s accomplishments in the fields of art, music, dance, history and literature. This will include special events on



PHOTO BY JORDI SEVILLA

The Year of South Africa flag that hangs near Delaney Hall on the Quad.

campus like a South Africa vs. the World football match, a Year of South Africa museum and “Cool Rhythms, Hot Moves: The Queens College Dance Concert.”

Students even have the opportunity to incorporate South Africa into their classroom studies by taking one of three lecture courses centered around South Africa: English 364: South African

Life-Writing, English 162W: The Space of South African Drama and Anthropology 375: The Human-Primate Interface.

QC also gives students and faculty the chance to get involved by applying to study abroad in South Africa during the winter session from Jan. 1 - 25. Students have the option of studying either Aspects of Drama or Humans and Nature in Cape Town, South Africa.

These events are supposed to be fun for students to engage in, but it seems that the advisory committee for the Year of Country Initiative have a larger objective at hand, which is to construct a universally conscious community at QC.

“The programs on campus bring specialists from all around the world,” Kassel said.

QC faculties and students welcome South African choreographer Sduduzo Ka-Mbili and actress and writer, Pauline Malefane.

“Each year brings its own

opportunities,” Kassel said.

The future countries of study are: 2015-2016 Year of Silk Roads, 2016-2017 Year of Korea and 2017-2018 Year of Russia.

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# Chancellor meets with Queens College community on CUNY tour

**BRANDON JORDAN**

*News Reporter*

CUNY Chancellor James Milliken visited Queens College on Aug. 5 to speak with members of the community.

Milliken spoke in The Summit Flex Space with people about their background, particularly what QC meant to them and their suggestions for improving Queens and CUNY in general.

Three different groups met with Milliken separately to chat with him. He first met with administration, followed by faculty and finally with alumni and students.

His visit to QC is a part of a tour to all CUNY colleges before the academic year begins.

“He wanted to reach out to as many people across the university as he possibly could from the moment he took the job. He’s been working all summer long doing just that,” Michael Arena, university director for Communications and Marketing, said.

Milliken was appointed by the CUNY board of trustees

on Jan. 15 with his first official day as Chancellor on June 1 after succeeding former Interim Chancellor William Kelly. He was chosen among a pool of other potential nominees after a unanimous vote by the board of trustees.

Benno Schmidt, the chair of the board, stated Milliken was “a highly regarded national leader in higher education.”

James Milliken was the President of the University of Nebraska system since 2004 and left earlier this year. In fact, before speaking to students, Milliken told the group of how he was reminded of his time there when he arrived to the campus.

“This is a beautiful place. You have such a wonderful place and it reminds of me Nebraska,” Milliken said.

Xingcan Li, a QC alumnus, stated he enjoyed the structure of the meetings as it gave students, current and former, a chance to speak on important issues.

“I really like this environment



PHOTO BY BRANDON JORDAN

Students, as pictured above, were able to take photos with Chancellor James Milliken (fourth from the right) at the meeting.

because the students, faculty and administrators are separated,” Li said.

In addition, Li cited how important the visits by the Chancellor were considering the amount of colleges he’s visited.

“CUNY is a huge system with 21 campuses and each campus must have its own appeal and issues to deal with,” Li said. “We have a chance to speak out on issues of our campus.”

In addition to speaking with Milliken on their background, students were able to take group photos with him.

Raj Maheshwari, president of Student Association stated the event provided students an “ability to connect” with the Chancellor in a unique setting.

“It promotes the whole idea of being transparent. It gives the Chancellor an opportunity to connect with each campus

individually,” Maheshwari said.

Overall, Milliken told the group of students the meetings throughout the CUNY system were a “terrific experience.”

Maheshwari said such experiences are valuable for students.

“I feel that the university offers endless opportunities to students all across the city. While it is important to know of these events, it is more important to take advantage of them,” Maheshwari said. “Certain opportunities like these don’t come often; but when they do, we just have to go grab them.”

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## Queens College alumni filmmakers win at 34th annual Telly Awards

**MACARENA GOMEZDELATORRE**

*News Reporter*

Queens College alumni Jason Figueira and Anthony Saldana received three Telly Awards this past summer for their short documentary titled “Access: Democracy in a Digital Age.”

With 12,000 entries from all 50 states and other countries, Figueira, director and producer, and Saldana, producer, won the Bronze award.

The Tellys honor film and video productions, online content as well as local, regional and cable television commercials and programs.

“Access: Democracy in a Digital Age” is a short documentary about the history of public access television. It aired in 2011 on numerous local stations in NYC and Chicago.

