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Breaking News & Video

Journalism in the Interest of the Queens College Community

QUEENS COLLEGE PRESIDENT

REFLECTS ON HIS FIRST YEAR

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for another year
as president

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Photo by Victor Hillegren

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to a whole new year

Welcome back Queens College students! With the semester beginning, one question is lingering on many students' minds—when is winter break? Sometimes shifting from the summer season to the school season can be a difficult transition. Of course, we never want to let go of the memories of the summer. But the professor handing out the syllabus on the first day is the wake-up call for some. Although, for others, it is until the first midterm.

We have all heard the expression of how the college can be the best years of your life. Rather, it is more appropriate to say college is whatever you make of it. College is an experience going by fast for students and should be enjoyed as much as possible. For a minute, you can be a freshman unfamiliar with the campus, while looking at the campus map looking for where Queens Hall is (sorry, it's long trip from The Quad). The next may senior year where you have more on your mind than midterms.

Furthermore, pressure to find a job or the decision to attend graduate school becomes more relevant. Many possibly do not want to admit it, but the "real world" can be frightening.

Uncertainty and fear can overwhelm us. It can be hard to find triumph at first. When success cannot be found, it feels easy to give up dreams. Although, it should be the complete opposite. If success is not found, this should be motivation to push harder.

Of course, do not believe the talk of "Do What You Love." Miya Tokumitsu, author of "Do What You Love: And Other Lies About Success and Happiness," wrote a piece titled "Forced To Love The Grind" for Jacobin

Magazine on the dangerously exploitive nature of "Do What You Love."

"The falsity of passion-as-hours logic is that, quite simply, it produces shoddy work, which is not what someone who is ostensibly passionate about his or her work would allow. Emphasizing passion as a value in employees diminishes other potential — seemingly obvious — attitudes toward work that have more to bear on the quality of the work itself, things like competence and good faith," Tokumitsu writes.

Regardless, students should enjoy their four years at QC and make the best of it because, before you know it, it's gone. QC offers over 100 clubs students can join.

The Fitzgerald Gym offers open basketball courts and weight room with all types of machines. Located in the gym is also a pool that is open towards students. Two cafeterias on campus give students a variety of menu choices. Plus, the education at QC was ranked in the top three of "Best Bang for Your Buck" by Washington Monthly in 2013.

Not interested or available for on-campus events? Why not write a letter to a political prisoner like Chelsea Manning or Jeffrey Sterling? Work with a non-profit group in your community? Maybe relax with your friends on the weekend and watch "Daredevil" on Netflix?

The possibilities are endless and shape your future whether you believe it or not. So why not enjoy all QC offers before it is gone in a flash? Because the grind is not something to anticipate, especially if we are forced to love it.

The Knight News is proud to announce

Fernando Echeverri and Brandon Jordan

had their story, "CUNY financially tied to private prison industry" in the March 11, 2015 edition nominated as a Story of the Year finalist for the Associated Collegiate Press

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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Felix Matos Rodriguez anticipates another year as president

VICTOR HILLEGREN

News Reporter

Felix Matos Rodriguez feels energized and ready for another year after finishing his first as Queens College's President.

Despite facing challenges in his first year, including "keeping up with the speed of things," Rodriguez said it helped adjust him to the QC community and know more about the campus.

"Each day and encounter around Queens, Manhattan or the rest of the city brings a new opportunity," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez describes his job as creating a mission where "all jobs point that way." Moreover, he cites responsibilities as a part of this where he meets with business leaders or officials to enjoying events on campus, which reminds him of when was a professor.

Yet, in spite of a busy schedule, Rodriguez believes the most important part of QC is knowing those who come to campus every day.

"Getting to know the environment we're working in, the great students and faculty of Queens College and to be continuously learning really enhances the experience. It is what I feel to be most important other than my family," Rodriguez said.

In the president's office sits a book collection from Queens



Felix Matos Rodriguez is entering his second year as Queens College President after his appointment last year.

PHOTO BY VICTOR HILLEGREN

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College faculty. It consists of a wide variety of topics ranging from poetry, the environment, health and more.

"[I enjoy] being able to learn from our professors. Their books helps me be more informed both on the world and their knowledge and style" Rodriguez said.

There were many significant highlights from Rodriguez' first year as president from alumni to the students on campus.

"Meeting alumni brings a sense of history, a change in perspective. It enables me to see Queens College with different eyes from over the years. It's energizing

to see them all so committed and donating," Rodriguez said.

