

April 13, 2016

Volume 22

Issue 11



THE  
KNIGHT  
NEWS



theknightnews.com  
Breaking News & Video

Journalism in the Interest of the Queens College Community

# MEET THE NEW SA PRESIDENT

Japneet Singh of Students for Change was elected  
as the new Student Association President



**SEE PAGE 3**

Photo courtesy of Ming Photography

QC alum helps refugees  
stuck in Greece

SEE PAGE 4

Professor elected president  
of poetry association

SEE PAGE 6

# EDITORIALS

## An end to current politics?

The exceptional performances of political outsiders, a high possibility of a contested convention and low favorability ratings for current frontrunners in each major party. This highlights a political system that seems broken.

The question is a solution exists without the system becoming undone.

Donald Trump and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., certainly shook their respective party's respective primaries.

Sanders gave Hillary Clinton, a political powerhouse, a run for her money in the Democratic primaries. Superdelegates, still unpledged to a candidate, are the only factor giving Hillary Clinton any sense of relief.

In the Republican Party, Trump continues to turn the party upside down with his unconventional campaign rhetoric. Despite fierce criticism against him and his campaign by Republicans and Democrats, Trump remains the frontrunner and likely the nominee in a field that went from 17 candidates to just three.

If Trump does not acquire 1,237 delegates before the Republican National Convention, then a contested convention will happen in Cleveland, Ohio. Delegates are free to support Trump, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Ohio Governor John Kasich.

Moreover, this allows the GOP to nominate any candidate they want, even Speaker of the House Paul Ryan.

But this denies a large portion of dissatisfied voters, primarily white, that support Trump. It is a risk the GOP cannot take, but doing it can make the party lose legitimacy.

As each party struggle to unite,

## Our favorites for participatory budgeting at QC

First, we need to congratulate Participatory Budgeting at QC. Getting ideas—let alone 12—for students to vote on is a major achievement and highlights just why activism is vital for students.

The Knight News reviewed each of the 12 proposals that students will vote for from April 18 to April 21. We decided three ideas that students should vote for: composting, heating and air conditioners, and a stage ground for theater.

Composting, for those unfamiliar, is turning organic material, like food, into soil. It's found in nature, but it is done by people too.

The idea would help Fitness, Nutrition and Exercise Science professor Claire Consiglio's class. But it also keeps the college green, a goal it often pushes with renewable energy. This would strengthen that mission.

Another choice is adding heating and air conditioners in classrooms. There are some buildings that suffer from issues relating to heat or conditioning. Students and professors cite the lack of a heater or air conditioner as a problem. Even some transfer to other classes because of this.

So why not solve this issue by voting

the frontrunners are making history—becoming unpopular. More than 50 percent of Americans view Trump and Clinton unfavorably, according to a poll conducted by CBS and the New York Times last month. This is historic considering the poll, since it began in 1984, does not find any other candidate with higher dislike.

But this is opening up an opportunity for third party candidates to not only get media attention, but also provide an alternative.

For example, Fox Business Network aired the Libertarian Party's debate among possible candidates April 1, and a recent Monmouth University poll found Libertarian frontrunner Gary Johnson polling at 11 percent against Clinton and Trump.

Libertarian Party Chair Nicholas Sarwark encouraged Americans to watch the debate.

"We urge all Americans to tell their friends, co-workers and family to watch this important debate and see they have a choice," Sarwark said. "They do not have to settle for candidates who are bigoted and insulting."

Jill Stein, the Green Party nominee, also is campaigning across the country and urging a political alternative.

"Now is the time to seize this moment of crisis together and create the world of democracy, justice and peace that we all deserve," she said at the launch of her bid for president.

Unsatisfied voters will still threaten the two-party system and a political class protecting it, regardless of the election.

for it? Current and future students will reap the benefits made possible through this.

Our final choice is a stage ground for King Hall. In our back issues, we sometimes cover theater on campus that includes students. We applaud these students' efforts and think a stage ground could support not only the students, but also the professors too.

We want to emphasize that these are suggestions students can take. Anyone can disagree and say other ideas are preferable. Besides, the point of participatory budgeting is allowing students the right to choose.

Still, we think these are the best ideas. After voting ends after April 21, we hope they are enacted.

Until then, we're excited to see the results.

### 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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Layout/Graphic Design

**Devin Lee**

**Bobby Soohoo**

**Melisa Tekin**

Advisers

**Gerald Solomon**

**Sheryl McCarthy**

**Gavin McCormick**

**Phone: 347-450-6054**

info@theknightnews.com

Logo by: **Melisa Tekin**

**Corrections:** Our masthead included Asher Horovitz's name as "Asher Horowitz." We regret the error.



# Incoming president hopes to make QC better

PHIL VALLONE

News Reporter

Japneet Singh, a senior majoring in economics, finance, accounting and international business, will serve as the next president of the Queens College Student Association.

A member of Students for Change, Singh will replace current president Christopher Labial at the end of the semester.

Singh attributed his unopposed run partially to a perceived loss of hope in student government.

"I think it is people losing hope in student government as a whole. They don't know the real change it can actually provide. I feel that it's attributed to [a long period] of not having that stable student government and having that unified message sent out to the student body," Singh said.

During his final year at QC, Singh hoped to address issues of diversity and inclusiveness among the student body.

"The biggest thing coming into my presidential year is diversifying [student government]. SA hasn't always been known for diversity. We now have so many different perspectives on the table, and I definitely look forward to working for everybody," Singh said.

Inclusiveness, providing a comfortable environment for everybody and making a safe space where someone can share their ideas and make moves on those ideas is very important to Singh.

Singh presently serves as both the programming chair and vice-chair for Senior Colleges for the University Student Senate. He previously served as vice-chair for public relations.

During his time with USS, Singh achieved numerous things that students at QC enjoy. For example, Singh is proud of his instrumental role in the extension of library hours, more food vendors on campus and adding stops to the shuttle bus routes.

Singh said his biggest challenge in student government is unifying SFC and getting that message out to the student body.

"Even though we did all of these good things, I feel that SA still didn't have its presence within the student body," Singh said.

Singh will act as president of SA for a semester, since he is graduating next semester. Still, he wants to ensure that he makes QC better than when he first started at the college.

