

November 5, 2014

Volume 21

Issue 3



THE KNIGHT NEWS



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Journalism in the Interest of the Queens College Community

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Association
President Raj
Maheshwari
spoke with
The Knight
News**



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Start Here. Go Far.

The Knight News Roundtable: SA President Raj Maheshwari

JAIME ZAHL

News Reporter

Every April, Queens College students cast their votes to decide which candidates will lead the Student Association.

After a particularly heated election between the Students for Change and United People, Raj Maheshwari, SFC, officially stepped into office on June 1 as President of the Student Association.

Five months later, Maheshwari sat down with The Knight News team to discuss the successes, struggles and aspirations of his administration.

The transition into presidency was a smooth one for the 20-year-old corporate finance major.

"I'm fortunate enough to be surrounded by a team of people who carried over from last year's administration and really knew the ropes," Maheshwari said. "Technically I was part of last year's administration.

Before taking the reigns as SA President, Maheshwari trained closely with former SA President Matthew Louie. He also served as public relations chairman last year.

"Matt did a great job of teaching me the ins and outs of being student body president," Maheshwari said.

While the common perception of the president's duties includes mandating budgets, approving clubs and planning student activities, Maheshwari views his position as a chance to make long lasting changes on campus.

The first step in initiating those changes is to realize what works and what doesn't, Maheshwari said.



PHOTO BY BRANDON JORDAN
Raj Maheshwari sat down with The Knight News editors to discuss his plans for Queens College.

Specifically he referred to the Student Association using marketing tactics like free t-shirts and pizza to get students to attend events.

"It's kind of like trying the same formula and expecting a different answer," Maheshwari said. "You can tweak it and put in different numbers, but it's not really going to get you anywhere."

In an effort to avoid repeating unsuccessful methods, Maheshwari researched other schools to find out how their students events operate.

At Baruch College, a CUNY school located in Manhattan, multiple clubs often sponsor individual events, which increases attendance and adds a dynamic of unity between organizations.

"Every flyer at Baruch

had two dozen club logos on it," Maheshwari said. "It shocked me."

Baruch has a very limited amount of space on their urban campus, Maheshwari said. However, their events are often packed, with over 300 people in attendance.

"They have that idea of inclusiveness... the idea of everyone coming together for one main goal. And that's what I didn't see here," Maheshwari said.

Maheshwari would like to create a greater sense of unity between organizations on campus. One idea is to create a Student Association website that would serve as a database for clubs and school organizations. This would enable students to find out what events are happening on campus with the student government as a

backbone, Maheshwari said.

"Every single club would have a page they could customize the way they want to, updated every semester," Maheshwari said. "It would be something where everyone could connect under one main portal."

Maheshwari considers this project to be one of the most achievable on his administration's agenda.

Other goals, such as building renovations, have already been achieved. Renovations in the Agora Café and the SA Diner lounge were recently completed while new additions include a unisex bathroom and an ADA wheelchair accessible bathroom. Future renovations are planned for the Student Union Basement.

This progress may combat

doubts many students had earlier this year regarding the distribution of funding.

A few weeks before the April election, Queens College Secrets, an anonymous Facebook page, "leaked" an annotated copy of the SA budget. An anonymous poster criticized the SA for spending a large amount of funds on t-shirts, formals, decorations and office supplies.

Although many students were surprised to learn how money was being spent, the documents were always public record, Maheshwari said.

"None of that would have been on our budget if we weren't allowed to do it," Maheshwari said. "You will never be able to please everyone."

However, Maheshwari does hope to somehow make QC more than just a school to the students. His administration recognizes that they will always face the challenges of being a commuter school. That is why it is important to think outside the box, Maheshwari said.

He would encourage new students to try a little bit of everything that the college has to offer.

"What are you doing to invest in yourself? No one is going to care what your GPA is out there in the real world," said Maheshwari. "There is no difference between someone who graduated from here than someone who graduated from NYU. It's what you make out of it."

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Rupert Isaacson discusses horse therapy and its effect on autism

NINA BAKOYIANNIS

News Reporter

The Committee for Disabled Students presented “Autism and Healing with Rupert Isaacson” on October 29 in Rosenthal Library.

The presentation served as a means to discuss the healing effects horses have on families with autism.

Rupert Isaacson, the author of “The Horse Boy,” discussed the challenges he faced when his son Rowan was diagnosed with autism at age two. Initially, the doctors introduced Rowan’s autism as catastrophic, which was soon reinforced by his susceptibility to tantrums and non-verbal communication. It was not until his relationship with his son progressed had Isaacson realized this sort of thinking is very misleading.