Figueira and Saldana realized their friendship was an integral and essential part of their awards and professional success. Now, as they emerge as consolidated and recognized filmmakers in the industry, they look ahead to their future with confidence and optimism.

The filmmakers met in a cafeteria on campus in 2004 and

became friends after discovering that they shared similar passions and values.

“We would take media classes together and serve on the board of Catholic Newman Club. Since graduating in 2008, Jason has been a big support system in my career thus far,” Saldana said.

They also attribute their education at QC to their success in filmmaking. The two agreed their professors had a lasting influence on their career path.

“The education I received from QC was life changing, especially in my senior year when I decided to take television production classes,” Figueira said. “Before that, I was too shy to take such courses seeing as I did not have much self-confidence. However, after taking those classes, I saw that I did have the capacity to work in all phases of media from pre-production to post-production.”

After graduation, life was not easy for these two filmmakers. In fact, the transition between graduation and starting their professional careers represented a challenge in itself.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JASON FIGUEIRA AND ANTHONY SALDANA  
Director/Producer Jason Figueira and Co-producer Anthony Saldana receive a Telly Award for their new documentary.

Figueira described this time of his life as “extremely difficult.” Although he got a MFA in Documentary from Hofstra University, he went through almost two years of unemployment while dealing with Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

“It took a lot of prayer and strong support from my wonderful friends, families, and doctors to make it through that time but, by God’s grace, I was able to and today I have five awards to show as evidence of it,” Figueira said.

During this difficult period of time, Saldana not only witnessed Figueira’s struggle, but also he stuck by him with support. In 2010 he produced and directed “We’re Ordinary People,” a documentary about blind people with Figueira’s assistance.

The two hope to share their experiences with aspiring filmmakers at QC.

“Don’t be afraid to study something you love, no matter what others say. Don’t be in a rush to

graduate and take as many media studies, film studies, journalism and even theater classes. This is the time to learn what you like and what you don’t. Show professors this is your passion,” Saldana said.

Figueira believes, with our world of ever expanding technology, new stories and characters can be shared with a multitude of audiences.

Figueira’s next film will be a self-portrait about his struggle with OCD while Saldana continues to work on other topics as a documentary about visually impaired artists and an audio documentary about gay and disabled activist Harry Wieder.

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# CUNYGlitch: Main system crashes on first day

**ZEVI CHABUS**  
News Reporter

On the first day of the fall semester, CUNYfirst crashed, preventing students from performing various academic activities.

CUNYfirst, which stands for City University of New York Fully Integrated Resources and Services Tool, is an online management system that is used by CUNY students, faculty and staff.

For students, the primary purposes of CUNYfirst are to add or drop courses, pay tuition bills, see course information (such as the times and locations that they meet), find out which textbooks are required for their courses and more.

According to the Office of Converging Technologies at Queens College, the reason for this crash was due to more colleges using CUNYfirst than ever before. OCT estimated that about 5000 students “were all trying to log in at the same time to do the same thing. Imagine 5000 people trying to press one button at the same time.”

They suggested that students use

MyQC to view course schedules in order to reduce the flow of traffic on CUNYfirst.

Before the system crashed, QC sent an e-mail to students informing them that CUNYfirst was difficult to access. Shortly after the system crashed, the Provost sent an e-mail to students informing them that the date for a 100 percent tuition refund was being pushed back from the first day of classes to the end of the business day on Sept. 3.

Additionally, the Provost said that students would not be charged a late registration fee or change of program fee until Thursday, Sept. 4, when the 50 percent refund policy would be in effect.

For students who needed to add or drop courses, the Provost said that they should go to the One Stop Center in the Dining Hall or the Advising Center in Kiely Hall to fill out add/drop requests on a paper form. These forms would then be processed by the Registrar in the order that they were received.

However, the CUNYfirst failure did not impact every student equally.

“I printed my schedule



PHOTO BY AMANDA GOLDSTEIN

The failure of CUNYfirst on the first day of classes affected students accessing their schedule and financial aid.

already,” freshman Javier Barrera said, adding that the fact that CUNYfirst crashed did not really affect him.

Another freshman said that he checked CUNYfirst the day before the semester started and the day after, but not on the first day of the semester and only heard vaguely that the system crashed on the first day of classes.

The problem is being handled by CUNY Central. According to OCT, they plan to fix the problem by next semester. A statement that is visible on CUNYfirst after logging in says, “The University is working closely with our technology partner, Oracle, to resolve the issues that caused the service problems.”