"It's all the generations that come after me. That's what student government is about. It's to affect the people that are going to come after us," Singh said. "I could have graduated this year, but I feel that I have an obligation, before I leave, that I leave something better for the student body"

Singh spoke of the important role that student government plays in defending low-cost tuition for students and their plans for the future.

"Queens College student

government can do so much, but when you elevate that to USS, which is the student government for twenty-four CUNY campuses, that's where you're heard," Singh said. "We're going to keep fighting. We're going to keep doing rallies. We're going to keep protesting until our needs are met."

Singh hopes to raise awareness on issues facing students at QC and wants to see more student participation on campus next year.

"In my opinion, the tuition hike battle was a battle many QC students, or even CUNY students, addressed as much as they should have. Not many students knew about it and that's not good," Singh said.

Singh said he would tirelessly work to dedicate his final semester at QC fulfilling his campaign promise.

"I want to leave QC better than I found it. I'll be living every day and every week of next year taking that route," Singh said.

He wants students to realize that they control their destiny at QC, and the experiences they have depend on their level of involvement on and off campus.

"College is what you make out of it, and how active you are. If you just take classes and go home, you're not getting the best bang for your buck. Please be active," Singh said.

[philvallo@theknightnews.com](mailto:philvallo@theknightnews.com)

## Panelists share their analysis of 2016 election

PHIL VALLONE

News Reporter

Queens College professors and students filled Powdermaker Hall 204 on April 6 to discuss the 2016 presidential election.

Ron Hayduk and Keena Lipsitz, political science professors at QC, moderated the discussion led by Heath Brown, a professor of public policy at John Jay College and the Graduate Center, as well as Aaron Shapiro, a doctoral candidate of political science at the Graduate Center who worked in multiple election campaigns including Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign.

Convinced that the eventual Democratic nominee will be Hillary Clinton, Shapiro explained how bringing Democrats together is a major area of concern for the frontrunner.

"The Democratic coalition that came out of Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 elections is one that depends heavily on mobilizing groups that are traditionally underrepresented," Shapiro said. "Most crudely and bluntly, you can portion these out to non-white voters and youth voters."

He argued that Obama mobilized both groups in high numbers. Clinton and Sanders, however, have split the coalition during the primary season. Describing young voters' opinion of Clinton as "lukewarm," Shapiro stressed the importance of mobilizing these voters during the



PHOTO BY JONATHAN BARON

Panelists discussed the 2016 presidential election on April 6 during a forum hosted by the Political Science Department and Political Science Club.

general election should she win the Democratic nomination.

"If Bernie Sanders does not win the nomination, one incredibly important thing for Hillary Clinton, moving forward, will be the importance of the youth vote in the general election," Shapiro said.

Shapiro also argued that the state of polarization and partisan antipathy would affect the election, which would help candidates that do not have an enthusiastic base behind them.

"We have become as a country significantly more

partisan. But the partisanship is not necessarily something that's the result of us having stronger identification with the brand of the party we end up voting for. In fact, it's coming from a greater level of antipathy toward the party," Shapiro said.

Brown said that Republicans have the upper hand in winning the presidency with Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., former President Bill Clinton and Speaker of the House Paul Ryan as major reasons why. Brown argued that Sanders, if the Democratic nominee, would struggle finding votes in the

general election in the South and states like Virginia.

"The voters in Virginia, Republicans and Democrats, view policy very differently, and it is very difficult for somebody with Bernie Sanders-politics to win in a national race," Brown said.

Brown also said that Hillary Clinton, if the nominee, would struggle because of her husband.

"[Bill Clinton] is going to have a very difficult time staying out of the way of the candidate," Brown said. "In the past, he has been a very good surrogate [and] my argument is that he's going

to be not nearly as valuable a surrogate for Hillary Clinton as he was in the past."

When discussing the GOP, Brown said that a contested convention might result with none of the three candidates getting the nomination.

"As a result, a fourth person is going to emerge. Somebody who can unify the party; bring all of the various wings of the Republican Party together, and I contend that it is going to be Paul Ryan," Brown said.

He said that a Ryan nomination by the Republican Party would succeed for two reasons—Trump not running as an independent candidate and endorsing Ryan as the nominee.

"If that doesn't happen, I think Paul Ryan or whoever comes out of the convention would have zero chance of winning," Brown said.

[philvallo@theknightnews.com](mailto:philvallo@theknightnews.com)





# Queens College alumna helps refugees in Greece

**BIANCA HE**

*News Reporter*

Since 2015, more than a million migrants left their countries to Europe for refuge, according to Eurostat. This caused a humanitarian crisis still developing today.

Batya Septimus, a Queens College alumna, shared stories of refugees in Greece through her website and emails since she arrived March 11 to work as a volunteer.

Septimus and other volunteers from all over the world helped distribute clothing and food to refugees in Chios and Idomeni, places where most refugees live. She also created a website called "Behind the Migrants" that is dedicated to reporting stories of refugees through photos and videos, especially after the agreement signed between the European Union and Turkey on March 18.

Under the agreement, all new migrants crossing to Greece return to Turkey. It is the European Union's latest attempt to curb the migration crisis.

"The Middle East migration crisis is one of the worst humanitarian issues facing us today," Septimus said. "It's one that we all have the power to help with."

Rejected refugees were temporarily kept in a camp in Vial, which was described by Septimus as "prison" since it was a camp with harsh condition and was controlled by the military.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELENA GESCH

**Refugees escaping violence in their countries are stuck in places like Vial, Greece.**

It was not an easy decision to make to fly to Greece amid the migration crisis, but Septimus knew what she was doing.

For about a month now, Septimus has experienced ups and downs. There were times when she worked long hours, slept in camps and felt helpless after refugees stole donations.

But there were also times when she built connections with her new refugee friends, danced in camps and was offered delicious exotic food.

Though what she does

seems dangerous, Septimus said life is not always full of tension. Refugees' ability to handle traumas was sometimes stronger than people would have expected.

"I feel like even though I can help them, they are the ones looking after me," Septimus said. "Many of them experienced things that no one should have to experience, and yet they can dance, smile and invite you to join them for tea, dinner or to stay with them."

Septimus plans to leave Greece at the end of April.

She made the most out of her experience abroad and plans to use what she learned about refugees and trauma when she starts her clinical psychology PhD program.