“The [reaction of most parents to the initial diagnosis of autism] is trauma and bewilderment, and then that tends to last about 24 months. Once they’re through that, the ones who are curious by nature will begin to find out more about autism and it goes into sort of a quest finding period and then that lasts about 2 years. Then they make friends with autism.” Isaacson said, “Autism is not the end of the world at all, it is actually a good thing.”

Isaacson was a horse trainer in Texas, but it was not until his son went on a horse for the first time that his tantrums calmed down and he began to speak. His stress

behavior reduced and he learned to communicate through movements and exploration.

After pulling Rowan out of school to work with him individually at home, Isaacson soon began to see the drastic effects that working with horses had on his son.

In his documentary and book, Isaacson describes his trip to Mongolia, where he sought to find a place that combined the healing effects of nature and horses. From this he developed the Horse Boy Foundation, a non-profit organization emphasizing the healing effects of not only horses, but nature and a supportive community.

The method he designed combined a six-stage process: Being outdoors, no distractions from sensory triggers such as artificial light or loud noises, riding the horse with a companion, playing games, academics and finally learning self-advocacy.

To execute the method properly, a person must combine self-compassion, following the child’s movements, allowing the child to feel unpressured, use humor, giving the child adequate time to finish the task, not demand their attention and being creative.

“Rowan is now fully verbal and he has his own web-based television series. He continues to



PHOTO BY JORDI SEVILLA

Author Rupert Isaacson spoke on Oct. 23 about a healing method with children diagnosed with autism.

amaze me. He’s still autistic, I don’t think I would say that he’s recovered at all. The autism is very much his personality and he’s very functional with his autism,” Isaacson said.

The program began in 2007 and currently has five full-time workers, five part-time and the volunteer base.

He further explained this method could be applied without actually having access to a horse. As long as you reproduce the method using play equipment and nature, reenacting horse riding,

and following the certain ethics he described, the effect on the child will be just as efficient. It is not only about working with the autistic child, but the whole family, especially the siblings who don’t get as much attention from the parents.

“What I would like is for ‘Horse Boy Learning’, our home-school program, to be such an easily accessible thing ... and we’re working on that through universities and other organizations,” Isaacson said.

Isaacson ended his

presentation by asking the audience what their dreams were and stating that working with autistic children will send them in the right direction because they are dream whisperers.

“Lucky us to get to work with the dream whisperers. They are the champs. We have a front seat on the evolution of our species, egoless people.” Isaacson said. “How about that for a future of humanity?”

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English Professor releases two books on the Beat Generation

JORDI SEVILLA

News Reporter

Queens College Professor John Tytell taught English and literature for more than 50 years.

He recently released two new books titled "Writing Beat and Other Occasions of Literary Mayhem" and "The Beat Interviews," which both examine legendary writers of the Beat Generation.

Tytell discovered the works by Beat Generation writers while in college and was interested in what the writers wrote about conditions in America.

The Beat Generation refers to a period where writers such as created poetry critiquing American society in the 1950s.

"I was reading these writers when I was an undergraduate at City College of New York. I wasn't reading these works as part of any course by the way. I bought those books and read them because I was curious. These books would never have been in a university syllabus. I wasn't even an English major in college, but I was curious." Tytell said.

In "The Beat Interviews," Tytell interviewed figures such as William S. Burroughs, Carl Solomon, Herbert Huncke and John Clellon Holmes. He also elaborated on their origins in the context of the literary environment at the time.

"They wanted to change the nature of the literary experience. They found that it was still governed by what they would consider to be Victorian protocol, and what they were interested in primarily was candor, which is what made them so exciting. Maybe [because] they were the first American writers



Queens College Professor John Tytell became familiar with the Beat Generation after reading some poetry in college.

PHOTO BY JORDI SEVILLA

who could've addressed this issue so directly," Tytell said.

"[The interviews] never really appeared in book form and with each of the interviews, there are essays that I have written recently that help contextualize who these people were, why they're significant, why we need to remember them and what their revolutionary aspirations were," Tytell said.

Tytell also explained the importance of Allen Ginsberg, famous for releasing the poem "Howl." He personally knew him and Peter Orlovsky, Ginsberg's companion.

"Ginsberg is an agent of change, more than probably any other American. He helped organize the protests against Vietnam War

in the 1960s and is responsible for the birth of the counter-culture. So Ginsberg had a lot of impact on American Culture, so did [Jack] Kerouac and so did Burroughs each in their different ways" Tytell said.