The statement further says that “Oracle had previously performed tests to ensure that the system could handle peak usage (which occurs at the semester’s start), and CIS will continue to work with Oracle to review these tests and make the necessary changes to the system.”

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## Media theorist revolutionizes media studies masters program

**BRIDGET GLEASON**  
News Reporter

Douglas Rushkoff, world-renowned media theorist, joined Queens College’s media studies department this semester to establish a media masters program.

Rushkoff’s passion for media brings excitement to the QC community due to his notable presence in the industry. Other scholars and programs rave about Rushkoff’s groundbreaking theory of how the digital age we now live in is constantly changing our daily lives.

“I am extremely enthusiastic about being at Queens College. It’s a uniquely friendly campus, with students, researchers and teachers who are truly grateful for this privilege of time, space and collegial support,” Rushkoff said.

Rushkoff began teaching Propaganda and Media Theory this fall.

The media studies chair, Richard Maxwell, was also enthused with Rushkoff on board by taking the already acclaimed media studies

program to the next level. Maxwell said how Rushkoff brings his inventiveness to the table.

“Which is fundamental when you are trying to create a unique and exciting graduate experience,” Maxwell said.

Professor Rushkoff did not always see himself teaching at an institution like QC. Instead he said he saw [himself] “teaching at some private college”.

“I learned more about student debt and economic inequality and realized I’d be much happier at a public college, where I can teach a wider range of people, without feeling guilty,” Rushkoff said.

Rushkoff and Maxwell both expressed their confidence in developing a one of a kind masters program. Rushkoff said he wants to establish a graduate program that offers a new way of engaging with ideas while turning students into people who see the world open to their intervention.

“Sometimes it’s hard to



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOUGLAS RUSHKOFF

Media expert Douglas Rushkoff joins the QC media studies department.

get that something world-class is occurring in your own back yard,” Rushkoff said. “It’s going to be a crowd of scholars and activists from around the world coming and doing crazy, exciting things that then gets the attention of the rest of Queens.”

“The masters program is an ambitious one that intends to be a top U.S. destination for graduate studies in media and digital culture,” Maxwell said.

The professor title is one more accomplishment to add to the list for Rushkoff, who is very well known and respected in the industry for his work on how media is playing an overpowering role in our lives.

Most recently Rushkoff debuted his twelfth novel, “Present Shock When Everything Happens Now.” In it Rushkoff explores the changes in technology that have

transformed our thinking about time, being present and the value of life.

Rushkoff also made appearances on NPR and The Colbert Report. In his second appearance on Colbert, the satirical host proclaimed to him, “You just blew my mind!”

Rushkoff projected words of wisdom to his students and for this generation who are consumed by media products and are constantly on social media.

“Learn to look into people’s eyes. It changes everything,” Rushkoff said.

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# Investments in QC will improve resources for students

**FERNANDO ECHEVERRI**  
News Reporter

New York State made a large investment into all public universities for their 2014-2015 budget, adding over \$3.2 billion in overall funding to CUNY, according to the CUNY 2014-15 State Adopted Budget Preliminary Analysis.

From the budget, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo announced \$55 million for the second round of CUNY 2020 awards, a competitive funding program that combines economic growth with academic excellence, which has funded a total of eight projects.

Part of this appropriation includes \$1.5 million, shared by Queensborough Community College and Queens College, to develop an Advanced Manufacturing Center focused on 3D printing.

3D printing is the process of creating objects with a virtual 3D blueprint, by adding plastic, ceramics

or metals, automatically, layer by layer.

Keeping the initiative and pushing forward is what QC is all about, and Vice President of Finance and Administration William Keller wants the students to benefit from their hard work.

"We are part of three winning proposals in the CUNY 2020 Program, including the creation of a new health clinic to teach allied health professions. We are in the process of writing our second grant for the next round of funding," Keller said.

QC received \$2 million in new capital funding from Senator Avella to create and renovate science laboratories, Keller said. In addition, QC received an additional \$13 million in critical maintenance dollars. The money will be used to fix our heating and air conditioning systems, and for general infrastructure improvements.

In addition, QC is receiving money to finish construction on Kiely Hall and to redesign broadcasting center for the Media department,

Keller said.

What is easier to quantify is the amount the city has appropriated to QC.

By having a close relationship with the city council members and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Assistant Vice President of External and Governmental Relations Jeffrey Rosenstock was able to appropriate \$5.8 million for various projects in QC.

"The biggest argument I have is this, we have amazing students, the school is very competitive to get into, we amazing faculty [and] we need the same resources as a private institution," Rosenstock said.