Septimus also sent updates to the Center for Ethnic, Racial and Religious Understanding at Queens College, where she has served as a program director for two years. Her work inspired many, including Yael Rosenstock, director of programming at the center, who described Septimus as an "intelligent, thoughtful and aware" person.

"She went knowing that she wants to do something positive," Rosenstock said. "I admire her openness and her willingness to engage in this kind of work."

Talking about the European Union-Turkey agreement, Septimus said it's not only unfair but also unnecessary. She said there is a better solution, an opinion echoed by Sophia McGee, acting director of the center.

"I think a better idea would be for the international community to help process those refugees, instead of holding them there, keeping them in detention centers and turning them back," McGee said.

The organization plans to engage more people in the dialogue of migration and refugees by dedicating most of the center's next newsletters to Septimus' experience in Greece. Recently, the center also worked with QC Grrrlz, a club, to donate leftover clothes to refugees.

McGee said that Septimus' work is a good start to attract more attention to an important issue.

"Part of the importance of Batya's posts is for people to understand what is happening on the ground, to see how policy is affecting individual lives in this country," McGee said. "We need that information in order to help."

[bianca@theknightnews.com](mailto:bianca@theknightnews.com)

# State budget keeps funding for CUNY

**BRANDON JORDAN**

*News Reporter*

CUNY will face no significant cuts in the new state budget agreed before the April 1 deadline.

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced CUNY would receive over \$1.6 billion in the \$147.2 billion budget deal agreed by state lawmakers.

This is in contrast to comments made earlier in the year by the Democratic governor on CUNY. He intended to cut state funding to CUNY by \$485 million and make New York City's government pay for it. This figure is equal to one-third of revenue for all senior colleges.

Late last month the Cuomo administration, under pressure from CUNY and activist groups, sought to not pursue the cut.

James Skoufis, a Democrat representing Orange and Rockland County in the State Assembly, said he and other officials in the lower

house were glad the \$485 million cut was not included in the final.

"If we're going to say SUNY and CUNY are state-supported colleges, then the state should be the one to invest in them," Skoufis said.

CUNY and SUNY will both not increase their tuition. In return, the budget will provide \$85 million for each to cover the gap.

Skoufis and other lawmakers pushed for a tuition freeze as they felt tuition was a growing burden on students in both institutions. Moreover, Skoufis said he wanted to decrease tuition, something he advocates for in a bill he introduced in the State Assembly.

"I am certainly not in favor of continuing that trend [of increasing tuition]," he said.

Cuomo favored a tuition increase, but acknowledged it was "politically difficult" to enact it

because of student pushback.

Chancellor James Milliken felt relieved the \$485 million cut was not included. However, he was concerned no tuition policy was created despite approval by the CUNY board of trustees.

"While some additional operating funding was provided for specific programs, the loss of tuition revenue or its equivalent will impact CUNY's ability to make needed investments in its faculty and staff at a time of record enrollment and increasing graduation rates," Milliken said.

Tiffany Brown, a higher education organizer at the New York Public Interest Research Group, a government watchdog, welcomed the tuition freeze in the budget, but noted state disinvestment still affects CUNY

"It's a bit limiting to categorize the final budget as it relates to higher education as a

win or lose. For students, the budget means they will finally get a break from annual tuition hikes. More broadly, while the final budget restored the \$485 million shift in State funding, which was an unnecessary and baseless cut that was included in the Executive Budget, it does not include increased funding to make up for years of state disinvestment," she said.

Still, she stressed there was more the state could do for CUNY.

"For instance, the DREAM Act was not included in the final budget, nor was a real Maintenance of Effort provision, or MOE. A major component of NY SUNY 2020, the MOE mandated the state to provide a steady level of funding from year to year -- in essence, promising that CUNY and SUNY would not experience budget cuts. However, predictable and mandatory

inflationary costs like utilities and collective bargaining agreements have not been included and it has cost CUNY and SUNY nearly \$200 million, just to maintain existing services," Brown said.

Despite the restored funding and tuition freeze, Cuomo said the budget does not include labor costs for CUNY, which affects the potential of a new contract for CUNY professors and staff. The proposed amount to cover retroactive pay was \$210 million.

But Robert Mujica, budget director for the New York State Division of the Budget, said once a settlement is reached between both sides, then the state will offer the funds.

"When we finally know a number, then we'll be able to address that at that time," he said.

[brandon@theknightnews.com](mailto:brandon@theknightnews.com)



# Voting for change at QC

MAHNOOR MIRZA

News Reporter

Participatory Budgeting at Queens College spent many months developing proposals to help improve Queens College. Now, students will vote on them at tables from April 18 to 21.

Students will vote on 12 proposals worked on by the four committees—Sustainability, Accessibility, Technology and Buildings and Grounds. Students are each allowed to vote on a maximum of three ideas. They can vote at tables located in Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library, the Dining Hall and the Student Union.

One popular proposal from the sustainability committee is adding more flowers on campus; specifically near the Colden Auditorium. Adding these flowers would cost an annual \$2,500 to

replace those already near the auditorium, and PB-QC plans to add an irrigation system near the auditorium so that the flowers could sustain for years to follow.

Chandni Tariq, a junior majoring in history and political science, explained the other proposals which exist, including a composting program proposal.

“We also have a composting initiative which we have collaborated with a Fitness, Nutrition and Exercise Science professor Claire Consiglio, who has a composting program for a class. We are hoping that we can provide the infrastructure for her to make it a wider program that isn’t just for her class,” Tariq said.

Tariq added one suggestion for PB was a beekeeping initiative, drafted by Mitchell Baker, a

biology professor, which was initially pitched unsuccessfully to the college.

“This raised a variety of interesting questions for the PB-QC process. We came across an amazing project that was proposed by faculty. Should we be putting a faculty idea in a ballot for students? Is there any way that PB can serve the needs of faculty and non-instructional staff members in the years going forward?” Tariq said.

For the technology committee, the areas around campus lacking Wi-Fi were cited as major frustrations. In response, committee members met with the Office of Information Technology to discuss the issue.

“They said that students can actually voice those complaints

about dead spots on campus and they are obligated to address those problems,” Tariq said. “But the problem is that no one knows that you can do this. So this is interesting because PB-QC is a process that is meant to address the issues with the institutions themselves. Without PB-QC, we would have never known that OIT has a problem with outreach.”

