



Journalism in the Interest of the Queens College Community

## PROFESSORS URGE A NEW CONTRACT



CUNY professors and staff determined to pressure the administration for a long overdue contract

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Photo by Brandon Jordan

Emily St. John Mandel reads from  
her book at Evening Readings  
SEE PAGE 5

Activism still thrives at  
Queens College  
SEE PAGE 8

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ms. Halkitis' insightful observations in the September 17 Knight News story, "Queens College may not be utilizing capital funds to its fullest," are most welcome. Please know that we are always looking for ways to improve the student experience on campus by using a number of funding sources to update our facilities, technology, and other services.

Fully aware that mobile devices have become the go-to way to access web-based services, the college launched QWIFI this summer to replace the older "qc-student" and "qc-faculty" network access software. This began well before the city's capital budget allocations were made this past July.

QWIFI is just step one in our modernizing wireless access. The next step is to upgrade access points across the campus. Funding of \$77,000 to support wireless access has been provided this year by the Student Technology Fee. With the goal of making Internet access more reliable for everyone, the Office of Information Technology will soon identify spaces that require newer access points. We encourage everyone to report problem areas to [WIFI.TROUBLE@](mailto:WIFI.TROUBLE@qc.cuny.edu)

[qc.cuny.edu](mailto:qc.cuny.edu) so we can quickly address any issues.

This spring, in response to a Student Association request, OIT upgraded access points on the 4th, 5th, and 6th floors of Rosenthal Library. In addition, OIT worked closely with the Summit Apartments management to make sure the Wi-Fi services in the Summit Apartments would meet the needs of the residents. AirWaves Networks, Inc. was contracted to provide cable, WIFI, network maintenance and customer support for the Summit Apartments. This effort to raise the bar for support, connectivity, and bandwidth in the Summit Apartments was funded with the QSR refinancing surplus at a cost of \$135,000.

Queens College is committed to making continuous improvements in technology that make use of varied funding sources. Suggestions from students, faculty and staff are always welcomed.

- William Keller, Vice President for Finance and Administration

## EDITORIALS

### A contract now!

It is difficult to believe CUNY professors and staff still work without a contract. It is harder to believe negotiations are still ongoing after nearly six years.

Since 2010, CUNY faculty have been without a contract. The union, specifically the Professional Staff Congress, assumed, even last year, a contract would happen, especially with the appointment of James Milliken as CUNY's new chancellor. On the contrary, union members are frustrated at the lack of progress in talks and increasing the pressure for a contract.

Some of the blame falls to Governor Andrew Cuomo, who is more obsessed with providing General Electric subsidies to move them to New York from Connecticut.

Journalist Sarah Jaffe said politicians are not our friends when describing Cuomo. It is appropriate to say Cuomo is no friend of the PSC.

Queens College President Felix Matos Rodriguez believed a contract would be reached soon in a recent email to all QC students and faculty.

"We are also optimistic about CUNY securing new contracts for our faculty and staff.

### Time's up for Islamophobia

Already the nation is familiar with the story of Ahmed Mohamed, the 14-year-old arrested in Irving, Texas last month.

Mohamed built a digital clock, which an English teacher believed was a bomb. As a result, Mohamed was arrested and placed into handcuffs, no doubt traumatizing.

The reason leading up to the arrest is simple—Islamophobia. Mohamed fit the description of an "Other." Indeed, one officer arriving at the scene immediately saw the teen as fitting the profile of a bomber.

"Yup, that's who I thought he was," the officer said.

Islamophobia exists throughout the U.S. and this arrest is a consequence of that. Although, it is not limited to the South. On the contrary, it exists throughout the U.S. Moreover, it leads to carelessness among the media when reporting anyone suspected of being a terrorist.

Take, for example, the case of Munther Omar Saleh, arrested earlier this year. The original news report described him as a "Queens college student."

Yet news outlets mistook it as a "Queens College student," a careless error. Not one person in these newsrooms thought to him or herself, "Perhaps I should fact-check this accusation."

Rather the nation's profiling against Muslims over the past decade is an easy story to sell by an eager media; never mind the fact Americans are more likely to die by right-wing white males.

A few years ago, the New York Police Department sent undercover officers to all Muslim

Chancellor Milliken is giving high priority to this process, which is complicated by CUNY's need to bring together state and city budgeting in order to secure the financial resources required for a new contract. I'm confident that in my September 2016 'Saludos' both the contract and the fiscal tightness will be behind us," Rodriguez wrote.

We wish we could share President Rodriguez's optimism. Although, after five years of no contract, let alone a proposal from CUNY, it is hard to believe a deal will be reached.

Although, Rodriguez is right to point out budgeting is a major issue in obtaining a contract. Funding for CUNY is on the decline, no doubt influencing CUNY to be hesitant on a new deal.

The fact remains that our education is at risk without a contract for professors and staff. They are overworked and underfunded. They cannot fully focus on providing an education for us and a contract must be reached.

Governor Cuomo, Chancellor Milliken, the ball is in your court.

### 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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Student Associations in CUNY. The Associated Press exposed this in 2013, but the "Other" already was ingrained in minds of most Americans.

Arun Kundnani, a scholar who teaches here at Queens College, wrote a book titled "The Muslims Are Coming!" about Islamophobia and its origins from the national security state. The title of the book comes from the 1966 movie "The Russians Are Coming, The Russians Are Coming" where the premise shows Russians "as human beings who...behave just like Americans."

Furthermore, Kundnani points out Islamophobia existing in Western institutions allows for wars, like the Iraq war, where thousands of Muslims are killed by the state.

"Its significance does not lie primarily in the individual prejudices it generates but in its wider political consequences—its enabling of systemic violations of the rights of Muslims and its demonization of actions taken to remedy those violations," Kundnani writes.

Even films like "American Sniper" or "Zero Dark Thirty" uphold this in either exaggeration, in the case of the former, or acting as CIA public relations, in the case of the latter. Still, Islamophobia grows because of these films.

It is great to see Mohamed receive massive support over the wrongful arrest. Although, more needs to be done to defeat Islamophobia deeply ingrained in our institutions and upheld by the nation's leaders.