By talking directly with council members during meetings and socializing at public events, Rosenstock developed a relationship with each council members, making sure money for QC was an absolute priority.

The QC administration is also upgrading the speech and hearing

center, which is a \$3 million dollar project stated Rosenstock. The college appropriated \$1.25 million from Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, with a total of \$2.75 million retrieved for the project.

"Since the speech therapy center is utilized by speech language pathologists who treat the public, they would benefit significantly with more space and more updated tools for treatment," Katherine Salazar, a 22-year-old speech language pathology major, said.

The state Senate has also approved an additional \$34 million to the Tuition Assistance Program, New York State's financial aid program.

The program awards students based on necessity, while maintaining above a "C" average, with awards being between \$500 - \$5,245 every year, according to the NY State Higher Education Services Corporation.

This has been a great improvement from the last 25 years, which has seen a decrease

in state funding which pushed the QC administration to pursue other means of revenue, such as opening the Department of Campus Event Services.

"We learn so that we may serve. We're achievers and our students are going to top graduate schools. Look at our ratings. We need to make sure our students are getting the same resources as private institutions," Rosenstock said.

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## A \$2 million renovation for the laboratories in Remsen Hall

**DEBORAH WATMAN**  
News Reporter

On July 18, State Senator Tony Avella presented Interim President Evangelos Gizis with a \$2 million grant to enable renovations of chemistry labs in Remsen Hall.

On his tour around Remsen, Avella immediately realized that work needed to be done. On referring to one of the labs, he said "it is, unfortunately, very clear that this research lab needs to be upgraded."

"Education is key to the future of our children and we, as legislators, need to ensure that every college, especially within the City University of New York, has the best resources to provide our children with the best possible education," Avella said.

Built in 1949, Remsen Hall, named after famous chemist Ida Remsen who began the first PhD program for chemistry in the United States, is home to many of Queens College's science departments. It is the primary location for chemistry research labs as well as many physics labs. Many of these labs have not been renovated and look the same way they did over fifty years ago.

The strong concrete and brick building, or the "above ground bomb

shelter" as Robert Engel, interim dean of Mathematics and Natural Sciences referred to it, provides an environment for many of the experiments that are conducted within. There are many vibration sensitive experiments, such as those that use the nuclear magnetic resonance as well as many lasers for physics projects that are protected by the building.

Discussions of renovating the labs originated back in 2010. However, the lack of funds made it difficult. Senator Avella allocated, through a capital funding resolution, money intended for the lab renovations.

Engel credited Jeffrey Rosenstock, the institutional development and major gifts officer of QC, for the renovation. Rosenstock acted as the liaison between the chemistry department and the senate's office and helped with the entire process.

The latest addition to Remsen, designed specifically to ensure safe undergraduate teaching labs, was completed five years ago. Specifically built to hold 25 students, the large chemistry labs are still difficult to teach in, but now manageable because the instructor can see every student from the front of the room and provide better guidance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AISHA HASSAN

With a \$2 million check in hand, state Senator Tony Avella poses with former interim President Evangelos Gizis in a lab of Remsen Hall.

Professor Michael Mirkin was appreciative of the money allocation as his work is hindered by the unsafe and unsanitary conditions. When radiators spew dust and microscopic particles are blown from old woodwork and rusting pipes, his experiments are greatly affected. There is no fume hood in the lab, which Mirkin says is "as silly as for a writer to live with no pen or word

processor."

"Without a hood, my students have to work in the unhealthy environment and their ability to perform chemical synthesis and related procedures are limited," Mirkin said.

Mirkin says he is excited for the day to come when "my group members may stop working in a dilapidated lab."

"[The] improved facilities will benefit all our projects in different ways," Mirkin said.

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# New shuttle buses arrive at Queens College

STEPHANIE CHUKWUMA  
News Reporter

Just last semester, Student Association and Student Life worked hard to get 2,000 signatures for the shuttle bus initiative to make the life of commuter students a little easier.

On the first day of school, Queens College introduced their new shuttle buses to the public. Now, instead of waiting for the MTA buses, students also have the option of taking the shuttle bus.

The idea has been around for many years. In the past, the Student Association, Student Life and many faculty members have proposed it, but the Vice President of Finance William Keller championed the most recent effort, Dean of Students John Andrejack said.

“This is a great initiative that student life has for commuter students and students coming to QC in the future,” Student Association President Raj Maheshwari said.

Some students are concerned about the price of the shuttle bus,

which will increase the current student activity fee of \$123.85 to approximately \$164. This increase will be paid per semester for a total of \$80 for students on a yearly basis.