In regards to accessibility, some proposed ideas include adding bicycle racks and Braille to the outdoor maps on campus. For Buildings & Grounds, another proposal consists of acquiring lockers that students can rent out and use.

Alexandra Leston, a junior majoring in CUNY’s Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies, said that she would like

to see students directly engaging in making changes through participatory budgeting.

“I expect that PB-QC will be an opportunity for students to directly impact their campus in creative ways,” Leston said.

Johanna Colon, a junior majoring in history and secondary education agreed that participatory budgeting provides great opportunities for students to choose what they would like to see at QC.

“PB is special to me because it is direct democracy at its finest,” Colon said.

[mahnoor@theknightnews.com](mailto:mahnoor@theknightnews.com)

## NYPIRG aims to increase voter registration

JORDI SEVILLA

News Reporter

As the New York State presidential primary election approaches, the New York Public Interest Research Group is working to increase voter registration on campus.

New York ranks 46th out of 50 in state voter turnout. NYPIRG, New York’s largest student-direct government watchdog group, hopes to change this.

Franklin Rodriguez, senior majoring in psychology and sociology, is an intern with NYPIRG and felt that low-voter turnout in America is a cause of concern. In the 2014 mayoral campaign, only 11 percent of young voters ages 18 to 25 turned out. Rodriguez said barriers

preventing underrepresented groups are affecting voter turnout.

“America, in general, has the lowest number of people registered to vote compared to other developed countries. Under 50 percent of the country votes. The reason, in my opinion, is in the way the laws are structured. It’s very difficult to vote, and this turns voters off,” Rodriguez said.

Ali Kirkpatrick is a project coordinator for NYPIRG. Kirkpatrick emphasized the organization’s main goal is to increase voter turnout, as one of NYPIRG’s goals is to implement automatic voter registration at the age of 18.

“Our main concern is the student vote, making sure the youth vote is more empowered

and able to go out and participate in democracy,” Kirkpatrick said.

An issue that faces student voters is that certain voter rights are not common knowledge. As a result, NYPIRG educates voters on the various options that are available to them. If students do not know if there is something wrong with their voter status, they can cast a provisional ballot. New York State law also requires employers to provide two hours of paid leave for employees to vote if they do not have four hours of consecutive free time before their shift begins.

Another issue that may pose a threat to voter turnout is, for already registered voters, the inability to change political parties. The last day to change political

parties was October 9, 2015, but some candidates announced they were running the summer before.

Since the semester began, NYPIRG helped more than 1,800 students register. They are excited because young voters make up a third of eligible voters, which means they have the potential to determine the outcomes of elections. This also means that politicians will attend more to issues concerning young voters.

Rodriguez and Kirkpatrick agree that the high-profile nature of the upcoming presidential election played a role in voter mobilization among millennials.

“This election is very unique because people, especially the youth, are paying more attention. There’s more name recognition,

and people are starting to care about the issues like college education and the minimum wage,” Rodriguez said.

“Social media and the internet have definitely played a larger part of being able to inform the youth vote, particularly,” Kirkpatrick said. “They’re feeling more and more inspired by what’s happening to take those extra steps, and we don’t see that often. It’s heartening to see a vast portion of the youth demographic taking those steps to ensure that they are registered and active voters.”

[jordi@theknightnews.com](mailto:jordi@theknightnews.com)

## Social science journal starts at QC

ERICAMARIEFINOCCHIO

News Reporter

Students now have an opportunity to submit research papers to a new, online academic journal called QC Quarterly.

Editor-in-Chief Madel Beaudouin, a senior majoring in political economics, created this academic journal.

“I started this journal because undergraduate students need to get their academic work published,” Beaudouin said. “This is a response to how competitive graduate school is.”

The journal released its Volume 1, Issue 1 on March 1. Students need to submit a paper

that is under 2,000 words. Papers do not need to focus on research as interviews and analyses are also accepted.

Two issues come out per semester. The editors on the board decide what stories to choose based on how well they have conducted research on their project. Sara Dorfman, a senior majoring in history, is one editor in the journal who likes the organization’s structure.

“Being able to work collaboratively with like-minded people has been an amazing experience. I am free to work on projects pertaining to my

personal research interests while simultaneously building a portfolio of peer-reviewed work,” she said.

There are five senior editors and three junior editors. They decide on six research submissions for the journal.

The journal’s academic advisers are Thomas Ort, Julie George, Alexander Riechl and Jorge Alves. All except Ort are political science professors. Ort is a professor in the history department.

One article featured in the journal was a question-and-answer piece on Rebecca Shareah

Taleghani, a professor of Middle Eastern studies and Arabic at Queens College. Yasmin Eissaw, a junior majoring in political science and Middle Eastern studies, wrote the piece.

Eissaw also enjoyed working not only with other editors, but also something that she likes doing—research.

“Working on the journal has been one of the best academic experiences here at Queens College,” Eissaw said. “I was able to incorporate my research interests into dynamic projects and work with amazing people who share the same ambitious goals.”

The deadline for the next journal submission is May 1, 2016. New journals are available in June. To read QC Quarterly, visit [www.qcquarterly.com](http://www.qcquarterly.com).

[erica@theknightnews.com](mailto:erica@theknightnews.com)



# QC Professor elected president of Poetry Society of America

ALBERT ROMAN

News Reporter

The Poetry Society of America, founded in 1910, choose Kimiko Hahn, an English professor at Queens College, as its new president of PSA on March 23.

Hahn was on the board for seven years and succeeds Ruth Kaplan, who held the position since 2007. At first, she did not accept the nomination.

"It seemed like a position I wouldn't be able to do with the amount of time I have because I have so many projects and I teach. But I thought about it and I have a sabbatical coming up. So I called the person back and I said do you still want me? I'm really pleased," Hahn said.

The main reason for changing her mind? Harold Schechter, her spouse and English professor.

"[He] said '[A]re you crazy? You should really accept that nomination!' People who are close know how much I love organizing and getting poetry out to the world into places where you might not imagine poetry, like the subways. I wanted to be a greater part of this," she said.

Schechter felt excited upon hearing the news that she changed her mind.

"I was very proud of her. In addition to being a wonderful poet and terrific administrator, she is devoted to cultivating an interest in poetry in the nation," he said.