# Almost six years later, no contract for CUNY union

BRANDON JORDAN

News Reporter

The last time CUNY faculty and staff worked with a contract? 2010. The last time they saw a pay raise? 2009.

After another year without progress in contract negotiations, the Professional Staff Congress, the union representing all CUNY staff, told its members to prepare for actions this fall—including “disruptive mass action.”

Barbara Bowen, president of the PSC, wrote an email to all members on Aug. 27 about stalled negotiations and, consequently, upcoming actions for a contract. She blamed James Milliken, CUNY chancellor, for failing to “offer a single dollar for raises or back-pay” since his appointment last year.

“We have all been patient long enough. Starting on this first day of the new academic year, the union will accept no more excuses,” Bowen wrote.

Actions organized by the PSC for this semester consist of a city-wide meeting with all PSC chapters and a mass sit-in in late November. Furthermore, free training sessions on non-violent civil disobedience are provided for members throughout the fall.

On Oct. 1, PSC members demonstrated in front of Milliken’s Manhattan apartment at 7:30 a.m. to demand he “wake up” to a contract.

Milliken, at a recent meeting with the board of trustees, reassured his commitment to a new contract for faculty and staff.

“[W]hile I may not need a ‘reminder’ or a ‘wake up call,’ I do not begrudge our faculty and staff for providing one. I talked to members of the faculty and staff every day and I understand what they’re facing. I may not have created the circumstances that have now resulted in a contract six



PHOTO BY BRANDON JORDAN

During the Labor Day Parade in New York City, PSC members said they were frustrated with the lack of a contract as talks between the union and CUNY are still ongoing.

years out of date, but I certainly accept the responsibility for ending what is an unacceptable situation,” Milliken said.

PSC members and supporters at the Labor Day Parade felt frustrated at the lack of a contract for nearly half a decade.

“It’s been six years without a wage increase. It’s inhumane and wrong,” Michael Fabricant, first vice president of the PSC, said.

Fabricant explained Milliken’s salary, which is \$670,000 per year, made him accountable in getting a contract for the PSC.

“If you’re getting that kind of salary, you’re accountable,” Fabricant said.

Meanwhile, District Council 37, a labor union not directly affiliated with the PSC, blamed Governor Andrew Cuomo for the lack of a contract. The Democratic governor, in spite of successfully negotiating

with DC37, was not interested in “moving talks forward.”

Fabricant said Cuomo could sign the Maintenance of Effort, which ensures funding for both SUNY and CUNY.

“The governor promised, when he passed SUNY 2020, which has to do with five years of tuition increases, all of the money would go toward enhancing faculty, staff and quality of education. But, because for the first time in the history of this administration, there has been no year over year salary or wage increases and maintenance of effort on pensions,” Fabricant said.

The bill passed the state Senate and, after changes by state Senators, returns to the state Assembly for another vote.

Still, PSC members felt Cuomo is an obstacle to obtaining a contract.

“He should be ashamed and we have to make him feel

ashamed,” Michelle Doney, director of the Math & Science Resource Center at John Jay College, said.

At the same time, adjuncts, which are 59 percent of faculty in CUNY, according to the CUNY Adjunct Project, are negatively affected by the lack of a contract. Indeed, some have left CUNY.

“In most cases, they don’t make living wage anyway,” Michael Seitz, an adjunct professor at BMCC, said.

Shamari Stewart, a senior majoring in sociology, explained the militant actions, like the PSC’s, can pressure employers into negotiating a new contract.

“When laborers become militant, it puts pressure on employers and usually results in an agreement or concession of some kind. Militancy is important because it makes sure that your grievances don’t go unnoticed and that you have power,” Stewart said.

Furthermore, Stewart said he heard from professors about the lack of a contract and how it made “their lives a lot more stressful and difficult.”

“All of the ones that said this were wonderful professors who made my experience at QC much more enjoyable and fascinating. It doesn’t seem fair that these people are getting the short end of the stick,” Stewart said.

Meanwhile, Doney urged students to support their professors in getting a contract.

“We need students to help us. Help us help you,” Doney said.

The Governor’s Office did not respond to inquiries from The Knight News.

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## Friend requests on Facebook potentially could determine loans

IRVING CRUZ

News Reporter

Most Queens College students do not think too much when they accept a friend request, although, a potential Facebook patent may change.

Facebook is developing a new technology that, if approved by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, would allow creditors to use a new system to evaluate a potential borrower’s creditworthiness. It would seek information from a borrower’s Facebook friend list instead of their personal credit history.

On Aug. 4, Facebook filed a U.S. patent for a new technology examining “the credit ratings of members of the individual’s social network who are connected to the individual.”

Students seeking student loans, based on a student’s credit score and other financial information, could be affected by this change.

Facebook would disclose a potential borrower’s friends list to third parties, who are allowed to monitor the credit history of each Facebook user. Then, it is used to assess whether or not to grant a borrower a loan.

Students who accept friend requests from users with negative credit history risk having their “loan application rejected” or receive a higher interest rate.

According to 2013 ProPublica report, 13.2 percent of undergraduate students relied on federal loans for their education. Hypothetically, if one student defaulted on their loans, which 6.5 percent of students did three years after graduating, it could penalize a Facebook friend’s chance at obtaining a loan.

Anmol Singh, senior, disagreed with Facebook’s new blueprint.

“If Facebook will be used to identify credit worthy borrowers, it should only be based on the information you share about yourself like photos or wall post, not who you accept as Facebook friends. How many of your friends on Facebook do you really know? It should not have an impact on you,” Singh said.

The product effects not only student loans but mortgages, car loans and credit cards as well.

Izabela Mierzejewska, senior, believed Facebook should not be used at all when seeking a potential loan. She questioned whether a social media profile

could accurately display a person’s credit worth.

“I don’t think Facebook friends can reflect how financially responsible you are. It’s not fair to determine someone’s credit worthiness based on that kind of information. Someone’s social life should not have anything to do with work or school. It’s absolutely absurd,” Mierzejewska said.

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## Congressman Joseph Crowley visits Queens College to talk politics

PHIL VALLONE

News Reporter

Rep. Joseph Crowley, D-N.Y., spoke at Rosenthal Library on Sept. 21, addressing political issues such as the Iran nuclear deal, education and the Citizens United decision.