His other book focused more on the writing aspects of the Beat Generation rather than the historical aspects. Containing 17 essays, he sought to explore the role of a non-fiction writer when focusing on different issues.

"Of course it's to tell the truth, but how do you tell the truth? This is an issue which I address systematically throughout these 17 essays. How do you write biography, how do you write history [or] how do you write reportage?" Tytell said.

"That's what the subject matter, the core thematic perspective of 'writing beat' is. It's the writer's beat in the sense of the reporter's beat or even in the sense that a policeman has a beat. It's certain territory he is required to patrol and understand. I use the word responsibility, which means 'response to,' and the writer is responding to by observing and by listening, and by thinking," Tytell said.

When discussing counter-culture in general, Tytell said it is "dangerous at any time because if you go against the culture, they can throw you in the insane asylum or jail". It is necessary "otherwise we live in 1984," he said.

Tytell felt the writers were still

relevant as ever in contemporary times as the poems from the time could provide valuable lessons for today.

"There's an increase in conformity in America with people less curious than they once were. Anarchism, for example, has been confused with terrorism. There are pacifistic anarchists, you know?" Tytell said.

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Queens College's kitchen truck off to a fiery start

TORI BOWSER

News Reporter

The idea of grabbing something "on the go" has been an ongoing trend in the food industry.

College students are obvious targets for this market. Rushing between classes, work and extra-curricular activities, students don't have time to wait in the cafeteria or go off campus to find food. Taking this into consideration, The Kitchen Truck has brought this concept right into the heart of Queens College.

The Kitchen Truck was on the drawing board at Chartwells for years after trucks like Wafels & Dinges started to make appearances. Chartwells is the food

service management company that provides dining services to QC and college campuses nationwide.

"We wanted to provide the students with another, more convenient dining option," Paul Bowden, Chartwells' head chef said. "With industry trends pushing towards food carts, we're looking for ways to fill student needs."

The Kitchen Truck made its on-campus debut on August 28th. Initially, the truck only accepted cash, which was an inconvenience to most.

"It was certainly a pullback," Bowden said. "But now we're able to accept credit cards and we're working to add Wi-Fi to the cart in

order to accept meal plans."

Since The Kitchen truck is under the Chartwells brand, it is included in students' meal plans just like the Q-Café and the other dining options on campus.

The truck's menu is adaptable and changes every week.

The most popular slider is the "chipotle chicken slider," which is slow-cooked, hand-pulled, seasoned chicken breast with peppers and chipotle sauce.

"I got the house beef slider on my way to class and it was delicious," freshman Kristen Moore said.

The truck also put their own twist on classic diner foods.

"We have a grilled cheese made with cheddar cheese and pulled pork and it's been a hit," Bowden said.

The truck even has small sides if you're looking for something quick to snack on. The side options features fried pickles, wings, jalapeño poppers and more.

"We're looking to have the truck available on the weekends for students" Bowden said.

The truck is currently available Monday - Thursday from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. between Rathaus and the Dining Hall. The Kitchen Truck will be open until Dec. 19.

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“Our House” contemplates the evil of television

AMANDA GOLDSTEIN

News Reporter

How far is one willing to go for their five minutes of fame?

This question is answered in the dark comedy “Our House,” presented by Queens College’s Drama, Theatre, and Dance Department.

The show, written by Theresa Rhebeck, was held in the small performance room in Rathaus Hall, which gave the piece an intimate feeling.

Before the show, audience members viewed multiple television sets onstage, broadcasting news segments from the past, which were later utilized in the show. An interesting addition to the show was the usage of video equipment to project real-time segments of characters onto the onstage TVs.

The biggest challenge was operating the televisions simultaneously, director Susan Einhorn said.

The TVs were an innovative addition in the production. While they were not included in the original off-Broadway production, they added an interesting component to the show without upstaging the actors.

“Our House” presents two central conflicts. The first encompasses a face-off between the head honcho of a television network, Wes, played by Ryan Sett,

and the leader of the network’s news department, Stu, played by Aaron Orlo, in Los Angeles. The other surrounds the unemployed graduate student Merv, played by James Terrell, and his roommate Alice, played by Amanda Akran, in their house in St. Louis.

The scenes switch between storylines rapidly, but the themes are similar in both of them – television is a vapid, soul-sucking corporation. Both Merv and Wes are somewhat sociopathic in that they have skewed perceptions of the world. Wes obsesses over increasing the viewers for his network and will do anything to gain more numbers and Merv does something incredibly shocking at the end of the first act in order to be in the spotlight.