Hahn won various awards and honors, including the Shelly Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of America in 2007, Association of Asian American Studies Literature Award and Theodore Roethke Memorial Poetry Prize, a prize given out every three years since 1967.

But the honor of becoming president ranks above all other awards, said Hahn.

"It surpasses anything I've ever received in part because it's not just for me; it's for the organization," she said. "To put me at the head of the board is a great honor because I have the responsibility of seeing the organization moving forward with programming and new ideas."

She wrote nine books of poems, including "Brain Fever," released in 2002, and "Unbearable Heart," released in 1996 and received an American Book Award. Her poems explore the major themes of Asian-American female desire and subjectivity.

"She has a certain fearlessness as an artist. Her poems are very beautiful. When I first read them



PHOTO BY JONATHAN BARON  
Kimiko Hahn, an English professor, was elected Poetry Society of America President on March 23.

20 years ago or so, I was really lot of poems but these were very blown away by them. I've read a powerful," Schechter said.

One of her great strengths is the way she uses language. [She] comes up with these phrases and words that are surprising and full of life."

Aside from poetry, she also wrote and did voice acting for a special called "Ain't Nuthin' But a She-Thing," released in 1995.

Hahn cited Louise Gluck and Charles Wright, two professors at the University of Iowa, along with other poets as inspirations for poetry.

"After work shopping in college, I had a very particular view of poetry," Hahn said. "Then, when I started hanging out with poets who were reading their poems on the street, they were street poets or political poets, and I kind of got kicked around the block. Which was a god thing because that made me reassess the style I started with which was a little more conventional and then I got a little wilder and more political," Hahn said.

albert@theknightnews.com

## THE KNIGHT NEWS

# X

## SARAH JAFFE

April 20th / Q-Side Lounge  
Free Hour / 12:15-1:40



The Knight News is excited to host independent journalist and Nation Institute fellow, Sarah Jaffe.

Join us as former waitress and bicycle mechanic turned journalist covers a wide variety of subjects ranging from superhero comics to the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Sarah is the co-host of Dissent Magazine's Belabored podcast and appeared on MSNBC, Huffington Post and RT and is the author of an upcoming book on social movements following the 2008 financial crisis.

Co-sponsored by the QC Dream Team  
+ Student Organization for Democratic Alternatives

# FREE FOOD



# Mozart and the Opera at Goldstein Theater

CHEYNA MULLIGAN

News Reporter

Queens College's Aaron Copland School of Music and the Department of Drama, Theatre and Dance debuted Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "Cosi Fan Tutte" on April 7.

The event took place at the Goldstein Theatre where students, friends and family of the QC community gathered together to watch the opera.

"Cosi Fan Tutte" first premiered on Jan. 26, 1790 at the Burgtheater in Vienna, Austria. The libretto, the text of the opera, is by Lorenzo Da Ponte. It is based on the theory that all women are fickle.

Mozart's "Cosi Fan Tutte" brought inspiration, lessons and enjoyment. The opera is based off of the beliefs of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

The principles featured in "Cosi Fan Tutte" revolve around topics such as tenderness in relationships and love. Mozart reminds the audience that relationships with loved ones are fragile and essential. People can become vulnerable when it comes to love, since it has the power to consume them.

The Italian opera was composed of two acts. Act I



PHOTO BY CHEYNA MULLIGAN

## "Cosi Fan Tutte" used music from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to talk about relationships and emotions.

was primarily composed of the introduction of the characters and setup of the story. It begins with Guglielmo and Ferrando caught in a quarrel with their friend Don Alfonso about the fidelity of their fiancées, two sisters.

Don Alfonso bets the two men that all women are fickle and their fiancées are no exception. Guglielmo and Ferrando hatch a plan to put the faithfulness of their girlfriends to the test by creating disguises for themselves

and wooing their fiancées while pretending to be other men.

Act II features the plan in full effect. Despina, the maid, educates the sisters on a liberated view of love. This only adds to the women's conflicted feelings.

Katherin Bolanos, a senior media studies major, encourages everyone to attend operas at the school.

"I thought the plot was extremely satisfying. This is the first time I've ever been to

an opera, I'm glad it was this one. It was entertaining in so many versatile ways. This is definitely encouraging me to see performances at school more often," she said.

The energy of the opera was dispersed throughout the theater. The emotions the actors projected affected the emotions of the audience whether it was laughter, frustration or sympathy.

Brittany Nieves, a sophomore early education and

English major, felt the emotion from the opera as well as the energy from the audience.

"The acting skills of the cast were remarkable. I felt how they felt. I'm sure the audience did too. I was looking around the theater and the facial expressions were priceless. Everyone was so intrigued by the opera. I felt as if I was actually there. I'm interested in music so this was a personal experience for me, too. It inspired me to become open to a whole other genre of music," she said.

Lauren Solano, a junior majoring in media studies, connected lessons from the opera to her real life.

"I felt a personal connection amongst the two characters. I've learned that love doesn't have to mean anything; it can be based on how you feel. I personally believe that it can be a weakness as well as a strength," she said.

*cheyna@theknightnews.com*

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# REVIEWS

## Low-budget apocalyptic horror film delivers big scare

DAVID RAFAILOVICH

News Reporter

“10 Cloverfield Lane” is, at least in namesake, part of the J.J. Abrams produced Cloverfield franchise. Unlike the original Cloverfield movie which used “found footage” to recount an alien invasion of New York, this film forgoes the loud, overblown, elaborate alien action, and instead keeps the situation simple, smart and incredibly thrilling.

The underground space in which the majority of the movie takes place is expertly utilized and the movie’s dramatic tempo is truly spectacular. This film is a sparkling example of what a simple horror movie can be, and proves that sometimes a creepy smile can be much scarier than a gargling alien perched on the top of the Empire State building. “10 Cloverfield Lane” is a film that will keep audiences firmly clutching their seats up until the very end.

The story begins when Michelle, played by Mary Elizabeth Winstead, walks out of her fiance’s apartment, leaving her wedding ring behind. While driving away she is sideswiped and flies off the road in a violent tailspin. She awakens to find herself in a dingy cement-walled room with an IV hooked up to her arm. The person who has taken her there is Howard, played by John Goodman.

Howard tells her that there was an attack on America either by Russia or Martians, and that the air outside the bunker is poisoned.