“Regardless of whether students and faculty will be using the bus, everyone will have to pay the \$40 fee,” said Andrejack.

Mark Amoroso, a 22-year-old QC student uses public transportation to get to the college from his home in Corona.

“There is plenty of transportation around the area. The \$40 is a waste of money. The tuition is going up regardless,” Amoroso said. “People are going to complain more than they use it.”

However, administrative and faculty members believe that shuttle buses will serve the QC community well.

“Because the college is not served well by public transportation, I hope that this would make student lives easier, whether traveling to and from home, to a job or internship,” Acting Provost and Vice President



PHOTO BY BRANDON JORDAN

The shuttle bus stands outside the Student Union Hall waiting for students to arrive.

of Academic Affairs Elizabeth Hendrey said.

There are two shuttle buses and both stop every twenty minutes at the Student Union. The Flushing shuttle bus stops at Main St. and Queens Hall. The Jamaica shuttle bus stops at Sanford Ave. Students and faculty can visit qc.thebus.mobi to view bus routes as well as timetable information.

Most students seem to appreciate having shuttle buses on campus, but still have a few minor

complaints.

“I like using the shuttle bus, but I just wish the bus stopped closer to the bus terminal on Jamaica,” Jasmine Thompson, a senior who uses the bus to get home after classes, said.

QC faculties share the same positive attitude toward the bus as commuter students do.

“I am quite happy about the new shuttle buses, mostly because I think it will make it easier for students to get to and from campus,” Hendrey said.

“Personally, although I mainly drive to campus, I have many meetings in Manhattan and I think the shuttle bus will be helpful to me getting back and forth.”

Some faculty even sees a more long-term benefit of having shuttle buses on QC’s campus.

“It has reduced student commuting time and hopefully, will keep students on campus longer improving student retention, involvement, satisfaction and graduation rates,” Andrejack said.

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# Freedom Summer veteran imparts lessons on activism

STEPHANIE DAVIS  
News Reporter

Fifty years ago, QC graduate, Mark Levy was in Mississippi participating in various civil rights projects. He and his wife Betty, also a QC graduate, taught at Freedom Schools, alternative schools mostly found in the South for black students, and worked on voter registration projects. They were among thousands of activists, many of them QC students, who went to Mississippi for Freedom Summer in 1964.

Events that summer spearheaded major victories against discrimination and injustice, victories that were won through the communication and organizational efforts of local, ordinary people. Considering current events that challenge the successes of the 1960s, Levy emphasized the importance of ordinary people learning from the past and returning to a form of grassroots activism.

“Ordinary people have the ability and skills to organize social movements,” Levy said. “They need to be reminded that yes, they can and yes, they should do these things.”

Over the summer, Levy spoke to student Percy Ellis Sutton SEEK Program. He reflected on his work

during Freedom Summer, sharing that fundamentally it was about “nitty-gritty organizing: walking dusty roads, door knocking, teaching in freedom schools, visiting churches on Sundays, introducing people to other people so they could work together, building relationships, and earning trust.”

As a product of a major historical event that functioned without the internet, Levy thinks there are limitations to social media activism. According to him, it’s not the same as getting together and developing direct, close relationships with other people; liking a post on Facebook or checking an email can’t necessarily accomplish that.

He also believes that the social institutions such as churches and schools, that were helpful during Freedom Summer, lost their power to help social movements.

Despite setbacks, Levy is optimistic about the future. He referred the SEEK commemoration over the summer and the QC division of NYPIRG as hopeful indicators that youth will organize and continue the movement to “make this a better world.”

“You need to protect what has been won. And for new issues, you have to help win new struggles to pass on new rights and benefits to those

coming behind you,” Levy said.

And there are roles for everyone, Levy assures. When discussing Freedom Summer, he points out that there was no charismatic leader. Instead, everyone contributed their individual strengths and skills. Writers, visual artists, musicians and others with a multitude of skill sets can aid in the movement.

In remembering James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner, activists who were murdered while in Mississippi, Levy urges to focus on and honor the work they’ve done.

“It’s not about them or their murders,” he said. “It’s about what they were working for and fighting for. They were ordinary young people. Not martyrs.”

Many organizations work to continue their legacy, including The Andrew Goodman Foundation, created by Goodman’s parents in 1966 and now run by his brother, David. Goodman was a QC student before he was murdered. The mission of the foundation is to “empower the next generation to initiate and sustain creative and effective social action; we enable leaders and their communities to flourish by operating and investing in programs that advance civic engagement and intergenerational



PHOTO BY AMANDA GOLDSTEIN

Chaney-Goodman-Schwerner Clock Tower - named after the three civil rights workers killed during Freedom Summer.

coalitions,” according to their website.