In the second storyline, Merv is a couch potato who watches a lot of television, doesn’t pay his rent on time, eats his roommates’ food and argues with Alice, who wishes for a TV-free life, about everything. Their roommates Grigsby, played by Brittany Berke, and Vince, played by Shunichi Kamiyama, remain neutral in the arguments.

In the second act, both narratives are brought together seamlessly when an incident in Merv’s house requires the bubbly news reporter Jennifer Ramirez, played by Rina Dutta, to report live



PHOTO BY AMANDA GOLDSTEIN

The use of televisions for the play reinforced the message of “Our House” on the dangers of excessive media.

from St. Louis.

The scenes following illustrate how ridiculous and savage the media has become. Jennifer and Wes decide to hold an interview with Merv even at the cost of saving a life.

“That’s the equation. Violence equals TV time,” Mery said to Jennifer in the interview.

He adds that the human race is moving to its end due to the contemporary infatuation of entertainment.

“Our House” brings an important issue to light: separating from a media-obsessed culture before it leads to humanity’s demise.

“Abandon your screens, look each other in the eyes, and search for something real, before it’s too late,” Einhorn said in a note in the show’s program.

The performance captured the attention of the audience filled with students.

“I thought it was great. The acting was on point and it was not

overdone at all. I was interested the entire time and wasn’t bored,” Alyssa Shapiro, sophomore, said.

“Our House” continues this weekend on Nov. 6 and 7 at 7 p.m., Nov. 8 at 8 p.m., and Nov. 9 at 3 p.m.

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With great printing comes great responsibilities

YONGMIN CHO

News Reporter

Senior Jonathan Espinosa sits behind the second floor library counter Monday through Friday assisting students with various printing issues.

He inspects printers, replenishes supplies and answers student questions.

However, since the return of the free printing system, his workload increased exponentially. After three years working in the printing section, he described the effect the new system created as hectic.

“It’s chaos over here,” Espinosa said.

With the restoration of the free printing system last semester, the demand for resources increased as more students take advantage of the system, leading to excessive

paper waste.

Students access the free printing services only on the second floor of the library; the printing section consists of two computers that connect to three printers and two express computers.

One issue that emerged is that the entire Queens College population print without charge only through two computers. Another is the increased paper usage, which are at times wasted.

A box of paper contains 10 rims of paper. Each rim has 500 pages. Each printer can hold two rims which is 1000 pages. During busy hours, Espinosa has to refill a printer or both with paper about every 10 minutes.

“That’s basically wasting 2000 pages every ten minutes. That’s a

tree right there,” Espinosa said.

Before the free printing system, about 20 boxes of paper were ordered every three weeks. Now, approximately 40 boxes are ordered weekly and there are times when supplies are depleted, Espinosa said. With the copious amount of paper used, some printed pages simply go to waste. Students print everything from homework to textbooks.

“Students have to print textbooks, I understand that, I’m a student too,” Espinosa said. “The problem with textbooks is, let’s say, they printed out a textbook that was 500 pages, they only use 200 pages and the rest they left it there.”

Students also print out their PowerPoint lectures; however, printing one slide per page is wasteful. In efforts to conserve

paper, Priscilla Gonzalez, senior, places six PowerPoint slides into one paper and still uses plenty of space to take notes on the side.

“I try to bunch them in as much as I can. Instead of printing 30 different pages, I can do it in five pages,” Gonzalez said.

At the beginning of the semester, the printing section had a stock of utilities such as staplers, hole punchers, tape, etc. But throughout the semester, the supplies declined.

“We had ten staplers. Some of them got stolen, broken or disappeared out of nowhere,” Espinosa said.

The staplers could have broke with students pressing too hard or, as senior Mary-Ann Gallagher said, students “karate chop it.” The printing section holds up signs

near the printers and staplers asking students to help conserve paper by printing only what they need, multiple PowerPoint slides per sheet and refraining from printing solid black images to preserve ink.

It is a reminder that the printing system offers many benefits to students but they also need to be responsible and avoid abusing the system.

“I like to take advantage of my resources,” Justin Lim, a senior, said. “But even if it’s free printing, I have to be mindful of how much I print and only what I need.”

ul of how much I print and only what I need.” at 3 p.m.
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Conference looks ahead and draws lessons by Civil Rights Movement

BRANDON JORDAN

News Reporter

The Africana Studies Program and the National Congress of Black Women hosted a symposium reflecting on the Civil Rights Movement as well as ways for black youths to progress in terms of education on Oct. 23 in Rosenthal Library 230.