Howard is big, intimidating and clearly insane, yet at the same time sensible and even well-meaning.

Is Howard Michelle’s captor



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAD ROBOT PRODUCTIONS

“10 Cloverfield Lane” is not a sequel to J.J. Abrams’ “Cloverfield” hit, but set in the same universe.

or savior? The dramatic situation becomes more complicated when she finds that there is another man in the bunker with them. Is he a confidant or a conspirator with Howard? The movie gives audiences confidence in each of its answers and then proves them wrong when they least expect it.

The dramatic intricacies of this film are expertly deployed through clever dialogue and key visuals. The story is fraught with schemes, ulterior motives and deception that will keep audiences at the edge of their seat for every twist and turn in this well-crafted dramatic tale. The film evokes a Hitchcockian cleverness in its plotting as well as it in its unexpected funny moments.

What allows the narrative devices in this film to be so effective

and have such a deep effect on the viewer is the tremendous acting by John Goodman and Mary Elizabeth Winstead. Goodman is at times terrifying, channeling Walter from “The Big Lebowski” in his angry outbursts, yet at other points he unveils a believable honesty and kindness. Goodman’s acting keeps us guessing.

Winstead is similarly wonderful and conveys much of her frantic internal struggle by not saying much at all. The panic that she lends her character amplifies the terror of the horrible situation that she is in, and makes us invested in every turn of her fate.

Despite being a well-crafted movie overall, the film falters in a few respects. The cinematography in this film is nothing to rave about, and the techniques used are

incredibly standard. The overused camera techniques get the point across, but they don’t add anything to the story.

The film was also lacking in character complexity. The characters’ traits, personalities and drive make the story unpredictable and compelling, but their emotions don’t seem real. Michelle doesn’t seem to talk or miss the past too much and Howard at times seems nothing more than a conventional nutcase.

They are characters that are enjoyable because of the situations they are put in but not because they have any emotional depth. Nevertheless, these flaws are relatively minor and Hitchcock himself often had characters that simply served the story rather than the other way around.

“10 Cloverfield Lane” is masterfully crafted, and its simplistic design and intricate plot delivers big. Horror films this clever do not come around the Hollywood circuit often, so see it while it still is in theaters

david@theknightnews.com.

## Zootopia teaches lessons on inclusion and race

JAKE COHEN

News Reporter

Walt Disney Studios released another film that will join its other animated feature films—“Zootopia.”

The studio is making headlines with its superheroes films, but “Zootopia” reminds audiences of what Disney does best—making animated films with an excellent narrative.

The plot in “Zootopia” revolves around two cops, a rabbit named Judy Hopps, voiced by actress Ginnifer Goodwin, and a fox named Nick Wilde, voiced by actor Jason Bateman.

The film does well in using allegories. For example, the film uses predators and preys to talk about race or a group deemed as the “other.” It even uses overt references to race like the word “token.”

This issue is seen in one scene when Hopps is called cute by Benjamin Clawhauser, a cheetah. She explains other bunnies can call each other cute, but finds it weird when other animals do.

Moreover, the film encourages acceptance and inclusion. The motto of the city is “In Zootopia, anyone can be

anything.”

Still, in a city with this motto, the only characters who appear queer are Hopps’ angry neighbors. It might have been better to have more characters who are queer and add to the film’s social commentary.

Other actors do well in the film. J.K. Simmons’ performance as Mayor Lionheart, a lion, is similar to Simmons’ role of J. Jonah Jameson in the “Spider-Man” trilogy directed by Sam Raimi.

There are even some parts in the film that only adults will

understand. Two memorable references are “The Godfather” and “Breaking Bad.” With the latter, the film includes a blue drug produced, yellow hazmat suits and two rams named Jesse and Walter.

Both adults and kids will love “Zootopia.” For anyone unmoved to see gerbils in tiny business suits, actor Tommy Chong as a yak named Yax at a naturalist club where bears “go bear” will loosen them up.

In a world where mediocre films like “Hotel Transylvania 2” exist, smart, funny animated films like “Zootopia” need support from

audiences as it is enjoyable and entertaining.

jake@theknightnews.com



# A night full of laughs with Kathy Griffin

**CHRISTINA CARDONA**

*News Reporter*

Comedian Kathy Griffin captivated Queens College on April 9 with hilarious stories about awkward celebrity encounters, Church of Scientology theories and personal stories on Republican frontrunner Donald Trump.

Griffin is on an 80-city tour called the "Like a Boss Tour." The well-attended event took place at the Colden Auditorium.

Before the show started, the speakers played songs such as Cher's "Woman's World" and Kylie Minogue's "Can't Get You Out Of My Head," which audience members lip-synced and danced to.

"I've seen her before, she's very funny. She doesn't do jokes really, she's more of a storyteller and she's a great storyteller," Emil Layacan, an audience member who works in sales, said.

As soon as the show started, there was a short video that highlighted Griffin's many accomplishments in her career. She is a two-time Emmy winner and won a Grammy award for Best Comedy Album titled "Kathy Griffin: Calm Down Gurl." She was also inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records for writing and starring in 20 televised stand-up specials.

After she was introduced, Griffin ran onto the stage screaming and sticking up both her middle fingers as the audience applauded. She jumped, skipped and hopped all around the stage, her silky red hair flailing in all directions.



**PHOTO BY CHRISTINA CARDONA**

**Comedian Kathy Griffin performed at Colden Auditorium on April 9.**

"Queens, I have arrived! I've been around Queens all my life," Griffin said.

Griffin highlighted veterans and members of the LGBT community that were in the audience. She openly supported both groups for many years.

"I'm a gay man, and so I love and support you," she said.

Griffin is known for not having a filter and, during the event, she proved that this is true, even at a college.

"I am bringing the f—kin' heat tonight," she said. "We're at a college, and there's this new thing happening called trigger warnings.

So if anyone is fearful they will be triggered by any of my foul, filthy language, get the f—k out."

Griffin said, regardless of her location, she does not tell boring jokes about airline food, but instead gives the audience the real deal.

"The world is so f—g nuts, and they think I'm going to hold back? I'm a 55-year-old chick who still tells d—k jokes. This is no Deepak Chopra [event]," she said.

Her main plan? Using a microphone and a few bottles of water to make fun of people.