Crowley, a Queens College alum, offered his gratitude for the college's invitation back to his alma mater to speak with individuals just like him 30 years ago.

"Being the son and the grandson of immigrants, it is an honor to have the opportunity to represent such hardworking and wonderful people," Crowley said.

Crowley, first elected to Congress in 1999, previously served 12 years in the New York state Assembly. He currently represents the state's 14th congressional district, which includes Astoria through parts of Flushing. He is up for reelection in 2016.

Crowley answered questions about the affordability of higher education and potential policy plans for relief for private student loans.

"One of the critical things we have to do is reauthorize the Higher Education Act," Crowley said. "The cost of higher education in the private sector is through the roof and really is unaffordable to the average middle class family."

Crowley suggested communicating with the private colleges, including multiple Catholic institutions, to find a solution on college affordability.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX FLOREZ  
Rep. Joseph Crowley, D-N.Y., spoke at the Rosenthal Library about issues like the Iranian nuclear deal and Congressional dysfunction.

He also supported free community college and President Barack Obama's proposal for it.

"We need to re-examine our priorities," Crowley said.

When asked about his support of the Iranian nuclear deal, viewed as controversial and politically divisive, Crowley defended his stance on the agreement.

"It was one of the most difficult decisions I had to make," Crowley said.

Crowley recognized the shortcomings of the deal, yet dismissed criticisms of its potential 24-day waiting period for the nuclear sites inspection, which he argued is not long.

"The idea that we could have had a better deal struck if the terms go down, I don't believe that is the case," Crowley said.

Crowley supported the deal after hearing briefings from the State Department and other confidential sources from the military.

"I'm concerned about what happens after 15 years but, I think in this day and age, we have to take what we can get at this point," Crowley said.

Although, he felt confident the U.S. military could strike Iran should the country violate the agreement.

Additionally, Crowley supported more foreign aid to

Israel, particularly in the area of defense.

The Citizens United decision, where the Supreme Court allowed unlimited donations in campaigns, was also brought up. Crowley said the decision changed politics in the U.S. as entities can contribute unlimited resources, while individuals are limited what they can contribute to a campaign.

"It gave corporations, I would argue, even more rights than the individual," Crowley said.

The Democratic representative addressed the low approval ratings for Congress, which reflected "a lack of progress people see in the world."

Crowley offered strategies

to move beyond current political divisions and enact new policies in Congress. He referred to "artificial deadlines" and "artificial cliffs," such as the fiscal deadline, as causes of many problems in Congress and a reason behind the federal government shutdown in 2013.

"We don't need to be making these man-made cliffs or false cliffs. We really need to do the people's business as opposed to just the politics," Crowley said.

Patricia Rachal, the chairperson of political science at QC, was impressed by the Political Science Club's ability to put on such an event.

"No matter what one's political orientation is, having Representative Crowley here afforded us an opportunity to ask questions of high saliency to an elected official and that doesn't happen all that often," Rachal said.

In addition, Rachal encouraged future events on campus involving elected lawmakers.

"I would love to see other events. Sort of underscoring the opportunity that we live in New York, we're in Queens, this diverse borough. There's all sorts of elected and appointed officials and I would like to see us bring more to campus," Rachal said.

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## Baruch hazing death changes attitudes toward Greek life

YONGMIN CHO

News Reporter

Queens College's Greek life faced a culture shift since Chun Hsien (Michael) Deng's tragic death in the Baruch hazing incident during December 2013.

Deng's death brought national attention to hazing. QC administration officials implemented guidelines and workshops to keep hazing under control.

All Greek students are required to participate in an anti-hazing program this November and sign an anti-hazing form. The form gives a definition of hazing, while prior forms did not include one despite asking students to sign it. Judith Krinitz, assistant director of Student Life, said.

"Hazing doesn't have to be physical. It can be emotional or mental," Krinitz said.

QC, under the umbrella of CUNY, prompted more emphasis on student safety.

"We want to make sure that no one dies or gets injured ever, regardless of the affiliation," Krinitz said. "It can be the Queens College ping pong club, which we don't have, for example. No one should ever get hurt playing ping pong or going to a meeting or a conference because they are affiliated with a Queens College club."

Greek students, aware of the situation, also "toned down" the Greek culture.

"We definitely did come together, not necessarily physically, as a mindset and said, 'this is pretty serious,'" Josh Pinkhasov, senior and Alpha Epsilon Pi brother, said. "There's a Facebook group for all the Greeks that only Greeks are allowed to be in and they definitely

do bring up a lot of topics like this."

CUNY recognized Greeks not as individual organizations, but under the Inter Greek Council, which became a "loophole" for Greeks to exist in CUNY, all Greek business are done through IGC.

"They don't really monitor us because we're technically under IGC, but, if the head hears of anything, they will inquire and crack down," Pinkhasov said.

Baruch implemented a lifetime ban for the Pi Delta Psi fraternity and a three-year ban on all Greek rush and pledge activities, which raised concerns of partial punishment from the college's organizations not tied to the incident.

"I would have to think that Baruch is studying this situation thoroughly," Krinitz said. "I don't

know if that would solve the issue but give them some time to look into it."

The Asian American Cultural fraternity was an unrecognized organization and conducted an unauthorized trip, leaving the college oblivious; although, Baruch was held responsible.

The fraternity took a trip to the Poconos and conducted the "glass ceiling" ritual where the pledges run across a lawn blindfolded carrying a 20 pound sand-filled bag and avoid brothers tackling him. The ritual, The New York Times reported, "symbolized their burden as Asian-Americans trying to break into the mainstream."

Fraternities prefer it called tradition than hazing. For example, some African-American fraternities require their pledges

to walk around with a cane. The cane represented a time during Jim Crow laws where African-American men carried around canes to protect themselves.

"Sometimes there's a fine line between when an organization will call it a tradition verses hazing. Basically the organizations are trying to say, 'Hey, this is where we once were. Here's where we are now,'" Krinitz said.

Deng, on the other hand, was tackled multiple times and the treatment worsened after he resisted, which ultimately led to his fatal head injury.

"A lot depends on the interpretation of the situation," Krinitz said.