Supporting Levy’s idea that there is a role for everyone in the movement, the foundation’s vision is that “every person will take action to create a peaceful, just, and sustainable world.”

The 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer has been a reminder that there is still much to be done. Events across the country

serve to remember those of the past and inspire a new movement or a renaissance of citizen participation in democracy, as David Goodman states.

QC takes part in the anniversary with its Freedom Summer exhibit in Rosenthal Library, which opened on June 30. It showcases original material from the department of Special Collections and Archives, which houses the Civil Rights Archives. The exhibit will run until October.

As a veteran of Freedom Summer and participant in commemorative events, Levy cautions people to not be complacent.

“We need to remember that it was a ‘freedom movement’ – a movement a lot broader than for just civil rights. Most importantly, we need to know that the struggle is not over,” Levy said.

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# OP-EDS/EDITORIALS

## “We Need To Do This Every Year”

BE OUR GUEST

BY MARK LEVY

At 1:00 PM on Monday July 21st, 250 SEEK freshmen students and faculty rallied on the plaza outside the Rosenthal Library clock tower to re-commemorate the significance of its being named the Chaney-Goodman-Schwerner Clock Tower after three, young, civil rights workers who had been killed in Mississippi in 1964. The SEEK Program is planning to replicate the event every year during the summer.

Dozens of white and yellow balloons were released by students on the fourth floor of the library as symbols of peace and continued hope. Students read poetry, essays, sang, and played music inspired by the generation of activists who struggled to secure voting rights for all.

Colorful placards were carried that connected to the struggles of the 1960s to issues impacting students today in 2014. Contemporary issues, like immigration rights, gay rights, racial profiling, prison complex and discrimination were highlighted. Some of the signs carried by the SEEK students read: “The rights of the minority should never be subject to the whim of the majority” “Marriage is about love not gender”, “Prison labor work is modern day slavery. Let’s end it”, “Be loyal to your Country, take the time to vote.” and “Everyone in this country deserves an education. Just because you don’t have legal papers doesn’t

mean you are not contributing to society.”

Many Queens College students and faculty had been active in the civil rights movement of the 1960s and fought against discrimination and injustice in New York, Virginia, and Mississippi. The SEEK program at CUNY, itself, was one the gains of the civil rights movement in the north. Today, 11 SEEK Programs exist CUNY-wide.

Retired SEEK Counselor William Modeste reminded the students that a group of newly elected young black and Puerto Rican NY state legislators, Percy E. Sutton (whom the SEEK Program is now named after), Shirley Chisholm, Basil Paterson, Arthur Eve, and Herman Badillo fought for and won the legislation and funding on July 5th, 1966 to create this highly successful program.

Tiffany Brown, from QC NYPIRG, told the students how important it was to talk about today’s issues and encouraged them to get involved in student organizations that were trying to take action around them. She also pointed out that various departments had internships and programs where students could link their studies to their social justice concerns.

Frank Franklin, SEEK Director, welcomed the incoming students and pointed out that not only had the creation of the program been an accomplishment of



Freshmen SEEK students listened to speakers to understand the significance behind the Rosenthal Clocktower as well as of the civil rights movement.

PHOTO COURTESY BY MARIE-ANN SALDANHA

the civil rights movement but also that continued funding of the program is an ongoing struggle that will need their support.

Mark Levy, a QC alumnus and 1964 Mississippi Freedom Summer veteran who later taught in SEEK, emphasized that what was most important to remember in learning about James Chaney, Mickey Schwerner, and Andy Goodman is not about them personally but rather what issues they were fighting for, what still needs to be fought for, and an appreciation of the strength and contributions of the thousands of ordinary, young, and local people who remain the true heroines and heroes of the long – and still ongoing – Movement.

Original poetry and

essays were read and civil rights-era music performed by incoming SEEK incoming freshmen, Rebekah Marquez, Isaiah Chrishom, Kamljeet Kaur, Katherine Cordoba, Paola Pena, Khaleel Anderson, Mariana Krslovic, Maria Iannou, George Ciani, Carmen Rodriguez, Marielena Fernandez, Jackie Chen, Carmine Couloute, Alexis Lawrence, Adriana Mallea, Imani Deale, John Ctorides, and Kadeem Lewis who had been reading and studying about Freedom Summer 1964 and the civil rights movement as part of their summer orientation program. The reading assignments included an article published last year about the Clocktower in The Knight News.