Working with student government, engaging with students and faculty and attending a vast array of important and fun events all brings a great source of joy to this experience. Then, welcome day and commencement

day are the icings on the cake. They are very memorable days for everyone."

Rodriguez believes transformation is positive, especially for QC and its future.

"Queens College is a phenomenal place that we want New York City and elsewhere to know more about," Rodriguez said.

In regards to future plans, Rodriguez wishes to continue building the college's diversity and grow fields such as mathematics or sciences.

For students, Rodriguez recommends working more with student life on campus and, most importantly, knowing other people on campus.

Still, Rodriguez finds his job to be rewarding and a blessing.

"I'm very happy with this job. It's a gift being president of QC. I fell in love with it," Rodriguez said.

New halal cart provides options for Queens College students

EMILY ABRAMS

News Reporter

Shah's Halal Food is more accessible and successful than ever as one of its food trucks is now on The Quad.

The carts operate from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. through the weekdays.

This high customer satisfaction is good news for Brahim Samer, an employee of the firm. Samer worked with the company for three years and is one of three employees working the cart on campus.

"There has definitely been an upturn in customer sales now that we're on campus," Samer said.

There is a monthly licensing agreement between QC and Shah's Halal Food where rent is paid to QC in return for a space on campus.

Another halal cart near QC, located on Kissena Boulevard, is also owned by Shah's Halal Food. Ahmed Hamid, another employee explained, although QC student sales at the Kissena are down, overall cart sales are still successful



A worker of Shah's Halal Food stands in front of a new dining option for Queens College students.

PHOTO BY AMANDA GOLDSTEIN

since his customers include commuters and workers. not only people from QC, but

owns multiple food trucks in New York City, but its presence now

extends to The Quad to the delight of students.

"I find having the truck on campus makes it very convenient at lunchtime as long as they don't bump up the prices. It's definitely the opposite of an eyesore since the more halal on campus, the more eager I am to come to school," Nik Nicaj, junior, said.

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Meet Harold Schechter, the man with two unique personalities

ALBERT ROMAN

News Reporter

Queens College Professor Harold Schechter knows serial killers extremely well.

As a kid, he would stay up to watch Fright Night, where classic horror films such as "Frankenstein," "Dracula" and "The Werewolf Man" were screened. Growing up, he drew an interest in dark materials, which played an important role in shaping the person he is today.

During his free time, Schechter enjoys writing. However, he not only just writes for leisure, but also paved a successful writing career with 36 books under his name. One of Schechter's latest books, "The Mad Sculptor," was nominated for the Edgar Award, bestowed upon the best American mystery of the year.

Like Batman, by day, he works as a college professor but by night, he is a successful true crime author who dwells into the minds of serial killers. Schechter is an expert on serial killers during the 19th and 20th centuries, which he researched through old newspapers, court records and museum materials. His studies influence the crafting of his stories and characters.

"There have definitely been cases where I've had to go to some very dark places in my head in order to get into the heads of the people I'm writing about. I have to understand them, feel their motivation. I try to project myself to some extent into the minds of these people in order to make them real to me and the reader," Schechter said.

Born on June 28, 1948, Schechter grew up in a Jewish neighborhood in the Bronx. His academic pursuit took him to The City College of New York, where he completed his undergraduate studies. He continued his education and earned a master's degree from Purdue University and PhD in American Literature from the University of Buffalo.

"After trying out different majors in college, I decided I wanted to write," Schechter said. "I liked the life that being a college professor seemed to offer. You have lots of time. So I would have time to do my own writing."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIMIKO HAHN
Harold Schechter (above) taught at Queens College for 40 years and authored more than 30 books

He began to teach at Queens College in 1975 and still teaches, even after 40 years of service.

Additionally, he is a husband to fellow QC professor and poet Kimiko Hahn. They have been married for over 10 years.

"It's never a dull moment in our household," Hahn said.

His first published book was a textbook called "Patterns in Popular Culture: A Sourcebook for Writers," which explores the mythical archetypes such as the alter ego and trickster figure in modern pop culture.

In 1989, Schechter wrote his first true crime book, "Deviant". This book focused on the true story of Ed Gein, whose crimes inspired films such as "Psycho," "Texas Chainsaw Massacre," and "The Silence of the Lambs." Since then, he, on average, published a book every year.

"People always ask me how I write so many books. If you write one page every day, by the end of the year you'll have a book," Schechter said. "People say I'm

so disciplined, but after a while it becomes a habit. You just sort of have to do it, otherwise you become anxious. You train yourself to do it every day."