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## Queens College Evening Readings begin with Emily St. John Mandel

CHRISTINA CARDONA

News Reporter

Emily St. John Mandel read from her fourth novel, "Station Eleven," on Sept. 29 evening, for the Queens College Evening Readings series in the LeFrank Concert Hall.

The audience, mostly women, seemed eager and interested to see Leonard Lopate, the host, interview Mandel.

Mandel is the author of three other novels: "The Lola Quartet," "The Singer's Gun" and "Last Night in Montreal." "Station Eleven," released on June 2, was a finalist for the National Book Award and is a national best seller.

"Station Eleven" is a dystopian novel about a Shakespearean Theater company, The Travelling Symphony. The theater troupe roams the wasteland 20 years after an apocalypse and performs for communities of survivors. The setting travels through time, showing life before and after a flu pandemic.

The plot connects five people, Arthur Leander, who dies of a heart attack during a production of "King Lear," his wife Miranda, his friend Clark, a young actress named Kirsten of

The Travelling Symphony, Jeevan, a man who tried saving Arthur's life, and a violent prophet.

Mandel said she specifically wanted to write about a group of actors.

"I was interested in writing about what it means to devote your life to your art," Mandel said. "It's really about the art, because no one is making money anyway."

The evening commenced with Joseph Cuomo, founding director of the Evening Readings, calling for a moment of silence to honor two writers who recently passed away, Oliver Sacks and E.L. Doctorow, who read at previous readings.

Afterward, Mandel was introduced and read sections of her novel.

Lopate asked Mandel about the growing popularity of dystopian novels. Mandel said she heard two theories: anxieties about the world ending and economic inequality.

"Perhaps in a moment, when it seems the playing field isn't particularly leveled, we secretly want to blow everything up and start over," Mandel said.

Lopate said "Station Eleven" painted a hopeful picture, unlike



PHOTO COURTESY BY CHRISTINA CARDONA  
Emily St. John Mandel (center) was introduced by Joseph Cuomo (left) and interviewed by Leonard Lopate.

other post-apocalyptic works, if she purposely left mayhem out such as "The Road" or "The Walking Dead." He asked Mandel to show humans do not always descend to violence when disaster

hits.

"I just felt that other writers really covered that ground very well, and I wasn't particularly interested in writing a horror novel," Mandel said. "It did seem to me more interesting to write about the period after that, the new culture that begins to emerge."

Lopate asked if the violent prophet was a comment on organized religion. She disagreed and saw it as a character inevitably rising in a country.

"We are very heavily armed as a country. What we see around the world in a situation of political breakdown is in a power vacuum [where] warlords do emerge. People want some kind of leadership or people willing to step in and fill the gaps," Mandel said.

The next QC Evening Reading will be on Oct. 27 with Mary Gaitskill. Admission to the events is \$20, but free for those with a CUNY student ID.

For more information on the Evening Readings series, visit [www.qcreadings.org](http://www.qcreadings.org).

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I am also in the process of starting a new club in Queens College called Martial Arts Therapy which is old/new techniques for pain management and rehab. I am seeking student interns to work for me on this project and another with film and media.

[www.garymoskowitzfilms.com](http://www.garymoskowitzfilms.com)

## CUNY Service Corps still serving in its third year

PHILIPP REGALA

News Reporter

Full-time college students may view time not devoted to friends or studies as wasteful. Although, the CUNY Service Corps provides a unique combination of experience, service and pay.

The CUNY Service Corps, which began fall of 2013, operates at nine CUNY schools across the five boroughs with more than 801 students working at 111 community partner organizations and 15 faculty-led projects.

"The main purpose of the CUNY Service Corps is to help students give back to their community while learning

valuable skills applicable toward their major," Cesar Oyervides-Cisneros, head of the Queens College section of the Service Corps, said. "We try to match participants up to service jobs in their area relating to their majors so that they can start applying what they've learned in class and turn their theoretical class work into practical experience."

Entering the Service Corps is not easy. To be eligible, participants must be full-time students, take a minimum of 18 credits and at least a 2.5 GPA.

"The requirements to join the Corps are difficult, in my

opinion, because we want to present the best of Queens College to the community," Oyervides-Cisneros said. "The requirements should serve as motivation for those students who are almost there to give it that extra push." Alumni of the program, after leaving, continue to help and mentor new prospects for the Service Corps.

One club associated with the Service Corps is QC Serves. Run by former members of the program, it hosts several events on campus throughout the academic year. Among those was the Ice Cream Social, which took place on

Sept. 21.

"Basically the point of the club is to engage students, on and off campus and through different volunteer opportunities as well as social events," Taylor Blanket, president of QC Serves, said. "For many students on campus, we see that they don't really have a place to call home, and that's what we want to try and build for them here."

Although, working with QC Serves is not the only option. Rohana Jo, an alum of the program, currently works with the Service Corps and educates prospective members before they

begin.

"I loved my time in the Service Corps. While I was in it, I worked at a non-profit organization and was really happy where they placed me. After that I decided to stay with the Service Corps and the experience really helped to strengthen my connections with those already working in the field I want to work in one day," Jo said.

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# Fall 2015 Major/Minor Fair Wednesday, October 21

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm | Student Union | 4<sup>th</sup> Floor

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## CUNY sets new record of enrollment

**BRANDON HERNANDEZ**  
*News Reporter*

The City University of New York reported record numbers of student enrollment for the new semester.

Approximately 278,000 students enrolled at CUNY for this the fall semester, a 42 percent increase since the fall of 2000, where 195,403 students registered.

More students from low-income households turn to CUNY because of its low tuition rates. Tuition ranges from nearly

\$7,000 at senior colleges to \$4,000 at community colleges per year. Furthermore, financial aid partially covers costs for students.

At Queens College, enrollment fluctuated over the past 5 years. From 2010 to 2014, enrollment number declined from 20,906 to 19,313, based on data from CUNY Office of Institutional Research.

Briana Ojeda, a sophomore, believed improvements to CUNY colleges may follow from higher enrollment.