SEEK’s Assistant Director & Academic

Coordinator, Norka Blackman-Richards said: “This is the first annual commemoration. We need to do this every year as new students come to QC so that they can learn the about the efforts of those who came before them, the need to protect and preserve what was won, the wonderful traditions of QC, and the relevance of their studies to the issues they, themselves, will confront.”

Many original documents and mementos from this activist era at QC are available for viewing and research in the Queens College Civil Rights Movement Archive. A dramatic selection of those materials is currently on public exhibit in the Library Rotunda through September.

**Letters to the Editor can be submitted to [info@theknightnews.com](mailto:info@theknightnews.com)**

**\*All guest op-eds and letters are published unedited\***

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# QC CLUB DAY



Photos by Jordi Sevilla

## SPORTS

## Volleyball season off to a sizzling start

BY:ALBERT ROMAN

Sports Reporter

Bouncing back from a rough season can be a tough task for any team. The mental and physical draining a team endures during the long season can be daunting. Queens College's women's volleyball looks to leave the results of last season in the past. They embark on this new season with a clear state of mind, confidence and determination.

Last season, the Lady Knights began by winning seven of their first 10 games. The team then went on to finish the season with a 10-14 record. Head Coach Leanna Taylor, who is entering her fourth year as coach, believes it takes a lot of preparation to not only start the season off on a high note, but to continue this style of play throughout.

"We are ready for harder matches earlier than later; last season was about building self-esteem and confidence. We were still young. Two regional tournaments have prepared us for conference play," Taylor said.

One senior and eight juniors

comprise the team. Experience is something every team needs, especially as they get deeper into the schedule and into the playoffs.

Junior Else Buchmiller sees all this experience as a positive for the team. She believes the experience of the previous season adds depth to the mentality of the Lady Knights.

"I think we are already a much deeper team. We are lucky to have as many returners as we do," Buchmiller said.

The team has four new players including three freshmen. Buchmiller believes the new players are adding depth to the already deep team.

"The new girls are fitting in well. This is the most we have ever acted like a team," she said.

Their 2014 campaign began on Sept. 5 with a 3-1 victory against Concordia. The Lady Knights would then go on to defeat Felician and Southern Connecticut State, making their record 3-0 in the season so far.

When asked how to keep this early success going, Buchmiller stated there is only one place where this can be achieved.

"It starts in the gym. We need



PHOTO COURTESY BY BRIAN BALLWEG

Junior Arielle Dicocco leads with 40 kills so far in the season.

to continue to practice hard and stay healthy," Buchmiller said.

In addition, there are other factors off the court that can really challenge any team.

"Our biggest test is as we get deeper into the school year, handling school, practice, games and travelling. There is no break for the players. So we have to get better at handling all these factors and planning ahead,"

Taylor said.

While they possess major strengths, they must also use their weaknesses to learn and develop in order to improve.

"Our strengths would include depth [as] we have four players in each position. Commitment to sport, physicality, and our mental toughness," Taylor said. "The team's weakness is they are perfectionist. They have to get

over mistakes in matches quickly."

Junior Arielle Dicocco has high aspirations for her and her teammates this season. She sees a promising season for herself and her teammates. The positives from last season have to be carried over. The negatives have to be improved upon.

"My expectations for the team are that we don't give up and keep going strong throughout the season and go to the playoffs," Dicocco said.

The journey of the volleyball season can be long and tiring. However, with a championship goal in mind, the Lady Knights hope to make their presence felt in the East Coast Conference.

"We need to keep fighting our way through the season, which is happening already, but I want this to keep going until the very end. This can go pretty far even hopefully all the way to the playoffs and nationals," Dicocco stated.

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## High aspirations for the men's soccer team

CODY HEINTZ

Sports Reporter

The Queens College men's soccer team will begin their season this month in hopes of making it to the East Coast Conference playoffs.

With last year's leading scorer, Glen Reid, returning and an experienced backfield of three upperclassmen, the Knights are currently working towards improving on their sixth place finish last year.

"One of the things for this year's team to improve on is their play in close matches. We had several one goal losses in conference [last season]. That is the difference between advancing to the playoffs or not," head coach Carl Christian said.

All-Conference midfielder and

junior Glen Reid will be an important anchor for this year's offense. He was not only the highest scorer from last year but was also named captain for this season.

Going into this year, Reid looks to contribute more in the open field.