The author's writing style is highly praised. They capture all the different elements of his research in great detail. His writing is referred to as "full" and "electric."

"I'm really tough on language and his language is gorgeous. He is very, very careful with his choice of words. He really knows what he wants to say. From a poet's point of view, it doesn't get any better," Hahn said.

When he is not investigating the minds of serial killers, he teaches an American literature and myth and archetype courses. Jaime Zahl, a QC graduate who took one of his courses, expressed excitement when she learned that he wrote books outside the academic realm.

"I respect how serious he was about students. We never diverted away from the works we were reading. He asked each student a

question about them and, if they didn't read, their grade would be docked," Zahl said.

At a young age, Schechter aspired to be a comic book artist because of influential artists like Steve Ditko. He grew up drawing and collecting comic books. He owned thousands of Golden Age superhero comics, which he eventually had to sell. He even applied for a job at Marvel Comics.

"I got accepted to the High School of Music and Art, but decided to go to Bronx Science because my parents never thought I would make money as a comic book artist," Schechter said.

In 1990, he wrote a book called "Start Collecting Comic Books."

Over the years, his collecting hobby drastically changed. He now collects 19th century poison bottles, which he gathered over a 100 bottles.

"I got him his first one. He was actually writing a story on female serial killer who had

poisoned her victims," Hahn said. "It looked like a bottle from the 1800s and that's the era he writes about so I said 'perfect,'"

Schechter's favorite movie of all time is "King Kong," the 1937 version.

"This movie helped shape my childhood imagination and represented everything movies are about in terms of transporting viewers into this world of wonder and adventure, using this technology to create this magic world," Schechter said.

One of his favorite books of all time is "Moby Dick," a book he often refers to and uses in class.

"It is the greatest American novel ever written. It made me want to become a professor of American literature. When I first encountered it, it was so exciting on some many levels the notion that you could spend your career reading and teaching these types of literature," Schechter said.

In his American literature course, he teaches Henry David Thoreau's and Ralph Waldo Emerson's works. However, their literature may prove to be difficult for students. Summer Medina, also a QC graduate, believes Schechter did a good job covering the material.

"Most of it is pretty dense. His passion for teaching the material made it an enjoyable class," Medina said. "His extra credit papers were great too because who wouldn't want to write about transcendentalism and 'Fight Club?'"

Schechter's favorite time of the day to write is early in the morning. Sometimes a sentence can take him hours to write. He believes he needs to get a paragraph perfect before proceeding to the next one.

"One useful piece of advice I read years ago was from Ernest Hemingway," Schechter said. "He said when you stop writing for the day, you stop with the first sentence with where you're going to start the next day. You should always end with the first thought on the next paragraph."

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CUNY to launch medical school in 2016

ADITI RAI

News Reporter

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the accreditation for the CUNY School of Medicine in July.

“This new school is another step toward making medical care more accessible for all New Yorkers,” Cuomo said.

The school, located at the City College of New York, will open next year.

The idea developed after CUNY faced two choices—either close down the Sophie Davis Biomedical program or open a new one. CUNY officials decided to do the latter, to expand Sophie Davis in partnership with St. Barnabas Health System, located

in the Bronx.

“CUNY and City College will award a MD degree for the first time in its nearly 170 year history,” CUNY Chancellor James Milliken said.

The new school addresses the growing demand of physicians in underserved communities. In addition, it increases employment, research and learning opportunities for students and faculty members at the new school.

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education, part of the Department of Education, approved the new school on June 10.

Seventy students will be

the first to enroll into the college. Additionally, a campaign to raise \$20 million in interest-free loans for those students is underway.

Damola Ajibola, a senior at CCNY, was deterred from pursuing his dream to be a physician because of the high cost of medical education. He feared forgoing his dream and settled as a physician’s assistant.

Although, in spite of the competitive admission process, Ajibola believed the new school would renew confidence in his dream.

“Being able to be given the chance to attend an affordable medical school and receive a

quality education is a deal of a lifetime,” Ajibola said.

Donovan Burton, a student at York College, anticipated the opening of the school to continue his education.

“I am looking forward to the launch of this school. I still have two more years of my undergraduate studies left and I’ll start applying in three years or so. I will be able to see application requirements, tuition, costs and all that by the time I am ready to apply. The opening of this school is definitely exciting and hopefully affordable,” Burton said.

Students like Anais Cardenas, a graduate, are excited

about the new school as it opens new possibilities for them.

“I got excited because I thought it might be cheaper than most med schools,” Cardenas said.