“Due to an increase of students attending these schools, more staff will be hired, other academic and student support services will be available for students and the qualities of libraries will be further improved. Jobs will be available for incoming professors and the new staff hired will be beneficial for me and other students. Overall, I believe more students enrolling will make my experience at CUNY much better because of all the improvements in all areas to come,” Ojeda said.

Ojeda highlighted money from tuition would help widen the use of academic resources, making it easier to access utilities on campus; Plus, with the increase of students, more professors would be demanded.

Stefan Hernandez, senior, wondered about the effects of more students attaining higher education.

“While I enjoy the fact that the nation is encouraging higher education, it raises an important question. What's happening to

trades in America? Individuals who specialize in certain trades are necessary to society. Does this mean that we'll be seeing a shortage of tradesman in the future?” Hernandez said.

Hernandez underlined changes in the U.S. to job prospects, for example..

“These days, it seems like higher education is the only way to secure a job,” Hernandez said.

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## Solution to free printing not black-and-white

**YONGMIN CHO**  
*News Reporter*

Student Association, for the 2014-15 fiscal year, proposed and implemented unlimited printing at Rosenthal Library.

Although, over the course of the new program, “it was clear that there was a small group of students who were printing an inordinate number of pages and a majority of students were not benefiting at all from the service,” the Student Technology Fee Plan Summary for 2015-16 found.

“There were a lot of things that weren't accounted for and, instead, was very hasty. This time around, our committee is thinking to have a contract set in place so that student can still print but we won't have the same situation where one student prints about

12,000 pages,” SA President Christopher Labial said.

SA is not the organization deciding everything; instead, they are advocates tending to student needs. The association sits at the table with the Tech Fee Committee.

“We communicate with them to reach a certain compromise,” Labial said. “If you think about basic government, Obama doesn't control the car companies, but he advocates to set regulations.”

When the administration ended free printing, SA advocated for some printing funds students could use. Although, the committee allocated \$15 of free printing to every QC student.

Although, since February 2015, 150 free duplex printing,

a feature providing double-sided printing, per semester on 21 printers throughout campus was given to students. This prevents abuse by a small number of people, Claudia Colbert, interim assistant vice president and chief information officer, said.

“This translates into \$10 allocation each semester with each print costing 5 cents,” Colbert said. “We continue to support the free 150 page allocation to each student.”

Despite the change, the \$80,000 budget for printing remains the same as last year.

“It's a real collaboration. Most of our work comes from sitting in these meetings and trying to help administrators make decisions that will best serve the students and that's our job, whether it comes to

hosting a concert or implementing a printing system,” Labial said.

Josh Pinkhasov, a senior part of the committee last year, suggested a printing system from SUNY Stony Brook using Pharos, printing software QC also uses.

The Stony Brook system gives students 40 pages of free printing per day starting Monday and adds up until Sunday where it resets.

Pinkhasov personally pushed for that system and received positive feedback. Although, when discussing with a tech person, the system was apparently too complicated to implement.

“It was definitely a more complicated system than what we have now. I don't know how it's supposed to work, but it didn't seem like too much trouble just

to get that,” Pinkhasov said. “It would allow the students to get free printing to an extent so that they don't go overboard like some of the printout numbers we saw, absolutely nuts.”

Pinkhasov said he would suggest his idea to the committee once again.

“Obviously, [the current system] doesn't amount to the same kind of services free printing provided,” Labial said. “But whether it be one of our ideas or one of the student's ideas, we just have to keep listening and think on our feet to find a better solution.”

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# Legacy of student activism lives on at Queens College

PHIL VALLONE

News Reporter

Queens College is known for their student activists' role not only on campus, but across the U.S. as well.

From anti-war rallies to mass sit-ins at buildings, students helped define and change what it means to be an activist over the history of the college.

Today activism is still a major part of student life on campus in spite of new issues arising in society.

"Activism is a way to create change through people's actions. It is creating awareness in the community in order to cause people to take action and demand better political change." Lorena Carino, senior, said.

Carino is a member of the DREAM Team, which aims to raise awareness on immigration reform and support undocumented students.

Juan Munoz, another member of the DREAM Team, offered his own definition of what activism means.

"Activism means an opportunity to alter the status quo and voice the opinions of others. Activism is a catalyst for change," Munoz said.

Another student-led organization on campus, NYPIRG, founded in 1973, is the largest student-directed research and advocacy organization in New York, with more than 85,000 members statewide. Their primary concerns consist of issues like environmental protection, higher education and voter registration.



PHOTO BY AMANDA GOLDSTEIN  
NYPIRG is just one of many activist groups at Queens College upholding the college's legacy of activism.

Tiffany Brown, a project coordinator with NYPIRG and QC alum, discussed how student activism was able to get CUNY students classified as a specific demographic for voter registration. Thus, it provided better understanding of certain New York City districts where CUNY students reside.

"The CUNY Board of Directors, along with NYPIRG and other groups, fought really hard to get the [CUNY demographic] put on the voter registration form...and it helps us when we're talking about higher education issues and consumer protection," Brown said.

Brown encouraged students, already registered to vote, to re-register as CUNY students as it builds a stronger case for reform in districts where CUNY students are most affected.

Ali Kirkpatrick, a project coordinator for NYPIRG, strongly encouraged all students to be proactive and get involved in their community.

"We have an enormous potential to make an enormous difference if we just go out to the polls and exercise that one civic duty that we have. We can change so much. There is so much untapped potential and communicating that effectively

is something we definitely do on campus," Kirkpatrick said.

Grace Magee, also a QC alum and project coordinator for NYPIRG, emphasized the importance of not only being a registered voter but being an informed voter as well.

"A huge piece of it is doing the research. Something people don't talk about a lot with voting and what that means is learning who these people are," Magee said.

Other activist groups on campus include Students Without Borders, Environmental Club and Student Organization for Democratic Alternatives.

For the DREAM Team,

Carino said it could influence the public when it comes to immigration issues.

"Our club hopes that American society becomes more aware of the issues surrounding immigration. We hope that people may become more informed with these issues and will hopefully be able to make better political choices," Carino said.

Carino added activism, in general, can dictate the narrative on issues, which can positively affect the future.