She said she would talk about an encounter with actor

Sean Penn, update the audience on her 95-year-old, alcoholic mother's opinion of Caitlyn Jenner and make fun of Trump.

"Look if you want to vote for Trump, go on. Just let me make fun of that crazy Oompa Loompa," she said.

She talked about "The People vs. O.J. Simpson," a TV show, and how she thought that the actors look nothing like the people they were playing. She thought it was ridiculous actor John Travolta portrayed defense lawyer Robert Shapiro.

"Travolta looks like he got his eyebrows from a drag shop in

Chelsea," she said.

Griffin also brushed up on strange celebrity tweets, mainly those from actress Kirstie Alley, who recently endorsed Trump and is a Scientologist.

"Kirstie clearly does not know that endorsing Donald Trump on Twitter means you'll receive hate," Griffin said. "So then she starts randomly tweeting things that are lovely and positive that has nothing to do with the wall of s—t that's falling on her."

She also read some of her texts from artist Cher, whom she idolizes, and CNN anchor Anderson Cooper, who was her co-host for CNN's New Year's Eve Special.

She ended the show by reading billboards from the Southern United States, verbatim. Most of them concern Jesus Christ and conservative views.

"One said 'if you're too busy to pray, you're too busy,'" Griffin said."

**christina@theknightnews.com**

# English Professor lives a fairytale life

**ARYEH GELFAND**

*News Reporter*

Most kids dream of growing up in the world of fairy tales, but Veronica Schanoes, an English professor at Queens College, figured out how to do it for real.

Schanoes wrote her own adaptations of classic folk and fairy tales. In her short story, "Ballroom Blitz," she sets the classic tale "The Twelve Dancing Princesses" at a punk dive bar in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. In doing so, Schanoes makes old stories relevant to a modern audience.

"I have always loved [fairy tales]. I have always been fascinated by stories that have been told over and over again, stories that are able to hold so many different meanings and interpretations," she said.

Schanoes' upbringing gave her a broad and diverse perspective of the world.

"I grew up in New York in the East Village back when it was a seedy neighborhood. My mother believed in taking full advantage of the city. She was always taking me to free shows and museums," she said.

Schanoes was given the unique opportunity to attend the Hunter School, which is a school for intellectually gifted children. She remained there until her high school graduation, then went on to Barnard College.

"Being at a women's college was a really important experience for me, just to be somewhere where being a women was normal, rather than a sort of deviation from a male norm," she said.

Schanoes majored in sociology and minored in English and never dreamed she would end up as an English professor. In

fact, she originally worked as an administrative assistant at a health care agency. She felt miserable working there and so she quit, deciding she would find her calling.

"My uncle asked me what I liked to do best and I said I like to read books and talk about them with other people. He replied 'that's what we call graduate school!'" Schanoes said. "I was delighted in graduate school when I realized that people were still reading and writing adaptations of fairy tales and I could still go on reading and writing them."

She said that graduates of Ph.D programs in English "go on the market" and are offered positions at universities around the world.

She explained English Ph.Ds have very little control over the

jobs they get, if any. Schanoes was offered a position in the English Department at Queens College, a position she held for nine years.

Schanoes found the English Department to be supportive of her work.

"Many departments are skeptical of fields that don't have the sort of canonical weight of things like the Victorian novel," she said.

Schanoes identifies as Jewish and, despite an upbringing not centered in Judaism, it recently begun to show up in her work.

"I recently began rewriting fairy tales to center around Jewish concepts and characters," she said.

Schanoes gives a voice to those in society who without one. She uses fairy tales because they are stories that everyone in society can claim ownership over.

"My writing is focused on telling stories with marginalized and working-class characters, women, and immigrants and changing fairy tale frameworks to fit their stories," she said. "Reading and writing is an act of creation."

**aryeh@theknightnews.com**





## SPORTS

**Track team captain reflects on past, prepares for future**

OYIN FALANA

*Sports Reporter*

On a windy afternoon, the Queens College track team captain Skandal Delince took the hurdles back to the storage room with his assistant coach as teammates walked off the track field.

“It’s a lot of responsibility. Like random stuff that I’m supposed to be responsible for that I didn’t know about. I always take the blame for my teammates over anything,” Delince said.

During his career at QC, he was named athlete of the week twice and field athlete of the week three times. He also made the First Team All conference in long and triple jump, 4x400-meter relay and 400-meter hurdles and Second Team All Conference in the 4x100-meter relay.

His excellence on the track transfers to his academics. Delince has a 3.67 GPA and was on the ECC Commissioners Honors Roll as well as received the scholar athlete award.

The 21-year-old junior double majoring in Psychology and Sociology will be graduating a year early in Spring 2016. He hopes to further his education at QC School of Psychology graduate program, and eventually become a School Psychologist at St. Anthony’s High School, his alma mater.

At five years old, he began playing sports for fun; however, it was slightly competitive because he played with his brother, who is two years older.

“It was really a way of getting out of the house,” Delince said.

Sports became more than just a game when he started training for the football team his freshman year of high school.

“I made the team, then I realized how good I was. I did both football and track, I was always busy all year round but I didn’t mind. I would’ve gone home and



PHOTO COURTESY OF SKANDAL DELINCE

**Skandal Delince, a junior, is the captain of the track team at Queens College. He played sports when he was five years ago.**

done nothing anyways,” he said.

Although he has competed for seven years now, he still gets anxious before his races.

“I pace a lot. You can tell I’m nervous because I just keep walking back and forth. And I’ll talk to everyone; I’ll just make friends with anyone there. I’ll leave a track meet and I’ll make like five or six new friends,” he said.

He also acknowledges his deceased father and asks him for good luck before a race.

His favorite team to compete against is the Spartans from St. Thomas Aquinas.

“We’ll always have one of the fastest runners between our two schools. It’s a good competition every time. I’m also really good friends with half of their team,” he said.

One of those friends, who he used to compete against, is now his assistant coach, George Erazo.

“He was a fighter, I knew he was always going to give me 110 percent. He was a really good competitor. It’s a lot better now that I’m coaching him. I can help him out in anyway that I can,” Erazo said.

Delince is described as ambitious, motivated and helpful.

“He always wants to improve everyday. He’s always asking to do one more set of workouts. He wants to do better than he did the day before,” Erazo said.