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New federal grant to Queens College assists disabled students

SARA SCHEIDLINGER

News Reporter

Queens College received a five-year federal grant from the Department of Education’s Student Services Program for an initiative to help low-income students with disabilities.

For the next five years, \$220,000 will be allocated to the Office of Special Services for Students with Disabilities, which totals \$1.1 million.

Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y.,

announced the initiative to the public last month.

“Queens College does an outstanding job preparing students for their futures. I am happy to deliver the great news about these important funds, and I’m pleased that that money will allow this critical program to continue. I look forward to many more Queens College students benefiting from the Disability

Student Support Services project,” Meng said.

Students who are learning disabled, autistic, dyslexic or any other disability are affected by this grant. The money is specifically targeted for those either from low-income families and the first to go to college.

QC previously held the grant for around 20 years but lost it in 2005, according to

Dr. Mirian Detres-Hickey, director of QC’s OSS.

Detres-Hickey, who worked at OSS for 10 years and is experienced with disability services, worked with her team to ensure the grant would be given to QC.

Despite ensuring federal funding, Detres-Hickey and her team will need to write another 150 pages or so for more funding in

2020. Still, she said it was helpful, no matter how much it was.

“Every little bit helps. It’s a small part of a large need,” Detres-Hickey said.

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Queens College receives funding from allocated capital funds

BRANDON HERNANDEZ

News Reporter

Queens College received part of \$5 million in discretionary capital funds intended for five CUNY institutions from Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

QC received \$1.25 million from the funds, the most compared to the four other colleges.

Katz said that CUNY schools would reach even higher standards to better education because of funds.

“CUNY has a long history of providing a high-quality,

competitive and remarkably affordable higher education that produces job-ready graduates with respected academic credentials.

This \$5 million allocation will help guarantee that the physical infrastructure of these five institutions remains top-of-the-line and fully able to support a first-class experience for CUNY’s hard-working students,” Katz said.

The funds will primarily support the reconstruction of the One Stop Service Center. The new One Stop Service Center is located in the Dining Hall and functions

as a help desk regarding financial aid, advising, registration and other issues in a more efficient and steadier pace.

Sophia Halkitis, senior and psychology major, suggests that the majority of the funds should tend to the student-based issues rather than the reconstruction of the One Stop Service Center.

“In my four years as a Queens College student, I noticed and appreciated the many improvements that the college made to accommodate their students such as the shuttle bus and

updated technology. As much as I do think the work to the One Stop Service Center was needed, I do believe that QC should have put some money into reconstructing their Wi-Fi to accommodate the multitude of students who need to access it on a daily basis,” Halkitis said.

Though Queens College implemented the creation of a new Wi-Fi, Halkitis believes the Wi-Fi provides lacking signals in classrooms. Moreover, with the increase of technology use in the classroom, Halkitis stressed the

need to accommodate students’ daily long-term interactions with academia rather than issues that may be resolved swiftly.

“Students typically make stops to the One Stop Service Center on a routine basis, if not even less than that. Whereas students are constantly trying to access the internet and do not find it to be reliable, despite the college’s efforts to improve it,” Halkitis said.

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Report finds higher education does not protect Hispanic and black wealth

OYINKANSOLA FALANA

News Reporter

A college degree does not protect the wealth of all racial and ethnic groups equally, a recent St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank research report found.

The study was based on the data from the 2013 Survey of Consumer Finances report.

The study reported families with a college graduate as its primary financial supporter earn 2.4 times more than families without a college graduate. It also found during bad economic situations, for example the recent recession, higher education protects only a select group of people, particularly whites and

Asians, while Hispanics and blacks fared worse.

Interestingly, black and Hispanic families headed by non-college graduates did better than their counterparts with a college degree.

“Median wealth declined by about 72 percent among Hispanic college-graduate families versus a decline of only 41 percent among Hispanic families without a college degree. Among blacks, the declines were 60 percent versus 37 percent,” the report said.

In an attempt to explain why, researchers suggested job market difficulties specific to Hispanic and black college graduates.

Another contributing factor was the debt-to-income ratio.

DTI among college-educated Hispanic and black families were significantly higher than whites and Asians with a college education.

Andres Berruecos, senior at Queens College, was not confident his college degree could protect him from economic shock. Thus, he saw the need to further his education.

“I plan on going to graduate school and I will probably take out student loans in order to fund my tuition,” Berruecos said.

He believes the majority of Hispanics and blacks get jobs that place them in the “lower middle class,” which makes it more difficult to, for example, pay back student loans.