The forum was broken up into two parts. The first half dealt with the issue of affirmative action and voting rights for African-Americans. The second segment focused on providing a unique program for black students.

The event began with Evelyn Julmisse, the acting director of the Africana Studies Program, welcoming the audience. She introduced Don Capaldi, a community activist and the liaison for Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY), who spoke on the significance of the event's two topics. He stressed the importance of participating in elections and in community issues in order to obtain solutions.

"The folks that vote regularly get regular attention," Capaldi said.

Faye Williams, president of the National Congress of Black Women, was one of the speakers in the first portion of symposium. Appointed by President Barack Obama as Presidential Scholars Commissioner for 2009 to 2016, she highlighted how important the Civil Rights Movement was in terms of the topics being discussed. In fact, Williams stressed many benefits enjoyed today originate from the struggles of the movement.

"If you're going to talk about affirmative action or voting rights,



On Oct. 23, a symposium delivered in Rosenthal Library 230 focused on issues like education for black youths in the U.S.

PHOTO BY BRANDON JORDAN

[then] you have to start with the Civil Rights Movement," Williams said.

The Civil Rights Movement refers to the demonstrations and actions during the mid 19th-century where icons such as Martin Luther King Junior pushed for political rights for African Americans who were discriminated against at the time.

During the question-and-answer portion with the audience, Director of Compliance and Diversity of Queens College Cynthia Rountree responded to the idea of whether the U.S. was a post-racial society. She denied that the U.S. has reached that point as racism is different than it was in the

1960s.

"Racism exists and it is more subtle. It is alive and well and we have to be more vigilant," Rountree said.

After the first part wrapped up, the discussion focused on education and a STEEM program for young students. Pauline Murray, director of the National Congress of Black Women Queens chapter, led the discussion by explaining why the decision was made to add economics into the general STEEM program.

"Our schools are not teaching [young students] about economics, [whether] micro or macro. They are not teaching you personal finance," Murray said.

Aside from stressing the value of a STEEM program, all the speakers spoke on why it was important to continue offering education on other majors as black students, compared to other ethnicities, had low graduation rates in other fields.

According to an investigation by USA Today, black and Hispanic students graduating with degrees in computer-related fields are not likely to immediately receive a job in the tech industry. In fact, students graduate at rates twice that of the jobs offered to them.

Tech firms were criticized for not hiring more minorities into their workforce after it was found, according to USA Today, that two

percent of staff members are black at Google, Yahoo and Facebook.

The emphasis was not only on the STEEM program as the idea of school segregation was focused on as well. Some of the speakers referenced a study from the Civil Rights Project of the University of California where it was found that New York State had the highest number of segregated schools across the nation.

Norka Blackman-Richards, academic program manager and assistant director of the SEEK program, spoke on promoting general education with a redefined focus on what students should be taught. She elaborated that society was different during the 1960s and education had to evolve.

"The Civil Rights Act of 1964 brought considerable change. But since 1964, the world has changed. But education, as it is administrated today, has not changed," Blackman-Richards said.

Sallyanna Bazalais, a senior majoring in biology, felt nervous before attending the event after hearing about a few of the speakers set to talk; however, after the event, she felt motivated and satisfied from what she heard.

"We need to continue moving forward with an appreciation and reflection in the past because a lot of privileges we enjoy today are what people fought for in the past," Bazalais said

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Asbestos found in Razran Hall

CANDICE SAMUELS

News Reporter

Asbestos is being removed from Razran Hall in order to prepare for physics and psychology research lab renovations. The renovations will provide improved and updated laboratory facilities and new lab equipment.

Built in 1970, Razran Hall was known as the "New Science Facility." It was renamed in 1994 for Gregory Razran, professor and former chair of the psychology department for over 20 years.

"Asbestos containing materials that would be impacted by the planned renovations must be removed by an asbestos abatement contractor prior to performing renovation work," William Graffeo,

director of Environmental Health and Safety at Queens College, said.

Razran's removal will be handled by Microtech Contracting Corporation. Microtech is a full service restoration services company performing all phases of remediation and reconstruction including hazardous material removal.

In the past, asbestos was added to a variety of products to strengthen them and provide heat insulation as well as fire resistance. Buildings built between 1930 and 1950 may have used asbestos for insulation. QC was established in 1937, but the site of the campus was built in the early 19th century.