"Activism in our community will eventually cause change by starting conversations that weren't a part of the community before," Carino said. "These conversations and changes are significant for others to know how important our voices can be. Our voices are important because future generations will be able to benefit from the significant changes and will also learn that taking action can make a difference."

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## "Mistress America" challenges myth of idealism in a stable world

DAVID RAFILOVICH

News Reporter

"Mistress America" is a hilarious and clever film, but shows a profound message about finding one's place in a wild, hectic world and coming to terms with compromise.

The film contains sharp and witty dialogue likened to Wes Anderson and is able to keep the frustration and dread genuine. The film's sobering portrait of American ambition heightened by a nuanced character could change a person's perspective, all while laughing.

The film follows Tracy Fishco, played by Lola Kirke, a college freshman and aspiring writer. She is utterly uninspired, unsatisfied with her classes, lonely and rejected by the coveted Literary Society, who pretentiously eat cheese and drink wine.

This is until she is pulled into the orbit of Brooke, played by Greta Gerwig, the woman whose father is going to marry Tracy's mother. Brooke is a 29-year-old dazzling whirlwind of creativity saying ridiculous proverbs about life and is brimming with grand schemes.

After spending one night with Brooke, Tracy is in awe of her and charmed by her ability to live life to the fullest. Tracy, like many writers without experience of their own, starts "stealing" from Brooke and jots down her proverbs for a short story she writes without Brooke's knowledge.

As Tracy views Brooke more objectively for her story, she writes with clearheaded insights of Brooke's personality faults. Tracy follows and cheers Brooke on as

she hustles for funding a restaurant idea called Mom's, which is based on forming a parent-like relationship with its customers; a nice, yet absurd idea.

When all options fail, Brooke is forced to confront her former best friend and nemesis, Mamie-Claire. Played by Heather Lind, Mamie-Claire "stole" her red pants, cats, J Crew T-shirt idea and millionaire boyfriend. She visits her and the film shifts into a ridiculous comedic episode where characters are unmasked and friendships are broken.

Despite the film's humor, it carries a much heavier undertone of self-actualization and the modern American dream. The film brings to mind "The Great Gatsby" as a clear inspiration to Tracy and Brooke's relationship,

which parallels the relationship between Jay Gatsby and Nick Carraway. Also Gatsby and Brooke's self-fabricated personas both mask their relationship with the past.

Nevertheless, "Mistress America" surpasses being a derivative due to Tracy's multi-dimensional character and add its own unique insight on today's American dream and illusion of boundless opportunity.

Tracy's character could have been the straight man to Brooke's comic routine, but is not. The story from Tracy's writing about Brooke helps her come to the realization Brooke is not sacred as she appears.

The film takes Tracy's perspective through the intimate narration, rather than trample over

Brooke's. Thus, when the cracks in Brooke's masquerade start to show, Tracy's feeling of liberation is understood when she has realizes no one knows how to fit in.

Simultaneously, Brooke's character is also heard in-depth and characterizes another aspect of the American dream. She is overloaded with opportunities the modern world offers. Her million grand schemes, when looked seriously, are failed attempts at stability.

"Mistress America" challenges thinking a person's place into world, how to make a living and that grand schemes are not enough.

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## OP-EDS

## College is back in session; Will New Yorkers get a break?

BY TIFFANY BROWN

With colleges back in session, many students and their families are wondering if they will get a break on rising college costs. American higher education has seen a dramatic shift in who pays for public college. America was once a society that valued college education and put its collective money where its mouth is by funding the bulk of the cost of that education.

But since the 1980s, there has been a shift in the burden of paying for public college from government to the families of those in college. The clearest evidence of that shift has been the reduction state dollars going to public colleges and the dramatic increase in tuition over the last three decades.

While state funding for the State University of New York (SUNY) has remained largely flat over the last few years, the total cost to maintain SUNY's and the City University of New York's existing services has increased by nearly \$200 million. The state made up the difference using hikes in public college tuition. Stagnant state support plus rising tuition has had an impact: Prior to the 2008 recession, tuition covered about half of SUNY's budget and less than 40% of CUNY's budget. Now, tuition covers more than 60% of SUNY's budget and 50% of CUNY's.

These tuition increases are the result of a so-called "rational tuition" policy. New York's law, described by proponents as "rational," hiked public college tuition each year for five years.

The only thing rational about this policy is that it guaranteed increases in the cost of attending a public college. As a result, New York families are paying more — and in some cases adding to an increasing college debt load.

Nationwide, student loan debt is currently over \$1 trillion and it is estimated to be \$2 trillion by 2025. At New York's four University Centers 56% of graduates carry debt averaging over \$22,000. Studies show that students burdened with student loan debt are less likely to start a business or own a home. This can create a ripple effect where current debt hamstrings future wealth growth—the effect is even greater for low-income students and students of color.

Even in the face of rising cost and debt, a college-educated

workforce is in demand. According to a Georgetown University study, by 2018, nearly two-thirds of New York jobs will require a post-secondary education. Yet, 2013 Census data shows that less than half of New York adults hold an associate's or bachelor's degree. But with tuition increases outpacing income growth, and the state's stagnant support for public higher education, college affordability is eroding quickly.

But, the current New York model is not the only way.

Other states are enacting another form of "rational tuition"—they are either freezing tuition rates, or cutting the cost of attending public colleges and universities. Washington state enacted a law that cuts in-state tuition and the Minnesota legislature froze tuition at two-year colleges this semester

and will cut tuition rates next year. Ohio and Wisconsin also froze in-state tuition for their institutions, and Maine kept tuition flat for the fourth year in a row.

The state's NY SUNY 2020 law hiked public college tuition, shifting costs from the state to students and their families. At the end of this coming spring semester, New York's law will expire and the debate on what to do next is heating up. The best way for New York to define what's "rational" is from a student's perspective. Many students are struggling after years of tuition hikes and stagnant state support. That's why New York must freeze tuition rates now.

*Tiffany Brown is the Project Coordinator for NYPIRG at Queens College. She can be reached at [tbrown@nypirg.org](mailto:tbrown@nypirg.org).*

## Study Abroad: A Muscat Sojourn Diary

BY FITZCARL REID

At the end of last spring semester, I was blessed with the opportunity to study Arabic in Oman, a country in the Arabian Peninsula, bordering the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. I applied for and won two awards, the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship and the Queens College Study Abroad scholarship, to study the Arabic language at the Center for International Learning in Muscat, Oman.