In order to get through college without accumulating loans, Berruecos worked 50 hours a week between two jobs for the past year.

Nakia Inis, a senior at Queens College equally shares her concern on future job prospects even after graduating.

“My college degree unfortunately does not secure a job nor financial stability,” Inis said. “A lot of people get jobs due to who they know or who their parents know, which makes it harder for minorities.”

The study concluded higher education cannot “level the playing field.” Rather, “the underlying factors causing racial and ethnic wealth disparities undoubtedly are

complex and deeply rooted.”

Berruecos agrees the causes are ingrained and one solution may be to address it to youths at an early age.

“The idea of equality and diversity has to be deeply rooted in someone from the time they’re an early toddler,” Berruecos said.

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Students walk to pressure CUNY over fossil fuel divestment

BRANDON JORDAN

News Reporter

CUNY Divest, a student-led group advocating for fossil fuel divestment, held a series of walks to all 24 CUNY campuses urging the board of trustees to divest.

The CUNY Climate Walk, held from Aug. 21 to 24, originated from a walk of Navajo women earlier this year. The walk, called “Nihigaal Bee Iina” or “Our Journey for Existence,” mostly focused on the impacts of fossil fuel extraction on the Navajo community in Dinétah, located in southwestern U.S.

Darsen Hover, a member of CUNY Divest, said the public reacted positively toward the walk, which already added to support the organization received since its inception during spring 2013.

“We had very positive feedback from the people that we encountered. I think that people’s reactions, even those of passersby who simply stopped to give us

their support, is an indication that the people of CUNY and New York City are ready to start actively working to solve the ever growing problem of climate change. We also have consistent support from City Council members, professors, and student leaders,” Hover said.

The CUNY board of trustees previously considered the issue of divestment in December 2013, but declined to do so. However, Hover said the board is in constant contact with CUNY Divest. Still, she stressed the role of students in pushing for divestment by writing to the president of their college or signing petitions.

Lucas Almonte, vice chair for Legislative Affairs at the University Student Senate, emphasized educating CUNY students about divestment.

“One of the most important things in these campaigns is for students to be informed,” Almonte said.

Additionally, Almonte

noted how USS worked with CUNY Divest on this issue and, in the past two years, passed three resolutions advocating for fossil fuel divestment.

“We want to bring this issue of fossil fuel divestment back to the board of trustees,” Almonte said. “It is not an easy process for a student campaign, but it has been done before with divestment from apartheid South Africa and tobacco companies. We feel this is a campaign, as USS, should be at the forefront.”

CUNY holds investments of more than \$4.9 million in oil and gas firms, including ExxonMobil and Chevron, based on documents acquired through a Freedom of Information Act request by CUNY Prison Divest.

Yet, after the fall of oil prices earlier this year, returns from oil and gas companies are falling. A report last month by Trilium Asset Management found two Californian pension funds lost

more than \$5 billion because of low oil prices.

Hover stressed the significance of divestment for CUNY, especially to the general public.

“It would send a strong message both of strength and optimism on the part of CUNY. It would symbolize the institution’s dedication to progress, its willingness to do what is right even if it is not the easiest course of action in the short term and its determination to uphold the principles on which the university was founded,” Hover said.

Still, Hover noted the usefulness of divestment in regards to climate change, which was the catalyst for the fossil fuel divestment movement in the first place.

“Divestment is one very important tool that can be used to fight climate change. It sends a monetary message to some of the key actors in the problems

that we are currently facing. It is also a statement of the fact that we as students, and the academic institutions that we are a part of are no longer willing to be passive in the fight to stop climate change, and we will certainly not be actively supporting those industries that are bringing about such catastrophic damage,” Hover said.

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SPORTS

Lady Knights determined to succeed in new season

BRANDON HERNANDEZ

Sports Reporter

Soccer season is here as the Lady Knights look to improve on their 4-8-5 record last season.

In 2013, the team finished with a 11-5-1 record that included a semi-final appearance in the East Coast Conference. After that season, the seniors on the team were replaced with new players, including five freshmen.

Carl Christian enters his eighth season as head coach for the women's team. He understood the difficulty players felt in adjusting to the team's chemistry last season.

"They had to learn and gain experience as they went without the luxury of their gradual integration into a more senior group of players," Christian said.

Despite the rough start, the Knights finished off strong by tying against Assumption and Mercy College, two of the top regionally-ranked teams in the ECC.