This is not the first time there has been an asbestos abatement at QC. In

2006, there were vinyl asbestos floor tiles removed from the first floor of Kiely Hall and replaced with vinyl composition tiles by New York Environmental Systems.

"New York State asbestos abatement regulations mandate that a written notice be provided. The signs posted at Razran Hall are intended to notify building occupants that an asbestos abatement project will be conducted, Graffeo said.

"The notice identifies the type and quantity of materials to be removed such as 400 linear feet of pipe insulation and 1,710 square feet of vinyl asbestos tile and fireproofing materials."

Students taking classes in Razran Hall are informed of the removal by the signs posted in both English and Spanish on the front doors.

"Asbestos abatement work will be conducted between the hours of 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. and will be completed by the end of the fall semester. It will not disrupt classes in Razran Hall," Graffeo said.

Once the abatement is completed, QC will proceed with the planned laboratory renovations. Asbestos abatement work will also be conducted in the Science Building to facilitate additional laboratory renovations.

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OP-EDS/EDITORIALS

Opportunity for all, what students need to know to demand equal rights

BY FERNANDO ECHEVERRI

NEWS REPORTER

The students of Queens College must keep the fire of social justice shining for the future, through activism and knowledge that helps underrepresented groups resist policies that can demean the right to education and economic stability.

QC represents the most ethnically and religiously diverse urban area in the world, according to USA Today. This means that the college must fight for the rights of all, as it did during the Freedom Rides of 1964, to show that the murders of Andrew Goodman, a QC anthropology student, Michael Schwerner, a social worker from Manhattan's Lower East Side and James Chaney, a local Mississippi plasterer's apprentice, were not in vain.

In a symposium titled *The Long March Continues: Have We Drifted Away* conducted by the Africana Studies program and the National Congress of Black Women, they discussed two topics, pertaining to the civil rights advancements that came from the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and how they are being undermined by state policies and lack thereof.

The symposium was dedicated to Goodman, Schwerner and Chaney by Evelyn Julmisse, acting director of the Africana Studies program.

One being affirmative action, which gives underrepresented groups according to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, orientation and health opportunities for work and education in the public sector.

"When people are getting benefits for being disabled, that came out of the civil rights movement," said Faye Williams, president of the National Congress of Black Women.

Williams explained that under-represented groups including the LGBT community, disabled people and even white women all benefitted from the civil rights movement.

The professional panel discussed how enemies of affirmative action attack its legitimacy, saying it only gets "unqualified" people into positions that qualified people are pushed out of, said Cynthia Rountree, director of Compliance and Diversity at QC.

"Affirmative action

allows people without opportunities to get the same treatment. We cannot live in a sterile society, we cannot move forward and think things have changed. We are still fighting for education and housing rights," Rountree said.

In April, a Supreme Court decision ruled in favor of the state of Michigan, that voters may prohibit affirmative action in public universities. As a student panelist to the symposium, I asked, since the decision set huge precedence for future cases against affirmative action, what is the legal argument for its protection?

What can be done is be mindful of every action against affirmative action and resist it, Rountree responded.

Although Rountree did not specify how to resist, by showing the facts people will know the consequences of states without affirmative action. An example would be the case of California. Since they abolished affirmative action in 1998, minority student admissions in University of California—Berkeley fell 61 percent and minority admissions at UCLA fell 36 percent, according to the National Conference of

State Legislatures.

As well, affirmative action compensates for centuries of racial, social and economic oppression, according to the NCSL.

"You do not take a person who, for years, has been hobbled by chains and liberate him, bring him up to the starting line of a race and then say you are free to compete with all the others, and still just believe that you have been completely fair," former President Lyndon Johnson said.

The second topic was the representation of African-Americans and Latinos in STEEM fields (science, technology, engineering, economics and mathematics), why they are not a major part of students going into these fields and what must be done to raise their participation.

One panelist explained how the challenge that affects African-Americans, Latinos and other underrepresented groups is institutional racism.

"Institutions are slow to change. You have teachers with tenure who stay a lifetime. It takes a very long time for a new generation to come," Francois Pierre-Louis, a political science professor,

said.

So how does an old educational institution affect African-Americans and Latinos? Here are the facts:

Forty percent of all primary public school students are African American or Latino, but only 25 percent are taking advanced courses. Of those 25 percent, only 65 percent of Latinos and 55 percent of African Americans had advanced classes available to them, according to Norka Blackman-Richards, academic program director and assistant director of the SEEK program.