I am forever indebted to Professors Lan Kim (Korean), Hala Abdelghany (Arabic) and Serenity Young (Asian History), for their recommendations. I wouldn't have been able to win without their recommendations. My essay would never have been good enough without the constructive criticism from my Gilman adviser, Dr. Moira Egan, in Honors Hall. Professor Abdelghany greatly encouraged me to study Arabic by letting me audit her winter-intensive Arabic 101 class and 102 in the spring. Professor Kim generously took the time to simply talk to me whenever she could about my goals. I loved her Korean class.

Two other advisers were absolutely critical in putting my Gilman scholarship application together: Mr. Mohamed Tabrani, the director of the Queens College Study Abroad program; and Ms. Rhonda Bloch from the Financial Aid Office. I would not have gone anywhere without their advice and actual approval of my online

application. Helen Gaudette, Director of the Office of Global Education Initiatives was very supportive.

The Queens College Study Abroad scholarship allowed me to buy my plane ticket. My Gilman funds actually did not come in until after I came back from Oman. Luckily, that wasn't a problem thanks to the generosity and compassion of people like Huzaim Mohamed Al Manei, Anna Gezelius and Natasha Phillips of the Center for International Learning.

The Gilman staff, particularly Yahaira Verdejo, worked diligently with me throughout the process to make sure everything worked out in the end. I want to say thank you, to Esther Smolar in the Office of Honors and Scholarships, for helping me. I hope I am forgiven if I haven't mentioned anyone else who also helped me.

Oman is one of the countries that comprised vital links in the long journey from east to west, and vice versa, known as the Silk Road —visited by the legendary Moroccan world traveler Ibn Battuta — valuable trade routes that crossed over land and sea. The vast Omani maritime trade empire itself spanned the vast distance from India to East Africa. By some amazing coincidence I was fortunate to study this in Professor Young's East Asian Civilization class in the spring.

I was accepted into the Center for International Learning in Muscat. The teachers and staff,

as well as other Omani people I encountered, did their best to make me feel safe and welcomed. It was an unforgettable experience of warm hospitality and human kindness. I hope to return there someday in the future to possibly teach English.

I believe every student should have the experience of encountering different languages, cultures and people in other countries. I have won other awards as well. But this was my first award to go abroad—I haven't won every time I applied, but it has been worth the effort. I hope to share my experiences with the readers of QC Voices in order to encourage them to do the same.

I know that many students that attend Queens College are actually from other countries. It's one of the reasons why I love QC so much. The first impression I got of Oman when my plane arrived early in the morning was the sight of hazy sandy land that I peered out at from my window seat. My eyes were practically glued to the window since leaving Paris.

We had passed over European and other Middle Eastern lands I had only read about and have longed to visit.

Hot, in one word, in two words, very hot, is the impression that first hit me in the face like being kissed the desert itself—welcoming me in a caring but smothering embrace. I would come to know this feeling well for most of my stay. I came to learn about the amazing history of Oman and pride that the Omani people had

in their king and country.

On the first day of my arrival I experienced incredible Omani kindness and hospitality from a woman at the Travelex visa desk, Siddiq Ahmed. She gave me my visa even though I couldn't pay for it at the time. It's a long story. Let it suffice to say that my finances were tied up.

She simply told me to come back and pay her the next day. Thanks to the staff at CIL, she was repaid the next day. I was and still am dumbfounded. I couldn't conceive of anything like that happening at an airport in the United States.

I was struck by the way the people looked physically like my family and friends across the African Diaspora—some having kinky hair, and dark to golden complexions. I found that the Omani people were same as any people anywhere. They worried about their future, education, jobs and children. I even found out a place to dance Salsa (mainly at two hotels), which belied the stereotype of strict Muslim culture.

I was told that young Omanis got loose at the hotels—and that unfortunately alcohol might be a burgeoning problem in the society hidden for the time being.

One of the most ubiquitous sights were the short and very tall date trees on sidewalks, street corners and people's personal yards. The tops of the trunks were loaded with the sweet chewy fruit for most of my stay. The hotel staff laid them out with the traditional

Arabic coffee for anyone to partake while they sat down on a red patterned low pillowed sofa in the lobby by the front desk.

My family was worried about me going to Middle East because of all the horrible news that dominates the media. But I was only ever treated with kindness and respect by all the Omani people I met and had the pleasure to converse with. I only wish I could have stayed longer. If it is in the cards, Inshallah, I will return to explore all the places in Oman that I wasn't able to go.

*Fitzcarl Reid is a senior majoring in Chinese Language and Literature and minoring in Arabic, Japanese and Korean. He spent several years abroad as an English teacher in South Korea and Japan.*



## SPORTS

# Slow start for the men's soccer team

ADITI RAI

*Sports Reporter*

The men's soccer team began their season losing five of their first seven games, although the Knights currently are 2-2 in conference play.

Despite the start, head coach Carl Christian believed the games were lost because of minor mistakes.

"We've been doing things relatively well, but soccer is a game of mistakes, in a sense, where one or two mistakes can cost you the whole game," Coach Christian said.

For soccer players, the sport requires a lot of dedication. There are 17 days of preseason preparation and the season is two months of the academic year. The Division 2 program stresses the importance of good academic standing as well as sports. The team consists not only of great players, but also great students.

"For two years in a row now, they received an academic award by the National Coaches Association for a combined team GPA above 3.0," Christian said. "We just want to be able to combine that with success on the field."

Christian also coaches the women's soccer team and believed, by coaching both teams, it is more than just the performance on the field.



**Goalkeeper James Brostowski helped the men's soccer team in the 4-1 victory against Saint Thomas Aquinas.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HIGGINS

"I've been in the women's program twice as long, we've built a good foundation, good tradition. We've had success as a program and we've developed an identity," Christian said.

Junior James Brostowski, goalkeeper for the team, anticipated the Oct. 3 matchup against Saint Thomas Aquinas.