During the offseason, the team added players who look to help the Knights start off strong for a new season. For example, junior Megan Deak and sophomore Kimberly Chacko, transferring from Bloomsburg University and Brooklyn College, respectively, competed for the goalkeeper position. Former



Bridget Gleason, senior, scores a header in the 18th minute against Wilmington University.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN HIGGINS

goalkeeper Mersina Onesto is also in the mix, but is waiting to rejoin the team because of a pending NCAA extension.

Additionally, sophomore Megan DeRosa, who previously led Mount Saint Vincent in scoring, and freshmen Adriana Mendrinis joined the team as forwards.

The team began with four

games on the road followed by four games at home. In spite of more away games than home this season, Christian believed it is not a problem for the team.

"If you plan on having a successful season you need to be able to get results wherever you play," Christian said.

The season began with a 3-0 loss to Pace University. The team

then bounced back with a 2-0 victory over Wilmington. Senior Bridget Gleason and sophomore Erin Vernillo each scored a goal in the match. Afterward, the team lost 1-0 to Philadelphia University. Yet Christian believes the team does not need to panic yet as the season is just beginning.

"As long as we can stay relatively healthy and continue to

develop, as we have done over the past 12 months, we should be fine and will return to winning ways," Christian said.

The Knights next game is on Sept. 17 against Nyack followed by their first home opener against Molloy College on Sept. 19.

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Queens College players represent the U.S. in series of international basketball games

PHIL VALLONE

Sports Reporter

Two members of Queens College's women's basketball team went on a 12-day trip to Italy this past summer.

Seniors Kristen Korzevinski and Elisabeth Gully travelled to Italy with American International Sports Teams, an organization bringing American athletes for international competitions, for four exhibition games against professional Italian teams.

Korzevinski and Gully heard about AIST through head coach Bet Naumovski.

"It was a no-brainer to take this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," Gully said.

Once they heard about the program and read its specifics, they knew it was something they wanted to join.

"What interested me most was the opportunity to travel and play the sport that I love in another country while representing the USA and Queens College," Korzevinski said.

The team was coached by Shannon Kynoch, the head coach of women's basketball at Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vt. The players played in Florence, Milan, Rome and Vatican City. Both ladies impressed overseas.

"Elizabeth was one of two forwards on the roster so we needed her to step up and guard players bigger than she, all while dominating the paint offensively and being a force on the boards," Kynoch said.

Kristen simply let her game speak for itself. She used her speed and athleticism to get steals that led to fast break opportunities, hit open jump shots and snuck in for numerous offensive rebounds that were critical."

Meanwhile, the team also enjoyed the time off the court to explore Italy.

"I was able to spend time with [the two players] while walking around, seeing the sights and really valued the time we spent

chatting," Kynoch said.

"They are mature young woman who really took advantage of the opportunity."

In spite of the challenges, the players felt confident in overcoming them.

"There is definitely a different feel to the game when playing against a foreign team, especially when you hear them communicating with each other on the court in a completely different language. We played professional teams that have been practicing and playing together for much longer than our team had been," Gully said.

The trip to Italy went beyond more than just basketball as bringing the international community together was a central theme of the trip.

"Learning to work with complete strangers to reach a common goal was difficult, but that happens all of the time in the real world," Gully said. "I

was lucky enough to have this opportunity to prepare me for real world situations, and I was able to learn ways to work with a lot of different people, get things done and still have fun all at the same time."

Additionally, Kynoch enjoyed meeting and speaking with both players during the trip.

"Overall I couldn't have asked for a better trip and having Elizabeth and Kristen there was great. As I mentioned before, it's really a fun thing to get to know people outside of the game of basketball," Kynoch said.

Now Korzevinski and Gully, along with Naumovski, turn their attention to the upcoming season and are optimistic to get back on the court.

"We essentially have our whole team back. With 10 returning players and not losing anyone to graduation since last year, the team this year is even more experienced than last year.

This is one of the mature squads we've had since I've been here," Naumovski said.

The Lady Knights captured the East Coast Conference title in their last season. Although, the team suffered a first round loss to Stonehill in the NCAA Championship. Overall, the team finished the season with a 22-8 record.

"I think we definitely have the ability to contend for a conference championship again. Whether we win the conference or not, we want to get ranked top eight again and get a second crack at the tournament," Naumovski said.

The Knights return to action on Nov. 14 on the road against Philadelphia University.

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KNIGHT NEWS SPORTS

KICKING INTO GEAR

QC women's soccer focuses on tough road ahead



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Photo courtesy of John Higgins

QC basketball players join team for tour of Italy

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