What can be done to improve representation is emphasize and get all students equal education in all fields, foster critical thinking in all students and shake the perception that STEEM fields are a privilege, they should be a right, Blackman-Richard said.

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Letters to the Editor can be submitted to info@theknightnews.com

All guest op-eds and letters are published unedited

SPORTS

Swimming and diving team make a huge splash in first meet

TORI BOWSER

Sports Reporter

Swimming and diving are two unique team sports that individuals sometimes categorize not to be. A team's wins and losses are composed of players' individual scores. It is not like other sports where they're working together on the field, or in the gym, but instead they're alone in a lane or up on a diving board.

Even though the stats make up the record, the team's support system is needed behind every swimmer in order for them to be successful as a unit. Swimming forces an individual to be disciplined in a different mindset compared to other sports, and requires a special team moral that head coach Yohancey Kingston plans to enforce this season. Yohancey Kingston is the head coach of the Men's swimming team and is in his first year.

"[Swimming] is very much so a team sport, because even if someone had a bad race, it's not only that person's job to get themselves together, but it's the teams job to pick them up as well," Kingston said.

With only three swimmers returning this year, Kingston is hoping to raise the overall team unity.

"It is a huge component to winning meets and performing well," Kingston said.

Alicia Lampasso-Dillon continues to be the head coach for the women's swimming team. She held this position since 1988.

On Oct. 31, the Knights competed in their first meet where they swept Pace and York in a tri-

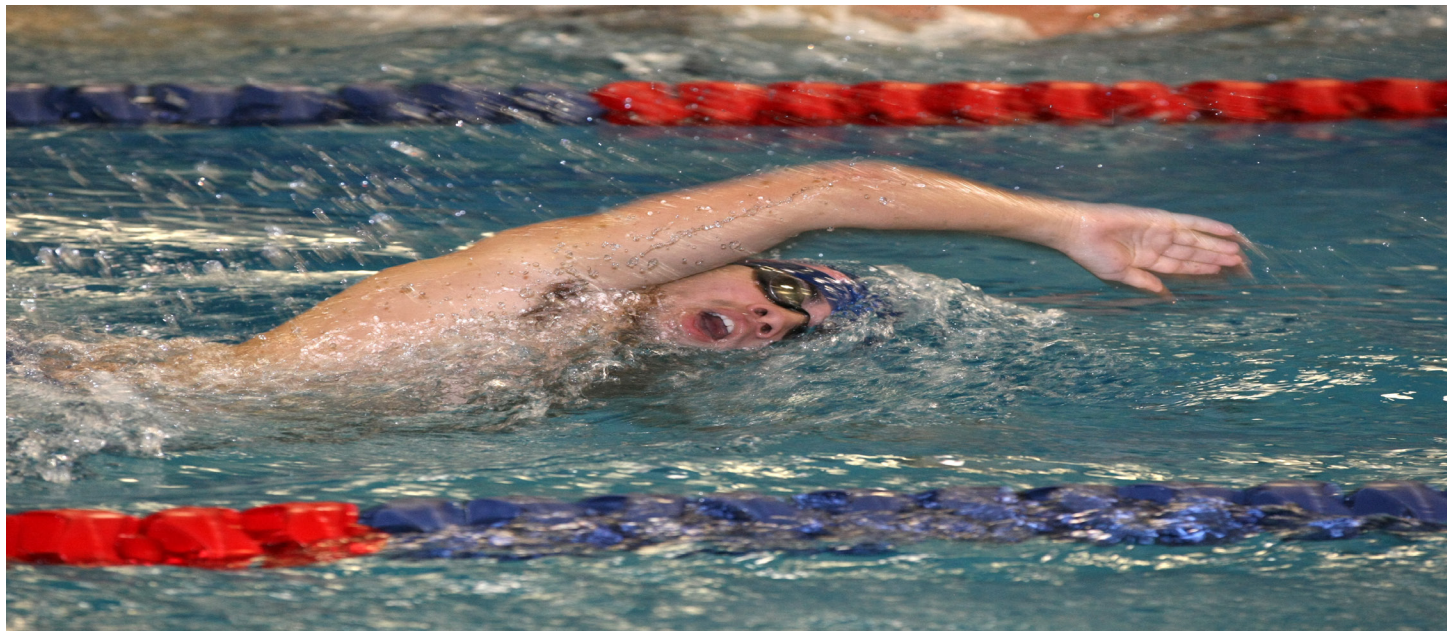


PHOTO CREDIT BY MICHAEL BALESTRA

The men's and women's swimming and diving team hope to go far in terms of their upcoming competitions.

match. A meet is split up into six lanes divided into sprint, mid distance, distance and scored in a point system based on first, second and third place.