Junior Romaine Ewan, Delince’s teammate, appreciates him as a captain and as a friend.

“He always tries to look for ways to encourage his teammates and help you out if you’re slacking. I’m going to miss his funny attitude,” he said.

Delince admires LeBron James for his exceptional talent and leadership. It’s no coincidence that he exemplifies this characteristic in

his own leadership.

“He leads his team by making sure everyone else is involved,” he said.

His weakness according to his coach is his mental game.

“He gets a little angry at himself and I try to calm him down, but I know where he’s coming from. He’ll get it and it’ll come to him,” Erazo said.

On the table in front of him next to some papers is his laptop. Delince is studying for a midterm he has the next day.

“I’m studying four to five nights a week, basically I know I have to study every night. It’s the sacrifice you have to make,” he said.

Junior Sarah Hussain is Delince’s friend for two years said she believes he gets a little lazy in terms of school responsibilities and doesn’t apply himself well enough to reach his true potential.

“I think he’s smart, he has a great GPA. I’m not him but from I what I see I don’t think he studies a lot so he could probably have a 4.0 if he wanted,” she said.

In his personal statement for graduate school, he affirmed his certainty about his career path.

“Junior year of high school was when I came to the realization that psychology intrigued me. It drew me in, but like every young adolescent, I had my doubts,” Delince wrote. “However, as I grew older and broadened my understanding of psychology, I was reassured that this was the road I was meant to travel down.” His teammate senior Mike Camacho expressed his confidence in Delince’s career choice.

“He cares a lot, it’s not going to be something he’s going to take for granted,” Camacho said.

Balancing his responsibilities as a captain and as a student while working at the QC Tennis office as an office assistant can become quite stressful. To unwind he babysits his niece and nephew twice a week.

“They’re absolute characters, I act like a big kid around them so it’s fun. I mean I can only keep up with them for the first two hours,” he said.

What keeps Delince motivated and focused are his sisters. They have set the standards high and he strives to live up to them.

“The most recent advice I’ve gotten is to stop worrying about my future because everything will work out if I handle my part,” Delince said.

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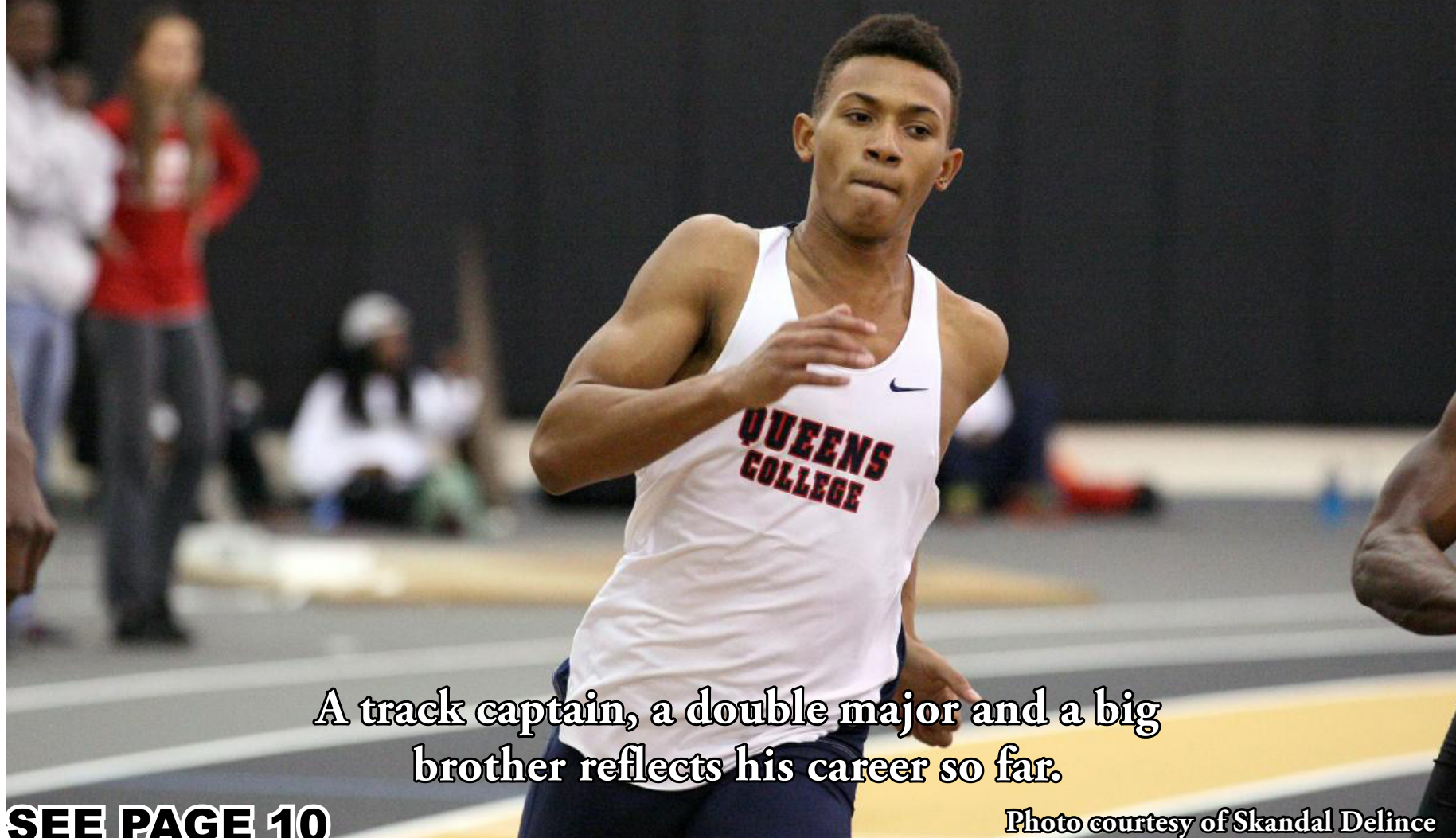
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# KNIGHT NEWS SPORTS

## BEYOND THE TRACK WITH SKANDAL DELINCE



A track captain, a double major and a big brother reflects his career so far.

**SEE PAGE 10**

Photo courtesy of Skandal Delince

**Film review: “10 Cloverfield Lane”  
captivates audiences with suspense  
PAGE 8**