"We've been playing well as a

team and we are feeling confident about our schedule as we have a string of really important away games. Being that we're going to play on a turf field on [Oct. 3], we have been working on a lot of combination play and trying to advance the ball up the field with shorter passes," Brostowski said.

The Knights defeated Saint Thomas Aquinas 4-1. Freshman

Andras Breuer and junior Brain Belfont led the way with a goal and assist, respectively.

Seven of the next nine games are on the road for the Knights. The team hopes to improve on all aspects of their game.

"It's not just playing good soccer, but finding a way to win games. It happens at every level, you look at the top teams that

spend millions of dollars to go out and get the best players and it doesn't necessarily translate to winning," Christian said.

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# Volleyball team looks to overcome early season obstacles

MICHAEL TRINIDAD

*Sports Reporter*

The Queens College women's volleyball team anticipate a strong finish to the end of their season.

The team lost nine out of their first 13 games, although they are confident of winning their last few matches.

Junior Tori Bowser, returning from an injured knee ending her season last year, is a strong believer of this mindset.

"We go into each game as a brand new one. We don't focus on the outcome of the last game but rather the game that's in front of us," Bowser said.

Not only did the team recruit five new players, but also former assistant coach Jason Octave is in his first season as head coach.

Sophomore Jessica Yin, a transfer student from Brooklyn College, understood the



**The volleyball team eagerly await their next opponents as the season almost ends.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HIGGINS

difficulties of adjusting to a new environment.

"It's never an easy task to transition to a new place. With

a new team and a new coach, it took a while to adjust to the way the team worked. But, at this point, the only thing you want to

do is play your hardest to show everyone what you bring to the table and how you can contribute to the team," Yin said.

The team began their season with a 3-1 victory against East Stroudsburg at the LI Invitational. Following two consecutive wins at the Charger Invitational, the team lost the next six matches.

"Nothing is set in stone' is a mentality we must take into consideration every game. Anything can happen on the court and no one can ever prepare enough for it. We all learn and grow from our previous games; even the smallest details make a difference. Whether it is a win or a lost, the team is not perfect and will never be," Yin said.

"Regardless, we step onto the court and train to fight another day."

The team is now 4-9 with their next game is at home against Bridgeport on Oct. 8.

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# SPORTS

## Racking up wins, women's tennis team attains 6-0 record

MICHAEL TRINIDAD

*Sports Reporter*

The women's tennis team are starting off strong in their first season with an undefeated streak.

The Knights are 6-0 and, this year, aim to reach the NCAA playoffs for a 16th time in a row.

Last season, they finished with a record of 17-5 and advanced to the Sweet 16 NCAA tournament in Surprise, Ariz. They were 25th in the national rankings and second in the

Division II East Region and East Coast Conference.

Alan Nagel continues to lead the team in his 37th season as head coach. He received the ECC Coach of the Year for the second consecutive year, a title he earned nine times in his career.

A major reason for the team's success? Recruiting.

"I look at a player's rank, who they've played and tape if available. I also try to sell New York to players," Nagel said.

Nagel's efforts led to players from overseas joining the team and becoming the top-ranked players. Freshmen Sorsdahl Aasen, Frederike Borner and Anne Strating are from Norway, Germany and Netherlands, respectively. Meanwhile, returning players such as juniors Cami Abdallah, Sumeera Kamil and Angelika Sobiecka are from Morocco, India and Poland, respectively.

In spite of the victories,

Sarah O'Leary, sophomore, said they were still focused on each individual game.

"We try to take it one game at a time and not think about winning or losing streaks," O'Leary said.

One rival for the team is the New York Institute of Technology. Queens College and NYIT were ranked first and third, respectively, in the East when they faced each other last season, where QC lost 5-4.

"Losing teaches you more and helps you improve better than winning. Success builds off of success," Nagel said.

The team's match against NYIT on Oct. 2 was postponed for another date. Meanwhile, the Knights' next match is at home against LIU Post on Oct. 8.

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## Cross-country teams continue strong run

HANS THEMISTODE

*Sports Reporter*

The men's and women's cross country teams are doing well in a promising season.

On Sept. 26, both teams placed third in the Central Connecticut Invitation. In addition, this past weekend at the NJIT Highlander XC Challenge, the men finished 13th and the women came in at 9th.

The men's team lost a few veterans, such as Tyler Bay, but gained new runners like sophomore Arthur Zych and freshman Christopher Agnello.

While assistant coach Kurt Williams acknowledged the men's team was different than before, he was excited about its future.

"I feel that we have a lot of young talent that needs to be unlocked and that this year is a stepping stone for great things to come," Williams said.

Coach Kurt Samuels will look to returning players, like junior Dillon Scibelli, to play a bigger role this year. Scibelli, meanwhile, welcomed the added pressure.

"I feel ready. I kind of enjoy it and would consider myself one of the leaders by virtue of tenure. But I know there's more to it than that and I'm starting to get the hang of it," Scibelli said.

Scibelli was the Knights' top runner in several events last season,



**Arthur Zych is one of the new runners the men's cross country team gained this season.**

such as The Fordham Fiasco and The Ramapo College Roadrunner Invitational.

Yet Scibelli also agreed with his coach about the team's vast potential and the short time before its potential is reached.

"I think once all of us truly settle into what coach Samuels is instilling in us then our full potential can be reached," Scibelli said.

As for the women's team, they are in an interesting position this season. Their top two performers, freshman Heather Lindermann and sophomore Diana Cruz, are potential stars this year and the next few because of their youth.

In spite of this, Samuels is not shy with his expectations for the team.

"This year, I'm expecting nothing less than to contend for a conference championship,"

Samuels said.

With both teams competing at a high level, it is imperative not only players work hard but also the coaching staff as well. Samuels acknowledged that and gave praise to head coach Nicole Vann.

"I give coach Vann a lot of credit because she's like a mentor to me and she helps lead me in the right direction. We both work well together and this team wouldn't be

successful without her," Samuels said.

Both the men's and women's team will compete for the ECC Conference Championship at LIU Post on Oct. 24.

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# KNIGHT NEWS SPORTS

## ACES HIGH

QC women's tennis keeps serving up victories



**SEE PAGE 11**

Photo courtesy of John Higgins

**Foul start on field but  
academic success follows men's soccer**

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