Sophomore Matt Stypulkowski, a sprinter, received first place in three of his events.

"We had guys running up and down the pool alongside our swimmers cheering them on and the environment was filled with support from everyone," Stypulkowski said.

Stypulkowski also emphasized the difference between swimming in an individual race and then participating in a relay, which are valued more on the point system. When swimming a relay, a person stands at the front of the board and as the person swimming in front of them comes in, then they step forward and

jump over them.

"It's more difficult and definitely requires us to work as a team in order to find that rhythm and cut time," Stypulkowski said.

The diving team placed in top positions on the scoreboard as well. Diving has a category for each dive that includes: inward, back, forward, reverse and twist; each dive requires 2 of each category to be completed.

The women's swimming team started their season with three first place finishes at Pace University. On the women's diving team, freshmen Kailey White won both her one meter springboard diving competitions in her first QC meet.

"It's different from high school for the fact that college requires 11 dives rather than six," said White.

The women's team has added seven freshman to their roster and hope that their fitness and determination pushes them into a strong season.

White also mentioned how the root of the bond between the swimming and diving team comes from practice.

"In practice we like to focus on 'race pace,' skills and things that I saw from the meet that I didn't like," Kingston said.

Both swim teams practice by helping each other break skills down each day, and then combine them in a race like situation on the last day.

"If we had trouble catching water, the next day at practice we use paddles to help," Kingston said.

Catching water is a stroke technique where swimmers have their

arm in a certain direction and cup their hands to pull more water with them, making them faster.

"Our first meet was certainly a great way to start the season and we hope the rest of our meets are just as strong" said Stypulkowski.

The Knights compete in their next meet against The College of Staten Island on Nov. 3.

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SPORTS OP-ED

Hey CUNY, What About Us?

ALBERT ROMAN

Sports Reporter

The number of students attending CUNY schools is growing to such high numbers that CUNY officials announced enrollment this year was the highest ever recorded. This is great news, right?

More students attending CUNY means more packed classes. More students also means longer lines at the bookstore. While this all sounds promising, there is something significant about more students applying to school—an increase in school-related renovation projects.

According to the New York Post, 105 college and universities spent a combined \$2 billion dollars on school maintenance and new buildings each

year from 2010-2012. The number is also expected to go up another \$10 billion through 2017. Going by these numbers, CUNY schools are getting a good amount of maintenance and renovations money.

According to the CUNY 2014-15 State Adopted Budget Preliminary Analysis, New York is providing \$3.2 billion to CUNY schools. This sounds like a good amount for renovations and maintenance. There could not be a greater time to be a CUNY student. There is so much money being invested in our education.

For instance, at Queens college, a \$2 million grant was given in order to renovate the labs in Remsen Hall.

Our campus recently experienced a lot of renovations. However, there is always someone or something that seems to be forgotten. One area of QC needing upgrades is the Fitzgerald Gym.

There are a number of issues with the gym. Let us begin with the third floor where the basketball floors are located. The main basketball court contains a hardwood floor smooth to play on. However, the several courts around them are not. These floors are slippery and not as easy to be played on.

Another aspect of the gym with problems is the Fitness Center. There always seems to be a machine that is

broken or does not work. Imagine going to the gym in your full gear so excited and ready to work out. However, you have to wait because all of the working machines are full. I guess it's back to some more stretching.

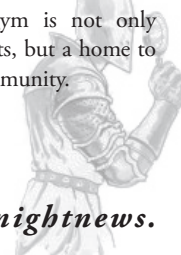
In addition, there seems to be more machines than space. An expansion of the Fitness Center would benefit everyone and not make it feel like you are running hand and hand with the person next to you.

Air conditioning is a major issue throughout the entire building. Whether it is on the basketball courts, the locker rooms or the weight room, there always seems to be a lack of air conditioning. This makes these places

warmer than they already are. The basketball court on the first floor where the women's volleyball team has their home games is so hot that it seems those in attendance are also playing.

The Fitzgerald Gym is one of the many areas on campus where students can go to escape stress. It is a good place for students to burn calories or practice, but can be a perfect area with some reinvestment. The gym is not only home the QC Knights, but a home to our entire school community.

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KNIGHT NEWS SPORTS

QUEENS COLLEGE KNIGHTS SWIM TOWARD VICTORY



**Op-Ed: Reinvestment should extend
to the Fitzgerald Gym**

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