In addition, The Knights depend on junior forward Paul Sandoval and Pol Narbona to help carry the offensive load.

"We feel that the two can work well off of each other," Christian said. "Paul is a two-year starter for the team and an excellent addition, not the team. He has had two good years. We would like to see him score more goals. He certainly has the capability to do so."

Two key defenders this year are

junior Aitor Gurrutxaga and senior Jorge Artavia. This year's backfield will also see the return of junior Gianpaolo Lisena. Lisena started 16 games as a freshman and returns from a year off.

"We should be as deep defensively and should be a little bit more experienced and even better equipped to go into this season," Christian said.

Transfer students Isaiah Kossinne and junior back Bryan Balladares will also be joining The Knights' lineup.

"Isaiah has looked really quick on the ball when he has had his chances in training so far. He could do a really big job for us on the wing on the right side. We had Bryan come in

as a left back. Since I have been here we never really had a left foot starting left-back so we are hoping that Bryan can step up and we can get good use out of the left side," Reid said.

The biggest issue on this year's team is who the starting goalkeeper is going to be. The Knights are without goalkeeper Sean Geoghegan who not only played every minute last year but also posted 6 six shutouts.

Potential replacements for the position include Robbie Webster, James Brostowski and Alexandros Taliotis. They are all currently sophomores.

"We have three keepers that we feel comfortable with, and each brings something a little bit different," said Christian.

During the season opener against St. Michael's, Robbie Webster and James Brostowski both saw action in goal.

"Going into the season, we all as a team need to step up and give 200 percent in every single game. There is no reason why we can't go as far as we want," said Reid.

So far the team lost their first two matches with a 1-0 loss against St. Michael's at home and a 3-0 away loss against West Chester. Their next game is on Sept. 17 against the District of Columbia.

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## Fresh faces and strong determination for Queens College women's soccer team

TORI BOWSER

Sports Reporter

Every year is the chance for a team to start over with a new season. They are given the opportunity to discover different ways to be successful. Finishing last year with a 10-4-4 season, the Queens College women's soccer team is off to a solid 1-2-1 start.

With more than half of their team being first year players, the Lady Knights are determined to use the new members to aid them in returning to the East Coast Conference playoffs once more.

Recruiting six freshmen and one transfer student in his sixth year as head coach, Carl Christian has a positive outlook on the new diversity of the team.

"We're a very young team this year so we're learning on the fly," Christian said. "We're going to progress just as quickly as the new players adjust, along with the guidance and support the returners give."

However, Christian faces challenges in dealing with a young team with little time. His main focus for the season lies in an overall improvement of the team and a transition from last year.

"It's really more about developing the group that we have and trying to get them all on the same page; our biggest weakness right now lies in familiarity between players and adjusting our program to help integrate new players' styles," Christian said.

He also emphasized the opportunity the program gives new

players to play for significant minutes and earn their spot on the field.

On Sept. 4, the team lost their first match in a close game against Post University, but bounced back with a triumphant 1-0 victory against Pace University with a winning goal by forward Erin Vernillo.

Vernillo, a freshman from Smithtown, N.Y., has appeared in both opening matches and understands the pressure of being a starting freshman on a college team.

"There are high expectations for you to succeed and to exceed those expectations," Vernillo said.

With a large, talented incoming class, there is bound to be competition between new players.

"I have to keep reminding myself that my spot can be taken away at any second, so I strive to always

work hard not only for my position, but for the team," Vernillo said.

The Lady Knights' strong defense, chemistry and speed on the field in their past three matches are strengths Vernillo is hoping will carry them throughout the season.

The pressure doesn't just lie on the freshmen's shoulders, but on the returning players as well.

"We [as returners] must be leaders and set an example as to how to act on and off the field. It's important to encourage the freshmen especially knowing how nerve racking it is to play a college sport for the first time," Nicolette Scrozzo, junior and forward, said.

Having this be her third year as a Lady Knight, Scrozzo discussed how the large freshmen group has added to the team's dynamic compared to past

seasons.

"They bring the talent and energy on the field that we needed. They are young, but have so much love for the game and a desire to win that's beyond themselves," she said.

In regards to the playoffs, Scrozzo believes the team will have "the talent and capability to compete once [they] find that groove between new players and returnees."

"It takes every individual's determination to win each game to advance us to the playoffs as a team," Scrozzo said.

The Lady Knights faces Adelphi on Saturday, Sept. 20, in an away game.

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## THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM IS BACK AND FEELING AS CONFIDENT AS EVER



Women's soccer team start with  
1-2-1 record for new season